

NEW DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM: BEGINNING CLASS

LESSON ONE

What is Salvation?

The concept of salvation is central to the Christian faith. Salvation refers to the act of being delivered out of one state and then moved into another. It is the process by which God rescues us out of one condition and brings us into a new state of being.

Why do we need salvation?

The Bible teaches that all humanity has been affected by sin, which separates us from God and leads to spiritual death.

Chapter 1-2 of the book of Genesis provide a record of God's creation. On the 6th day, God created Adam and Eve and put them into a perfect environment. Chapter three of Genesis introduces God's enemy. The serpent, which represents the devil, deceived Adam and Eve. In this chapter, the fall and failure of Adam and Eve is outlined.

Because of their disobedience, the entire human race was plunged into chaos darkness, and emptiness. That first couple opened a door that allowed the curse of sin to rush into the world. Human nature was altered. Since Adam, every human being has been born with a fallen nature.

What was lost as a result of the fall?

1. Access to the presence of God
2. The glory of God.
3. The inheritance of God

Romans 3:23 records the far-reaching affect of the fall. Paul states "all sinned" and "all fell short of God's glory." Romans 6:23 also records the penalty for sin - "the wages of

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sin is death. Because of their sin, Adam and Eve lost their inheritance, as well as the presence and glory of God. They became disconnected from God.

God's Provision for Salvation:

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

Ephesians 2:8-9 - "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."

Salvation is God's initiative and provision through Jesus Christ. It is a gift of God's grace received through faith in Jesus Christ, not by our own efforts or good works.

Jesus Christ as the Savior:

Acts 4:12 - "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

1 Timothy 1:15 - "This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..."

Jesus Christ is the only Savior who reconciles humanity to God through His sacrificial death and resurrection. He is the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6).

Means of Receiving Salvation:

Romans 10:9-10 - "That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart

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one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Acts 2:38 - "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"

Salvation is received through faith in Jesus Christ, involving repentance (turning away from sin) and confession of Jesus as Lord. Baptism is also an outward expression of inward faith and obedience.

Assurance of Salvation:

1 John 5:11-13 - "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life..."

Believers can have assurance of salvation based on God's promises and the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit who confirms their relationship with God.

In summary, the Bible teaches that salvation is available to all through Jesus Christ, received by grace through faith. It involves repentance, confession of faith in Jesus, and leads to eternal life and reconciliation with God.

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LESSON TWO

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT ETERNAL SECURITY?

The concept of eternal security, often referred to as "once saved, always saved," is a theological doctrine that asserts believers in Jesus Christ cannot lose their salvation once they have genuinely trusted in Him. This doctrine is based on various teachings and passages found in the Bible. Here are the key points regarding what the Bible teaches about eternal security:

God's Promise of Eternal Life:

John 10:27-29 - "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand."

This passage emphasizes the security of believers in Jesus Christ. Jesus promises eternal life to His followers and assures them that no one can snatch them out of His or the Father's hand.

Sealed by the Holy Spirit:

Ephesians 1:13-14 - "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

The Holy Spirit seals believers as a guarantee of their inheritance in Christ. This sealing signifies the security and certainty of their salvation.

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Justification and Reconciliation:

Romans 5:9-10 - "Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life."

Believers are justified and reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This assurance of salvation is based on the completed work of Christ on their behalf.

Preservation by God's Power:

Philippians 1:6 - "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

God is faithful to complete the work of salvation He has begun in believers. His power ensures their perseverance and ultimate glorification.

Eternal Life as a Present Possession:

1 John 5:11-13 - "And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God."

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Believers possess eternal life as a present reality through their union with Christ. This assurance is given so that believers may have confidence in their salvation.

While the doctrine of eternal security is firmly supported by these and other biblical passages, it is important to recognize that it does not condone or promote a careless attitude towards sin. Rather, it emphasizes the security of believers in Christ and the faithfulness of God in preserving His people until the day of redemption.

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LESSON THREE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT BAPTISM?

The Bible teaches several key principles and aspects about baptism, which is an important sacrament or ordinance in Christianity. Here are the foundational teachings about baptism based on Scripture:

Commanded by Jesus:

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you..."

Baptism is commanded by Jesus as part of the Great Commission, which instructs believers to baptize new disciples in the name of the triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).

