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# **THINK ON THESE THINGS**

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**STUDIES IN GOD'S WORD**

**PAUL C. WITT**

**ABILENE CHRISTIAN COLLEGE  
ABILENE, TEXAS**

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"THINK ON THESE THINGS"

A Series of  
Studies in God's Word

- o -

"And now I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you the inheritance among all them that are sanctified."

- - -

"Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness: that the man of God may be complete, furnished completely unto every good work."

- - -

"Give diligence to present thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, handling aright the word of truth."

- o -

Paul C. Witt,

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## GOD'S WORD

- I. The origin or source of the word (Scriptures).
  - A. God spoke.
    - 1. Unto the fathers by the prophets.  
Heb. 1:1.
    - 2. Unto us by His Son. Heb. 1:2;  
Matt. 17:5; 28:18; Acts 3:22-23.
  - B. Men of God spoke.
    - 1. As they were moved by the Holy Spirit. John 14:26; 16:13-14;  
II Pet. 1:21.
    - 2. Giving the inspired word which furnishes unto every good work.  
II Tim. 3:16-17.
- II. The attributes of the word.
  - A. The word is truth. John 1:17; 17:17.
    - 1. The truth that begets freedom.  
John 8:31-32.
  - B. The word is light. Psalms 119:105; 119:130;  
II Pet. 1:19.
    - 1. Revealing life and immortality.  
John 1:4,9; 6:68; II Tim. 1:8-10.
  - C. The word is living and active.
    - 1. "... the words that I have spoken unto you are spirit, and are life."  
John 6:63.
    - 2. "... sharper than any two-edged sword,..." Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17.
    - 3. "... quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart."  
Heb. 4:12-13.
  - D. The word is enduring.
    - 1. "And the truth of Jehovah endureth forever." Psalms 117:2.
    - 2. "... my words shall never pass away."  
Mark 13:31; I Pet. 1:25.



### III. The function and power of the word.

A. In the creation. Heb. 11:3; Gen. 1:3;  
Gen. 1:6,9,11,14,20,24,26.

1. In the upholding of all things.  
Heb. 1:1-4.

B. In the "new creation"- the salvation  
of souls.

1. "The seed is the word of God."  
Lk. 8:11.

a. The soul is begotten by the  
seed. I Pet. 1:22-23;  
I Cor. 4:15.

b. And is "brought forth" by the  
word. Jas. 1:18.

2. Faith comes by hearing the word of  
God. Rom. 10:17; John 17:20;  
Acts 11:14; 15:7; 16:14-15.

a. Salvation is by way of faith;  
"through faith". Eph. 2:8.

3. The gospel is God's power to save  
all who believe. Rom. 1:16; 10:15;  
Acts 18:8; I Cor. 15:1-4.

a. "He that believeth and is bap-  
tized shall be saved;..."  
Mark 16:15-16.

C. In the sustenance and preservation of  
souls.

1. The indwelling word. Eph. 5:18;  
Col. 3:16.

2. The implanted (engrafted) word.  
Jas. 1:21.

3. The "sincere milk of the word",  
unto salvation. I Pet. 2:1-2.

4. The "applied" word. Jas. 1:22-25;  
Matt. 7:21; 7:24-25; Rom. 2:13.

5. The "word of his grace" able to  
sanctify souls. Acts 20:32.

## GOD'S GRACE

### I. Grace defined.

- A. Exercise of love, kindness, or good will; unmerited favor.
- B. The manifestation of the love of God in the gift of His Son. John 3:16.
- C. The provision by God for the salvation of men. Tit. 2:11; Eph. 2:8.

### II. Grace considered.

- A. God's grace as manifested in times past.
  - 1. In the tragedy of the garden of Eden. Gen. 3:1-19.
  - 2. In the destruction of the wicked of the earth by flood. Gen. 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 13-23; Heb. 11:7.
  - 3. In the deliverance of the children of Israel from Egyptian bondage. Exo. 3:1-22; Heb. 11:23-29.
    - a. The law and the covenant. Exo. 20:1-6; 24:3-8.
    - b. The tabernacle and the priesthood. Exo. 40:1-38.
  - 4. In His attitude toward a careless and erring nation. Isa. 1:2-20; Mal. 3:7-12.
- B. God's grace in these days in the gift of His Son.
  - 1. A promise fulfilled. Gen. 3:16; Isa. 7:14; Mic. 5:2; Lk. 1:26-33; Matt. 1:18-23; Lk. 2:8-14.
  - 2. A mission completed. Matt. 1:21; Lk. 1:76-77; John 1:19-30; 6:38; Matt. 5:17-18; 16:13-18.
  - 3. Jesus the Christ as the grace of God. John 3:16; Tit. 2:11.

