

FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH – LESSON 2

In Lesson 1 we found:

1. That sin entered into the world, and God has stated, “All have sinned.”
2. That the wages of sin is death.
3. That the gift of God is eternal life.
4. That we are “to follow Christ” as Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles, followed Him.
5. That we have a commission as members of the Church, the Body of Christ, which is the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

If a student is to understand the relevance of the “mystery” spoken of by the apostle Paul in Ephesians, he will find it necessary to understand that God changes His dealings with men in different dispensations; yet the principles of God remain the same. (Note: You will learn more about dispensations in the next course “Understanding the Bible.” For now it is enough to know that a dispensation refers to God’s rules and expectations for His people and for mankind during a given period of history.)

Read Matthew 10:5,6 and Ephesians 3:8,9. Here we see an example of a change of dispensations. Mark 12:31 and Galatians 5:14 give an example of a principle, which remains unchanged.

The Church, the Body of Christ, started with the ministry of Paul, the Apostle to the Gentiles (1 Corinthians 3:5-11). This Church was not specifically mentioned by any other writer of the Scriptures (Ephesians 3:1-8). His ministry began when he was converted on the Damascus road, some time after Pentecost.

Pray as you proceed, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide and teach, for the truths of the Word of God are never fully understood unless the Holy Spirit gives the understanding.

SECTION ONE – OUR GREAT COMMISSION



1. Many consider the “Great Commission” of Matthew 28:19,20 Jesus’ last instructions for his disciples, to be our commission for today. What are the requirements of this commission?

1. _____;
2. _____;
3. _____.

NOTE:

As you study you will find that this commission was given to the Twelve Apostles and was a continuation of an earlier assignment. The message, which they proclaimed was that if Israel would repent, God would send Christ back to establish His kingdom on earth (Acts 1:6; 3:19-21). This was a literal kingdom, which was promised to Israel throughout the Old Testament and the first 4 books of the New Testament.

2. a) The first commission given by the Lord is found in Matthew 10:5,6. Where were the Twelve Disciples commanded NOT to go? _____ or _____.
To whom were they to go? _____.
- b) (Matthew 10:7,8) What were they to proclaim? _____.
What were they to do? _____.
3. Explain why this commission is not the one that we are to follow today. _____

_____.
4. (1 Corinthians 1:22; John 6:28-30) The Lord Jesus in this commission gave the disciples the power to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, etc. (Matthew 10:8). Why? _____

For the Jews or the Gentiles? _____.
5. (Acts 28:28) After God stopped dealing with Israel as a nation, to whom was the Gospel sent? _____.
6. (Romans 11:11) When Israel (the Jewish nation) rejected God's offer of the Kingdom, why did God then begin to turn to the Gentiles? _____.

When God temporarily ceased dealing with Israel as a covenant nation and turned to the Gentiles, the old commission (Matthew 28:19,20) was set aside. A new commission was given to the apostle Paul for the Church which is the Body of Christ. Please read 2 Corinthians 5:18-20.

7. (vs. 18) What have we been given? _____.
8. (vs. 18,19) The "ministry of reconciliation" is that all people, Jews and Gentiles alike, may be saved through personal faith in Jesus Christ. What are we called? (vs. 20) _____
_____.
9. (Galatians 1:8) What would happen if someone preached another gospel other than that committed to Paul? _____.
10. (Romans 1:16) During the transition period of Acts, what was the order of the preaching of the gospel? _____. See also Acts 13:46.
11. (Acts 28:28) When did this priority of gospel preaching cease? When the salvation of God was being sent unto _____.

12. (Romans 11:25) How long will God cease His dealings with Israel as a nation? _____
_____.
13. (Romans 11:26-27) When will God bring deliverance and salvation to Israel as a nation?
_____.
14. Can Jews today become members of the one Body, the true Church? _____
What does Ephesians 2:16 say? (Use your own words) _____

_____.
15. (Ephesians 2:19) Which group of people has a “more favored” position with God today?
Circle one: Jews Gentiles Neither
16. (Ephesians 2:12) What was the position of the Gentiles before the Church began?
1. _____;
2. _____;
3. _____;
4. _____;
5. _____.
17. (Ephesians 2:14) How has God altered this condition of the Gentiles? _____
_____.
18. Read Colossians 3:11 and Galatians 3:28. Is there any group in the Body of Christ who
might receive special honor or a special position? Yes _____ No _____.
Why? (Note the last part of each of these verses.) _____.

Fulfilling Our Commission

19. (1 Corinthians 4:1) What is the believer’s responsibility and privilege as a member of the
Body of Christ? _____
_____.
20. (Romans 12:2) How can we “prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of
God”? _____
_____.

If a man would have God’s day-to-day plan, he must be diligent in studying His Word. He must also be able to tell the differences between the various divisions of Scripture in order to determine what applies directly to him and what does not.