Symbolism of Spiritual Rebirth and Cleansing:

Romans 6:3-4 - "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Baptism symbolizes a believer's identification with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. It signifies dying to sin and being raised to new life in Christ, illustrating spiritual rebirth and cleansing from sin.

Public Declaration of Faith:

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Acts 2:38-41 - "Then Peter said to them, 'Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit... Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them.'"

Baptism serves as a public declaration of a person's repentance, faith in Jesus Christ, and commitment to follow Him. It is an outward expression of an inward faith and an initiation into the Christian community.

Unity in the Body of Christ:

1 Corinthians 12:13 - "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

Baptism signifies unity and incorporation into the body of Christ, the universal Church. It emphasizes the spiritual reality of believers being united in Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Not the Source of Salvation, but an Act of Obedience:

1 Peter 3:21 - "There is also an antitype which now saves us – baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

While baptism is important and commanded, it is essential to understand that it is an outward symbol and act of obedience, not the means by which one is saved. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

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In summary, baptism is a significant ordinance in Christianity that symbolizes spiritual rebirth, cleansing from sin, and public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ. It illustrates unity in the body of Christ and is an act of obedience commanded by Jesus Himself.

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LESSON FOUR

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Bible teaches extensively about the Holy Spirit, who is the third person of the Trinity – God Himself, distinct from the Father and the Son. Here are key teachings about the Holy Spirit based on Scripture:

Personhood and Deity:

The Holy Spirit is a person, not merely a force or power. He has intellect, emotions, and will.

John 14:26 - "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you."

Acts 13:2 - "As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, 'Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.'"

Role in Creation and Revelation:

The Holy Spirit was involved in creation (Genesis 1:2) and continues to sustain and uphold the world.

He inspired the writers of Scripture, revealing God's will and truth to humanity.

2 Peter 1:21 - "for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

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Empowerment and Guidance:

The Holy Spirit empowers believers for Christian life and service, providing spiritual gifts for building up the church.

Acts 1:8 - "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Romans 8:14 - "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God."

Conviction of Sin, Righteousness, and Judgment:

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment, drawing people to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.

John 16:8 - "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment."

Indwelling Believers:

The Holy Spirit indwells believers upon their conversion, sealing them as God's own and guaranteeing their inheritance in Christ.

Ephesians 1:13-14 - "In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory."

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Fruit of the Spirit:

The Holy Spirit produces spiritual fruit in the lives of believers, character traits that reflect the nature of God.

Galatians 5:22-23 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law."

In summary, the Holy Spirit plays a crucial role in the life of a believer and in the fulfillment of God's purposes on earth. He is God Himself, present and active in the world, empowering believers, guiding them into truth, convicting of sin, and producing spiritual fruit. He is essential to the Christian life and ministry.

LESSON FIVE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT ITSELF?

The Bible itself contains teachings about its own nature, authority, and purpose. Here are key teachings about the Bible based on Scripture:

Inspiration and Authority:

2 Timothy 3:16-17 - "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

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2 Peter 1:20-21 - "knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."

The Bible teaches that Scripture is inspired by God Himself. It is not merely the words of human authors, but it is God-breathed, carrying divine authority and truth. The Bible is sufficient to guide believers in all matters of faith and practice.

Power and Effectiveness:

Hebrews 4:12 - "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Bible is described as living and powerful, capable of penetrating deeply into the human heart and mind, discerning thoughts and intentions. It has the power to convict, transform, and bring about spiritual growth.

Eternal and Unchanging:

Isaiah 40:8 - "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever."

Matthew 24:35 - "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away."

The Bible is eternal and unchanging. It remains relevant and authoritative throughout all generations, standing firm despite the changing circumstances of the world.

Purpose and Benefits:

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Psalms 119:105 - "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Romans 15:4 - "For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope."

The Bible serves multiple purposes: it guides, instructs, comforts, encourages, and provides hope for believers. It reveals God's will, His character, and His plan of salvation through Jesus Christ.

Call to Study and Apply:

2 Timothy 2:15 - "Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

James 1:22 - "But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."

Believers are encouraged to diligently study and apply the teachings of Scripture in their lives. It is not enough to hear or read the Word; it must be put into practice for spiritual growth and obedience to God.