- a. A commendation of God's love.  
Rom. 5:6-11; Heb. 2:9-10.
- b. A willing sacrifice for the  
sins of the world. Tit. 2:14;  
Phil. 2:5-11.
- c. A redeemer. I Pet. 1:18-19;  
I Tim. 2:5.
- 4. Salvation, the grace of God.  
Eph. 2:4-9; Tit. 3:5-7; Heb. 5:9.
- C. Other references to God's grace.
  - 1. The "word of His grace" which is  
able to build up. Acts 20:32.
  - 2. His grace "sufficient" in time of  
need. II Cor. 12:9.
  - 3. His "throne of grace" for every  
time of need. Heb. 4:14-16.
- III. Grace as God's constant benediction to us.
  - A. We are not under law but are under  
grace.
    - 1. Grace and truth came by Jesus the  
Christ. John 1:16-17.
    - 2. Under grace sin can no longer have  
dominion over us. Rom. 6:14.
  - B. Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the  
Father and Christ Jesus the Lord.  
I Tim. 1:2; II Tim. 1:2; Tit. 1:4.



## MAN'S FAITH

### I. Faith defined.

- A. Assurance or conviction brought about by testimony or evidence; reliance upon testimony.
- B. "... faith is the substance (assurance) of things hoped for, the evidence (a conviction) of things not seen." Heb. 11:1.
- C. Faith is believing what God has said.

### II. Faith considered.

- A. How faith comes, or is produced.
  - 1. Faith comes by hearing the word of God. Rom. 10:17; John 17:20; John 20:30-31; Acts 15:7.
- B. The necessity for having faith.
  - 1. Without faith it is impossible to come to God, or to please God. Heb. 11:6; John 6:44-45.
  - 2. "... whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Rom. 14:23.
  - 3. "... for we walk by faith, not by sight." II Cor. 5:7.
  - 4. The world (worldliness) is overcome by faith. I John 5:4.
  - 5. "... a man is justified by faith." Rom. 3:28; 5:1.
  - 6. But "... not only by faith" or by faith only. Jas. 2:24.
- C. The necessity for keeping the faith.
  - 1. It is possible for one to turn away from the faith. I Tim. 1:19; II Tim. 2:18; 4:3-4.
  - 2. One might have "an evil heart of unbelief, in falling away from the living God:..." Heb. 3:12-19.

3. It is possible for one's faith to be overthrown. II Tim. 2:16-18.
4. Reward is promised to such as have "kept the faith". II Tim. 4:7-8.
- D. The vital relation of faith and works.
  1. By works faith is made perfect. Jas. 2:22.
  2. "... faith apart from works is dead." Jas. 2:26.
- E. The value of and necessity for the proving of one's faith.
  1. The proving of faith works patience. Jas. 1:2-4; I Pet. 1:7.
  2. Jesus is the author and perfecter of one's faith. Heb. 12:1-2.
- F. Admonitions concerning contending for and seeking protection of the faith.
  1. "... contend earnestly for the faith". Jude, verse 3.
  2. "Fight the good fight of the faith." I Tim. 6:12.
  3. "... taking up the shield of faith" Eph. 6:16.
- G. The objective or end of one's faith.
  1. The salvation of the soul. I Pet. 1:9.
- III. Faith and God's plan of salvation.
  - A. Salvation is by way of or conditioned upon faith. Eph. 2:8.
    1. Obedient belief leads to salvation. Rom. 1:16; Mark 16:16.
    2. Disbelief results in condemnation. Mark 16:16.
  - B. Jesus is "unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;.." Heb. 5:9.