21. Please read: Philippians 3:17; 4:9; 2 Timothy 2:2; 2:7; 1 Corinthians 11:1; 1 Corinthians 14:37. What is Paul telling us to do in these verses? _____

_____.
22. (1 Corinthians 15:1-4) The Body of Christ has been entrusted with the gospel. What is the gospel? _____

_____.
23. (1 Thessalonians 2:4) How are we to speak? _____

_____.
24. (2 Timothy 2:2) How are we to carry out the true commission for this age? _____

_____.
25. (Titus 2:13) What is the “hope of the Church”? _____

_____.

MEMORY VERSE FOR SECTION ONE IS 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3-4

SECTION TWO – THE BODY OF CHRIST



In Session 1 we found:

1. To be “in Christ” today is to be in the Church, the Body of Christ.
2. That no writer in the Bible except the apostle Paul mentions the Church, Body of Christ.

In such a brief study we can only touch the surface. We would like to emphasize the need, as you study, to ask God for more in-depth understanding and wisdom. If this basic study fires the innermost being of someone to make a more thorough study of the Word rightly divided, it will have done its job.

As a noble Berean search out God’s precious gems, mindful of the charge we have in 2 Timothy 2:1,2: “You therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”

1. (Ephesians 1:20-23; 5:23) In Paul's epistles, and nowhere else, we see the Church referred to as the "Body of Christ." Who is the Head of this Body? _____.
2. (Galatians 1:1,12) How did the apostle Paul receive the gospel which he preached? _____.
3. (1 Corinthians 12:13) How does one become a member of this Church? _____.
4. In 1 Corinthians 12:14 Paul states, "For this body is not one member, but many." Are you a member? Yes _____ No _____
5. How can you be positive that you are a member of the Body of Christ? Answer in your own words. _____

_____.
6. (Romans 10:13) Can anyone become a member of the Church, the Body of Christ? _____.
- (Galatians 3:26) What is one requirement to become a member? _____.

"Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27).

7. (Ephesians 3:8) What grace (privilege) was given to the apostle Paul as the special messenger to the Church? _____.
8. (Ephesians 3:9) What responsibility did he have? _____.
9. Read Romans 16:25-26 and Ephesians 3:1-6. What is the common idea concerning the mystery in Romans 16:25 and Ephesians 3:5? _____.
10. (1 Corinthians 2:13) Who is our teacher as we seek to understand the things of God? _____.
11. (Colossians 1:9-10) It requires discernment and understanding from God to be able to apply the truths of God's Word to our everyday living. True _____ False _____

12. (Colossians 2:6,7) How does Paul want the believers to live?
- a. _____;
 - b. _____;
 - c. _____;
 - d. _____.
13. What warning does the Bible give in Colossians 2:4? _____
- _____
- In Colossians 2:8? _____
- _____
- _____
14. (Ephesians 1:15-19) Name five things that Paul prayed for the Ephesian believers:
- a. _____;
 - b. _____;
 - _____;
 - c. _____;
 - d. _____;
 - _____;
 - e. _____.
15. (Ephesians 6:11-13) What instructions does the Bible give in order for us to stand against the schemes of the devil? _____
16. According to Ephesians 6:12, what do we struggle against? _____
- _____
- _____
17. (Ephesians 6: 14-17) List the six parts of the whole armor of God.
- 1. _____;
 - 2. _____;
 - 3. _____;
 - 4. _____;
 - 5. _____;
 - 6. _____.
18. According to Ephesians 6:18:
- a. When should we pray? _____.
 - b. How should we pray? _____
 - _____.
 - c. For whom should we pray? _____.

19. (Ephesians 6:19-20) What does Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for on his behalf? _____
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1 THESSALONIANS 5:16-18

REJOICE ALWAYS
PRAY WITHOUT CEASING
IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS;
FOR THIS IS GOD'S WILL FOR YOU IN CHRIST JESUS.

THREE-FOLD DEDICATION

1. A DEFINITE ACT -- Romans 12:1,2

INITIAL PRESENTATION

Did you mean it when you presented your body the first time? This does not have to be repeated, because DEDICATION is ALSO:

2. A DAILY ATTITUDE -- Romans 6:11

INDIVIDUAL PRACTICE

Is your daily attitude and activity consistent with having presented your body for God's control?

3. A DEDICATED ACTIVITY -- Galatians 2:20

INDWELLING PRESENCE

It is not enough to have presented your body and to have a good daily attitude; if you do not allow Christ to live His life IN and THROUGH you, your dedication is NOT COMPLETE.

“CHRIST LIVES IN ME” - This is true of every believer.

“CHRIST LIVES THROUGH ME” - This is not true of every believer. This takes yielding and submitting to His control.

MEMORY VERSE FOR SECTION THREE IS 1 CORINTHIANS 12:27

Use the space below for any Questions or Comments:

Which version(s) of the Bible did you use to complete this Bible lesson:

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