In summary, the Bible teaches that it is inspired by God, authoritative, powerful, eternal, and beneficial for teaching, guiding, and transforming the lives of believers. It is the primary means through which God communicates His truth and reveals Himself to humanity.

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LESSON SIX

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT PRAYER

The Bible provides comprehensive teachings about prayer, illustrating its importance, purpose, and various forms. Here are key teachings about prayer based on Scripture:

Communion with God:

Matthew 6:9-13 - The Lord's Prayer, taught by Jesus, serves as a model for prayer. It emphasizes addressing God as Father, acknowledging His holiness, submitting to His will, asking for daily provision, seeking forgiveness, and requesting deliverance from evil.

Philippians 4:6-7 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Prayer is a means of intimate communion with God, where believers express their adoration, gratitude, requests, and concerns to Him.

Persistence and Faith:

Matthew 7:7-8 - "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."

James 1:5-8 - Encourages believers to ask God for wisdom in faith without doubting.

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The Bible teaches that prayer should be persistent and rooted in faith. God hears and responds to the prayers of His people according to His will and timing.

Confession and Repentance:

1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Psalm 32:5 - Encourages individuals to confess their sins and seek forgiveness.

Prayer provides a means for individuals to confess their sins and seek forgiveness from God, allowing them to reconcile their relationship with God.

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LESSON SEVEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE WILL OF GOD?

The Bible teaches extensively about the will of God, emphasizing His sovereignty, His purposes, and His desires for humanity. Here are key teachings about the will of God based on Scripture:

God's Sovereign Will:

Psalm 115:3 - "But our God is in the heavens; He does whatever He pleases."

Isaiah 46:10 - "Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure.'"

The Bible teaches that God is sovereign over all creation and nations. His will is supreme and nothing can thwart His purposes.

God's Moral Will:

Micah 6:8 - "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 - "For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality; that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor, not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God."

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God's moral will encompasses His desires for how people should live morally and ethically. It includes commands to love others, pursue justice, live in purity, and walk in humility.

Salvation and Redemptive Will:

1 Timothy 2:3-4 - "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth."

2 Peter 3:9 - "The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance."

God's redemptive will expresses His desire for all people to come to salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. He extends His grace and offers salvation to all who repent and believe in Him.

Submission to God's Will:

Matthew 6:10 (part of the Lord's Prayer) - "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."

Romans 12:2 - "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Believers are encouraged to submit to God's will and seek His kingdom and righteousness. This involves aligning one's life with God's purposes and living in obedience to His commands.

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In summary, the Bible teaches that God's will is sovereign, moral, redemptive, and should be embraced and obeyed by His people. It encompasses His desires for humanity's welfare, salvation, and the establishment of His kingdom on earth.

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LESSON EIGHT

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE LOCAL CHURCH

The Bible provides teachings and instructions about the local church, which is a gathering of believers in a specific location for worship, fellowship, teaching, and ministry. Here are key aspects of what the Bible teaches about the local church:

Community of Believers:

Acts 2:42 - "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

The local church is a community of believers who gather regularly to worship God, encourage one another, and participate in fellowship and mutual care.

Purpose of Edification and Equipping:

Ephesians 4:11-12 - "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ."

1 Corinthians 14:26 - "How is it then, brethren? Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification."

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The local church is a place where believers are equipped for ministry and built up in their faith through the teaching of God's Word, worship, and spiritual gifts.

Unity and Diversity:

1 Corinthians 12:12-14 - "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ... For in fact the body is not one member but many."

Romans 12:4-5 - "For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

The local church is characterized by unity in diversity, where each believer contributes their gifts and talents for the common good and growth of the body of Christ.

Discipline and Accountability:

Matthew 18:15-17 - Jesus gives instructions for resolving conflicts and addressing sin within the church community.

1 Corinthians 5:11-13 - Paul teaches about the need for church discipline to maintain purity and holiness within the congregation.

The local church exercises discipline and accountability to uphold biblical standards and promote spiritual growth and maturity among its members.

Mission and Outreach:

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Matthew 28:19-20 - The Great Commission commands believers to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that Jesus commanded.

Acts 1:8 - Jesus' commission to His disciples includes being witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

The local church is tasked with the mission of evangelism and making disciples locally and globally, spreading the gospel and demonstrating God's love through word and deed.