## REPENTANCE

- I. Repentance defined.
  - A. To feel such sorrow for sin as leads one to turn from it and seek forgiveness.
  - B. A change of will resulting in a change of life.
  - C. A turning of one's spiritual self from sin unto God.
- II. Repentance discussed.
  - A. The significance of and need for repentance.
    - 1. Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. Lk. 5:32.
    - 2. Jesus suffered that repentance and remission of sins might be preached. Lk. 24:46-47.
    - 3. Joy in heaven over the repentance of a sinner indicates the importance of repentance. Lk. 15:10.
    - 4. By way of contrast impenitence is tragic. Lk. 15:3,5; Rom. 2:5.
  - B. Things which move men to repentance.
    - 1. Harkening to God's words as spoken by his servants. Jonah 3:3-5; Acts 2:37-41; 8:22.
    - 2. Considering the goodness of God in contrast with the sinfulness of men. Rom. 2:4; II Pet. 3:9.
    - 3. Contemplating the certainty and severity of the judgment. Heb. 9:27; Acts 17:30-31; II Cor. 5:10.
  - C. Things related to or with repentance.
    - 1. Repentance is preceded by godly sorrow. II Cor. 7:10; Acts 2:37.
    - 2. Repentance is followed by a change of life. Acts 2:37-41; Lk. 3:7-11.

3. Repentance is in order to remission of sins- unto salvation.  
Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:31; 26:20;  
II Cor. 7:10.

4. Repentance is unto the restoration of erring Christians.  
Acts 8:22; Rev. 2:1-5.

### III. Repentance in God's plan of salvation.

A. Sin is universal, therefore repentance is universally necessary.

1. The erring of every generation have received forgiveness only in connection with repentance.  
Jonah 3:3-5; Rev. 2:1-5.

2. The impenitent stand condemned.  
Matt. 12:41; Rom. 2:4-6.

B. God's attitude toward repentance.

1. He is not willing that any should perish but would that all should come to repentance. II Pet. 3:9.  
a. As expressed through the Lord Jesus Christ. Matt. 11:28-30.

2. "... but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent;..." Acts 17:30.



## CONFESSION

- I. Confession defined.
  - A. Giving assent to, or acknowledging truthfulness of, a fact.
  - B. Admission or acknowledgment of guilt.
  - C. Expression of belief that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.
- II. Confession considered.
  - A. The types of confessions referred to in the scriptures.
    - 1. Confession of faith on the part of an alien sinner. Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37.
    - 2. Confession of faults by one Christian to another. Jas. 5:16.
    - 3. Confession of sins by an erring Christian before or unto God. I John 1:9; 2:1-2.
    - 4. Confession of the Son by faithful saints in Christ. I John 2:23.
    - 5. Confession by "every tongue" when "every knee" bows. Rom. 14:11; Phil. 2:11.
  - B. Objects of confessions.
    - 1. Confession by the alien sinner is unto salvation. Rom. 10:10.
    - 2. Mutual confessions of faults and praying "that ye may be healed". Jas. 5:16.
    - 3. Confession by erring children unto God is in order to God's forgiveness and cleansing. I John 1:9.
    - 4. Confession of saints that Jesus is the Son of God is in order that God might abide within. I John 4:15; I John 2:23.
    - 5. Confession by "every tongue" is in order to glorify God. Phil. 2:11.

C. How confession should be made.

1. With the mouth, or the tongue.  
Rom. 10:10; 14:12; Phil. 2:11.
2. Before men. Matt. 10:32; Lk. 12:8;  
I Tim. 6:13.

D. The condition and end of any who deny that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

1. They will be denied before the Father. Matt. 10:33; Lk. 12:9;  
II Tim. 2:12.
2. They are liars-- antichrist.  
I John 2:22; 4:2-3; II John 7.
3. They have not the Father- God and the Christ abide not in them.  
I John 2:23; 4:15.