In summary, the local church, as portrayed in the Bible, is a vital community of believers who gather for worship, mutual edification, and ministry. It serves as a place of spiritual growth, unity, accountability, and mission, fulfilling God's purposes on earth as part of the broader body of Christ.

LESSON NINE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT OTHER CHRISTIANS

The Bible provides teachings about relationships among Christians, emphasizing unity, love, and mutual support within the body of Christ. Here are key aspects of what the Bible teaches about other Christians:

Unity and Fellowship:

Romans 12:5 - "so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another."

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1 Corinthians 12:12-13 - "For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

Christians are members of one body, united in Christ through the Holy Spirit. This unity transcends cultural, social, and ethnic differences, forming a bond of fellowship and mutual support.

Love and Service:

John 13:34-35 - "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Galatians 6:10 - "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

Christians are called to love one another sacrificially, just as Jesus loved them. This love is a hallmark of discipleship and serves as a witness to the world.

Encouragement and Edification:

1 Thessalonians 5:11 - "Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing."

Hebrews 10:24-25 - "And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."

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Christians are to encourage and build up one another in faith, helping each other grow spiritually and persevere in their walk with God.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation:

Colossians 3:13 - "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

Matthew 18:15 - Jesus teaches a process of reconciliation and restoration when conflict arises among believers.

Christians are called to extend forgiveness and seek reconciliation when conflicts or offenses occur, reflecting God's grace and mercy.

Mutual Support and Prayer:

James 5:16 - "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

1 Timothy 2:1 - Paul encourages prayers for all people, including fellow believers.

Christians are to support one another through prayer, interceding for each other's needs and concerns, and seeking God's guidance and blessing for fellow believers.

In summary, the Bible teaches that relationships among Christians should be characterized by unity, love, mutual encouragement, forgiveness, and support.

Believers are called to live in harmony, edify one another, and bear witness to the world through their love and unity in Christ.

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LESSON TEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT GIVING AND TITHING?

The Bible provides clear teachings about giving, emphasizing generosity, stewardship, and the attitude of the heart in giving. Here are key principles and teachings about giving based on Scripture:

Giving as an Act of Worship and Obedience:

2 Corinthians 9:7 - "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

Giving is portrayed as a voluntary act of worship and obedience to God, done with a cheerful heart and a desire to honor Him.

Motives for Giving:

Matthew 6:1-4 - Jesus teaches about giving in secret, without seeking recognition from others, emphasizing sincerity and humility in giving.

2 Corinthians 8:12 - "For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have."

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God values the heart behind the gift more than the amount given. Giving should be motivated by love for God and others, not by a desire for recognition or reward.

God's Provision and Blessing:

Luke 6:38 - "Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

Proverbs 11:24-25 - "There is one who scatters, yet increases more; and there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty. The generous soul will be made rich, and he who waters will also be watered himself."

The Bible teaches that generous giving is rewarded by God, who promises to bless and provide abundantly to those who give with a generous heart.

Supporting God's Work and Helping Others:

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Paul instructs the wealthy to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasures for themselves as a good foundation for the future.

Acts 20:35 - "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

Giving supports the work of God's kingdom, helps those in need, and demonstrates God's love and provision to others.

Sacrificial Giving:

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Mark 12:41-44 - Jesus commends the widow's offering, highlighting her sacrificial giving compared to the wealthy who gave out of their abundance.

2 Corinthians 8:2-3 - Paul commends the churches of Macedonia for their generosity, even in their own poverty.

The Bible teaches that sacrificial giving, giving beyond what is comfortable or convenient, is pleasing to God and demonstrates faith and trust in His provision.

In summary, the Bible teaches that giving is a vital aspect of Christian discipleship, rooted in worship, obedience, generosity, and a sincere desire to bless others and support God's work. It is a reflection of our trust in God's provision and a response to His grace and love toward us.

WHAT ABOUT TITHING?

The concept of tithing, which means giving a tenth of one's income or resources, is mentioned in the Bible primarily in the Old Testament but also has principles that can be applied to New Testament teachings. Here are key points about tithing based on Scripture:

Old Testament Basis:

Leviticus 27:30 - "And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land or of the fruit of the tree, is the Lord's. It is holy to the Lord."

Malachi 3:10 - "Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house, and try Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, "If I will not open for you the

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windows of heaven and pour out for you such blessing that there will not be room enough to receive it."

In the Old Testament, tithing was a commandment under the Mosaic Law, where Israelites were instructed to give a tenth of their produce, livestock, and income to support the Levites (who served in the tabernacle/temple) and the maintenance of the temple.

Principles of Tithing:

Proverbs 3:9-10 - "Honor the Lord with your possessions, and with the firstfruits of all your increase; so your barns will be filled with plenty, and your vats will overflow with new wine."

Deuteronomy 14:22 - "You shall truly tithe all the increase of your grain that the field produces year by year."

Tithing in the Old Testament was an expression of honoring God with the firstfruits of one's produce and income, acknowledging God's ownership and provision.

New Testament Perspective:

Matthew 23:23 - Jesus affirms the practice of tithing but emphasizes the weightier matters of justice, mercy, and faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 16:1-2 - Paul instructs the Corinthian church to set aside offerings on the first day of the week, according to their prosperity.

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In the New Testament, while specific commands about tithing are not reiterated, principles of generosity, cheerful giving, and supporting the work of ministry are emphasized.

Cheerful and Generous Giving:

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 - "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

The emphasis in the New Testament shifts from strict tithing to cheerful and generous giving based on one's heart and ability, motivated by gratitude and faith in God's provision.

Stewardship and Trust:

Luke 12:33 - "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 - Paul instructs the wealthy to be generous and willing to share, storing up treasures for themselves as a good foundation for the future.

Christians are encouraged to steward their resources wisely, recognizing that all they have belongs to God, and to use their resources to bless others and support the spread of the gospel.

In summary, while tithing as a strict requirement under the Mosaic Law is primarily an Old Testament practice, the principles of generosity, stewardship, and cheerful giving

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are affirmed and encouraged throughout the Bible. Christians are called to give generously, proportionately, and with a joyful heart, recognizing God's provision and seeking to honor Him with their finances and resources.

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LESSON ELEVEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT MONEY AND POSSESSIONS?

The Bible provides extensive teachings about money and possessions, offering wisdom on how to view wealth, handle finances, and prioritize God in our material lives. Here are key teachings about money and possessions based on Scripture:

Stewardship:

1 Chronicles 29:11-12 - "Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty; for all that is in heaven and in earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and You are exalted as head over all. Both riches and honor come from You, and You reign over all. In Your hand is power and might; in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all."

Luke 16:10-12 - "He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, how will you give you what is your own?"

The Bible teaches that everything belongs to God, and humans are stewards entrusted with managing God's resources wisely and faithfully.

Contentment and Avoiding Greed:

Hebrews 13:5 - "Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'"

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1 Timothy 6:6-10 - "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The Bible warns against the love of money and emphasizes the importance of contentment and trust in God's provision rather than pursuing wealth for its own sake.

Generosity and Compassion:

Proverbs 19:17 - "He who has pity on the poor lends to the Lord, and He will pay back what he has given."

Luke 12:33-34 - "Sell what you have and give alms; provide yourselves money bags which do not grow old, a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches nor moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The Bible encourages generosity towards those in need, recognizing that giving to others reflects our love for God and stores up treasure in heaven.

Prioritizing God:

Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

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Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon."

The Bible teaches that our ultimate allegiance should be to God, not to wealth or possessions. Christians are called to prioritize spiritual treasures and seek God's kingdom above earthly pursuits.

Honesty and Integrity:

Proverbs 11:1 - "Dishonest scales are an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is His delight."

Luke 16:10-12 - Jesus teaches about faithful stewardship, emphasizing integrity in handling worldly wealth.

The Bible emphasizes honesty, fairness, and integrity in financial dealings, reflecting God's character and trustworthiness.

In summary, the Bible teaches that money and possessions are to be handled with wisdom, contentment, and generosity. Believers are called to be faithful stewards, prioritize God's kingdom, avoid the love of money, and use their resources to bless others and honor God.

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LESSON TWELVE

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT DEALING WITH SIN?

The Bible provides clear teachings and guidance on how to deal with sin in our lives. Here are key principles and instructions from Scripture:

Recognizing Sin:

1 John 1:8-10 - "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us."

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

The Bible teaches that everyone is affected by sin and falls short of God's standard of righteousness. Recognizing and acknowledging our sinfulness is the first step toward dealing with sin.