III. Confession in God's plan of salvation.

A. By the confession Jesus is recognized as Lord (having authority) and Christ (being the Savior). Acts 2:36.

B. The confession is an expression by the mouth of what is believed in the heart.

1. That "Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God". John 20:31; Rom. 10:9-10.

C. The confession is unto (in order to) salvation. Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37.

## BAPTISM

- I. Baptism defined.
  - A. The dipping, plunging, or immersing of a penitent believer in water, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19.
  - B. A burial in a watery grave; a planting in water. Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12.
- II. Baptism discussed.
  - A. The necessity of baptism.
    - 1. Jesus commanded it. Matt. 28:19.
      - a. The apostles of Jesus taught and commanded it. Acts 2:38; Acts 10:47-48; 22:10,16.
    - 2. Jesus made salvation depend upon it. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;" Mark 16:16.
      - a. Salvation is in Christ Jesus. II Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12.
      - b. One is baptized into Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.
    - 3. The act of baptism symbolizes a death, a burial, and a resurrection. Rom. 6:2-5; I Cor. 15:1-4; II Tim. 2:11.
  - B. Things essentially associated with a scriptural baptism.
    - 1. There must be a proper subject.
      - a. Faith must precede baptism. Acts 8:12; 8:13; 8:37; 18:8; Mark 16:16.
      - b. Repentance must precede baptism. Acts 2:38; 16:33-34; Lk. 24:47.
      - c. Confession precedes baptism. Rom. 10:9-10; Acts 8:37.
    - 2. The proper medium must be used.
      - a. Water. Acts 8:36,38-39; 10:47; Matt. 3:16.

3. There must be the proper act.
  - a. Preceded by going down into the water. Acts 8:38.
  - b. Consisting of a burial. Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12.
  - c. Followed by a coming up out of the water. Acts 8:39; Matt. 3:16.
  - d. A resurrection unto newness of life. Rom. 6:4-5; Col. 2:12; Col. 3:1; II Cor. 5:17.
4. There must be the proper purpose or objective.
  - a. In order to obtain remission of sins. Acts 2:38; 22:16; (1) Freedom from sin. Rom. 6:18.
  - b. In order to be saved. Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21.
  - c. In order to get into Christ- put on Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.
  - d. In order to be added to the church of the Lord Jesus Christ- to be in the kingdom of God. Acts 2:41,47; Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:1-2; John 3:3,5.

### III. Baptism in God's plan of salvation.

- A. The obedient penitent believer is saved by or through baptism. I Pet. 3:21; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:37-47.
  1. Baptism is unto remission of sins- washing away of sins- unto "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit". Acts 2:38; 22:16; Tit. 3:5.
- B. The thus saved individuals are in the kingdom of God- are added by the Lord to his church. John 3:5; Acts 2:47.
  1. Jesus is the Savior of the body- the church. Eph. 5:23.



## NEW CREATURES IN CHRIST

- I. "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new."  
II Cor. 5:17.
- A. One gets into Christ by being baptized into Christ. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4.
1. Baptized into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matt. 28:19.
- B. One enters the kingdom of God by being born again. John 3:3.
1. Begotten by the incorruptible seed, the word of God. I Pet. 1:23.
  2. "... born of water and the Spirit." John 3:5.
  3. Experiencing "the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,..." Titus 3:5.
- C. Baptism into Christ is baptism unto salvation. Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21.
1. Salvation is in Christ Jesus. II Tim. 2:10; Acts 4:12.
  2. Baptism is into the one body. I Cor. 12:13.
  3. Christ is the Savior of the body. Eph. 5:23.
- II. In coming into Christ there is a glorious transition from the old unto the new.
- A. There is a translation out of darkness into light. Eph. 5:8; I Pet. 2:9-10.
1. Out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of the Son of his love. Col. 1:13.
- B. There is a passing from bondage into liberty. Rom. 6:12-14, 17-18.
1. Unto sonship and freedom. Gal. 4:7; Gal. 5:13; Rom. 8:2.

C. There is a passing from a lost condition into salvation.

1. Jesus came as the Savior; Christ.  
Lk. 2:10-11; 19:10; John 3:16-17.
  - a. The "Lamb of God, that taketh away the sins of the world!"  
John 1:29.
2. He promised salvation to obedient believers. Mark 16:16.
  - a. Obedient believers were saved.  
Acts 2:37-41, 47; Acts 13:8;  
I Cor. 1:1-2.

D. There is a passing from death unto life. I John 3:14.

1. "... like as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." Rom. 6:4-5;  
Col. 2:12.
2. "And you did he make alive..."  
Eph. 2:1-10; Col. 2:12-13.