Repentance:

Acts 3:19 - "Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

2 Corinthians 7:10 - "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."

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Repentance involves a change of heart and mind, turning away from sin and turning toward God. It includes genuine remorse for sin and a commitment to live in obedience to God's commands.

Confession and Forgiveness:

Psalm 32:5 - "I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' and You forgave the iniquity of my sin."

1 John 1:9 - "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Confession involves admitting our sins to God and seeking His forgiveness. God promises to forgive those who genuinely confess their sins and turn to Him.

Forsaking Sin:

Proverbs 28:13 - "He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy."

Ephesians 4:22-24 - "that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."

Dealing with sin involves actively turning away from sinful behavior and striving to live in accordance with God's will and His standards of righteousness.

Seeking Accountability and Growth:

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James 5:16 - "Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

Galatians 6:1-2 - "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ."

Christians are encouraged to seek accountability and support from other believers, to help each other grow spiritually and overcome sin.

In summary, the Bible teaches that dealing with sin involves recognizing, confessing, and repenting from sin, seeking God's forgiveness, and striving to live in obedience to His commands. It emphasizes the importance of genuine repentance, confession, and accountability in the process of spiritual growth and renewal.

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LESSON THIRTEEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT LIBERTY IN CHRIST?

The concept of liberty in Christ is a central theme in the New Testament, emphasizing freedom from the bondage of sin and legalistic observances through faith in Jesus Christ. Here are key teachings about liberty in Christ based on Scripture:

Freedom from Sin:

Galatians 5:1 - "Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."

Romans 6:18 - "And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."

Liberty in Christ means freedom from the power and guilt of sin. Through faith in Jesus Christ, believers are no longer enslaved to sin but are empowered to live in righteousness and obedience to God.

Freedom from the Law:

Galatians 5:4 - "You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace."

Romans 7:6 - "But now we have been delivered from the law, having died to what we were held by, so that we should serve in the newness of the Spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."

Liberty in Christ also means freedom from the burden and condemnation of the Mosaic Law. Believers are justified by faith in Christ, not by adherence to the works of the law.

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Freedom to Serve God in Spirit:

2 Corinthians 3:17 - "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Galatians 5:13 - "For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another."

Liberty in Christ enables believers to serve God in the power of the Holy Spirit, guided by love and motivated by gratitude for God's grace.

Responsible Use of Liberty:

1 Peter 2:16 - "as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God."

Romans 14:1, 4 - Paul discusses how liberty in Christ should be practiced with sensitivity and consideration for weaker brothers and sisters in faith.

While believers have liberty in Christ, they are called to use it responsibly, avoiding actions that may cause others to stumble or lead to sin.

Unity in Diversity:

Galatians 3:28 - "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

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Romans 14:3-4 - Paul emphasizes acceptance and love among believers despite differences in practices or convictions.

Liberty in Christ fosters unity among believers from diverse backgrounds, emphasizing mutual respect and love in Christ.

In summary, liberty in Christ is freedom from sin, legalistic bondage, and the condemnation of the law. It empowers believers to live in righteousness, serve God in Spirit, and love one another in Christian unity, while also calling for responsible stewardship of this freedom.

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LESSON FOURTEEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT MY JOB AND EMPLOYER?

The Bible provides principles and teachings regarding work, employment, and relationships with employers. Here are key points based on Scripture:

Work as Service to God:

Colossians 3:23-24 - "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ."

Ephesians 6:7-8 - "With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free."

The Bible teaches that work is not just a means of earning a living but an opportunity to serve God. Believers are encouraged to work diligently and with integrity, viewing their job as a way to honor God.

Respect and Obedience to Employers:

Ephesians 6:5-6 - "Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart."

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1 Peter 2:18 - "Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh."

The Bible instructs employees (servants, slaves in ancient contexts) to show respect and obedience to their employers or masters, recognizing that ultimately they are serving Christ in their work.

Fair Treatment and Justice:

Colossians 4:1 - "Masters, give your bondservants what is just and fair, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven."

James 5:4 - "Indeed the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the reapers have reached the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth."

Employers are called to treat their employees justly and fairly, knowing that they themselves are accountable to God for how they manage their responsibilities and relationships with those under their authority.

Honesty and Integrity:

Proverbs 16:11 - "Honest weights and scales are the Lord's; all the weights in the bag are His work."

Ephesians 4:28 - "Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need."

Both employees and employers are called to maintain honesty and integrity in their work dealings, avoiding dishonesty, theft, and any form of exploitation.

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Seeking God's Guidance and Provision:

Matthew 6:31-33 - "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

Philippians 4:19 - "And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Believers are encouraged to trust in God's provision and seek His guidance in their work and career decisions, knowing that God cares for their needs.

In summary, the Bible teaches that work should be viewed as an opportunity to serve God and others, with diligence, integrity, and respect for employers or those in authority. Both employees and employers are called to treat each other justly and fairly, reflecting God's character and seeking His guidance in all aspects of their work life.

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LESSON FIFTEEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE LOST WORLD?

The Bible provides insights and teachings about the condition of the world apart from God, often referred to as the "lost world" or the fallen world. Here are key aspects based on Scripture:

Separation from God:

Ephesians 2:12 - "remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world."

Romans 3:23 - "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,"

The Bible teaches that due to sin, humanity is separated from God. Without Christ, people are spiritually lost and without hope, living apart from the life that God intended.

Spiritual Blindness:

2 Corinthians 4:4 - "The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

Ephesians 4:17-18 - "So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their

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understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts."

The Bible describes those outside of Christ as spiritually blinded, unable to understand spiritual truths and the gospel message without the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Enslaved to Sin:

Romans 6:16 - "Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey – whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?"

Ephesians 2:1-3 - "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

The Bible teaches that apart from Christ, people are enslaved to sin and under the influence of the spiritual forces of darkness.

In Need of Salvation:

John 3:16-18 - "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son."

Acts 4:12 - "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

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The Bible emphasizes that salvation is available through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Those who do not believe are condemned because they reject the Savior provided by God.

Call to Evangelism and Compassion:

Matthew 28:19-20 - "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Jude 1:22-23 - "Be merciful to those who doubt; save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear — hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh."

Christians are called to share the gospel with the lost world, demonstrating God's love and compassion and inviting others to receive salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

In summary, the Bible portrays the lost world as spiritually separated from God, blinded by sin, and in need of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Christians are called to proclaim the gospel, demonstrate God's love, and bring hope to those who are lost, showing them the way to reconciliation with God.

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LESSON SIXTEEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE TEACH ABOUT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST?

The Bible teaches about the Judgment Seat of Christ, also known as the Bema Seat judgment. This judgment is distinct from the Great White Throne judgment, which pertains to unbelievers (Revelation 20:11-15). Here are key teachings about the Judgment Seat of Christ based on Scripture:

Purpose of the Judgment Seat of Christ:

2 Corinthians 5:10 - "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

The Judgment Seat of Christ is where believers will give an account of their lives and the deeds they have done while in their earthly bodies. It is not a judgment for condemnation but for evaluation and reward based on faithfulness and obedience to Christ.

Evaluation of Believers' Works:

1 Corinthians 3:12-15 - "If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person's work. If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved — even though only as one escaping through the flames."

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Believers' works will be evaluated based on their quality and motives. Those works that endure, done in obedience to Christ and for His glory, will be rewarded. Works that are of lesser value or done with wrong motives will not earn rewards but the believer will still be saved, as their salvation is based on faith in Christ alone.

Reward for Faithfulness:

Matthew 6:19-21 - "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Revelation 22:12 - "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done."

The Bible teaches that believers will receive rewards in heaven based on their faithfulness and the quality of their service to Christ during their earthly lives. These rewards are not based on salvation, which is a gift received by grace through faith, but on faithful stewardship and obedience to Christ.

Motivation for Living Righteously:

2 Corinthians 5:9 - "So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it."

Believers are encouraged to live with an eternal perspective, seeking to please God and store up heavenly treasures through faithful service and obedience to Christ.

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In summary, the Judgment Seat of Christ is a future event where believers will be evaluated and rewarded based on their faithfulness and obedience to Christ during their earthly lives. It underscores the importance of living with an eternal perspective, seeking to honor God in all things, and storing up treasures in heaven rather than on earth.