III. This translation should be accompanied by or closely followed by a transformation of life.

A. There must be a putting off of the old man and a putting on of the new man.  
Col. 3:5-10, 12-14; Eph. 4:22-24.

1. A crucifixion of the flesh with its lusts and passions. Gal. 5:24.

B. There must be a renewing of the mind; a seeking of things above. Rom. 12:1-2;  
Col. 3:1-4.

1. A "looking unto Jesus". Heb. 12:1-2.
2. A pressing on "toward the goal unto the prize". Phil. 3:13-14.

C. A partaking of "the divine nature" unto "entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ". II Pet. 1:2-11.

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH

- I. Growth due to increasing knowledge and understanding of God's will.
  - A. Studying, embodying, and walking by God's revealed truth.
    1. Desiring "the sincere milk of the word". I Pet. 2:1-2.
    2. Realizing that "every scripture inspired of God is profitable.. that the man of God might be complete". II Tim. 3:14-17.
    3. Understanding that God's righteousness is revealed "from faith unto faith". Rom. 1:16-17.
    4. Remembering that saints are transformed by the renewing of their minds. Rom. 12:1-2.
  - B. Growing in knowledge and discernment.
    1. To win the approval of God, "handling aright the word of truth. II Tim. 2:15.
    2. To "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ". II Pet. 3:18.
    3. To be able to leave first principles and "go on unto perfection". Heb. 6:1-3.
    4. To be able to comprehend the deeper, fuller things of God. Heb. 5:11-14; I Cor. 3:1-2.
- II. Growth due to purification of minds and consecration of lives.
  - A. Seeking things above; seeking first the kingdom of heaven.
    1. Setting minds on things above. Col. 3:1-4; Matt. 6:33.
    2. Thinking ennobling thoughts. Phil. 4:8; Rom. 8:6; Matt. 5:8.



- B. Putting off the old, and putting on the new, man.
  - 1. Putting to death members upon the earth. Col. 3:5-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:22.
  - 2. Putting on the new (renewed) man. Col. 3:12-14; Gal. 5:22-23; Eph. 4:23-24.
  - 3. Presenting bodies as living sacrifices. Rom. 12:1-2.
- C. Trusting implicitly in Jesus as Christ and Lord. I Pet. 3:15.
  - 1. Letting the peace of Christ rule in the heart. Col. 3:15-17.
  - 2. Looking unto Jesus as the author and perfecter of faith. Heb. 12:1-2; Heb. 6:19.

### III. Growth due to embodiment and development of ennobling virtues.

- A. Seeking to add to or supply in faith other attributes. II Pet. 1:5-10.
  - 1. Virtue. II Pet. 1:5; I Tim. 5:22; II Tim. 2:22; Tit. 2:4.
  - 2. Knowledge. I Tim. 2:4; Rom. 10:2; Phil. 3:8; Prov. 1:7; Hos. 4:6.
  - 3. Temperance. Gal. 5:23; I Cor. 9:25.
  - 4. Patience. Jas. 1:2-4; Rom. 5:3-4; Lk. 21:19; Heb. 12:1.
  - 5. Godliness. I Tim. 4:7-8; 6:6,11; Tit. 2:11-14; II Pet. 1:3.
  - 6. Brotherly kindness. Heb. 13:1; Rom. 12:10; Gal. 6:10; I Thes. 4:9.
  - 7. Love. II Pet. 1:7; Col. 3:14.
- B. To become partakers of the divine nature. II Pet. 1:2-4.
  - 1. Making calling and election sure; seeking abundant entrance into the eternal kingdom. II Pet. 1:10-11.



## CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY

- I. Watchfulness; protective activity.
  - A. Taking heed unto selves.
    - 1. Lest any drift away from things heard. Heb. 2:1-2.
    - 2. Lest any be made spoil of by vain deceit. Col. 2:8.
    - 3. Lest there be any turning away from the faith. Heb. 3:12.
    - 4. Lest any fail to profit by example. I Cor. 10:1-11.
      - a. And be too self confident. I Cor. 10:12; Rom. 12:3; Gal. 6:3.
  - B. Watching.
    - 1. Because the adversary, the devil, is persistent and deceitful.
      - a. Seeking whom he may devour. I Pet. 5:8.
      - b. Working craftily and deceitfully. II Cor. 11:3,14; Eph. 6:11; Rev. 12:9.
    - 2. Because our own fleshly lusts are intense and treacherous.
      - a. We are led away and enticed because of lusts. Jas. 1:14-15; I John 2:15-17; I Cor. 10:6.
      - b. We should curb lusts if we would avoid temptations. Gal. 5:16-17; II Tim. 2:22; I Thes. 5:21-22.
  - C. Exhorting and admonishing one another.
    - 1. Lest any be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. Heb. 3:13.
    - 2. Lest any become neglectful or forgetful. Heb. 10:24-25; 2:1-3.
    - 3. That all might be taught and admonished. Col. 3:15-17.

- a. Being dependent upon and subject to one another.  
Eph. 5:15-21; Rom. 12:9-10;  
Gal. 6:1-2; I Thes. 4:9.

## II. Industry; productive activity.

### A. Working faithfully and diligently.

- 1. To supply physical needs of self and others. I Thes. 4:11; I Tim. 5:8; II Thes. 3:10-12; Eph. 4:28.
- 2. In the kingdom of the Lord Jesus.
  - a. Workers together with God. II Cor. 6:1; I Cor. 3:9.
  - b. Working out one's own salvation. Phil. 2:12; II Pet. 5:10.
  - c. Working manfully, abundantly, and fruitfully. I Cor. 15:58; I Cor. 16:13; John 15:8.
  - d. Working consistently and sacrificially. Jas. 1:24-25; Jas. 2:22; Phil. 3:13-14; Rom. 12:1-2.

### B. Walking worthily and wisely.

- 1. "...worthily of the calling." Eph. 4:1-3; Col. 1:9-10.
- 2. "...as wise; redeeming the time." Eph. 5:15-16; Acts 9:31.
- 3. "...by faith, not by sight." II Cor. 5:7.
- 4. "...in the light,..." I John 1:7; John 8:12.
- 5. "...even as he walked." I John 2:6.

### C. Looking steadily and constantly.

- 1. To selves, lest temptation overtake and overcome. Gal. 6:1.
- 2. To others, "each to the things of the other". Phil. 2:3-4; Jas. 5:16.
- 3. To Jesus; to things above. Heb. 12:1-2; Col. 3:1-2.

## THE CHRISTIAN'S ARMOR

- I. Object for which the armor is put on.
  - A. To enable one to stand against the wiles of the devil. Eph. 6:11.
    - 1. To combat "the world rulers of this darkness.. the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places". Eph. 6:12.
  - B. To withstand, and to stand. Eph. 6:13.
- II. The things constituting the Christian's armor.
  - A. The defensive armor.
    - 1. The girdle of truth. Eph. 6:14.
    - 2. The breastplate of righteousness.
    - 3. The shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. Eph. 6:15.
    - 4. The shield of faith. Eph. 6:16.
    - 5. The helmet of salvation. Eph. 6:17.
  - B. The defensive weapon.
    - 1. The sword of the Spirit; the word of God. Eph. 6:17.
- III. The functions of the parts of the Christian's armor and weapon.
  - A. The girdle of truth.
    - 1. To afford protection and security. II Tim. 2:15-18.
    - 2. To insure freedom and liberty. John 1:17; 8:31-32.
    - 3. To set apart, or sanctify. John 17:17-19; Acts 20:32.
  - B. The breastplate of righteousness.
    - 1. To exalt and strengthen. Prov. 14:34; II Tim. 2:19; Matt. 5:6.
    - 2. To protect and justify. Psalms 37:25; Psalms 55:22; Acts 10:35.
    - 3. To afford victory and triumph. Acts 17:30-31; I Pet. 4:18; Matt. 13:40-43; 25:46.



C. The shoes of the good tidings of peace.

1. As a consolation, a protection, and a hope. Luke 2:14; John 14:27; 16:33; Eph. 2:14; I Pet. 5:14; Col. 1:2; 3:15; Rom. 1:7; 14:19; I Thes. 5:13; Heb. 12:14.

2. As a source of information leading to salvation. Mark 16:15-16; Rom. 1:16-17; 10:13-15; I Cor. 4:15; I Cor. 15:1-4; I Pet. 1:22-25.

D. The shield of faith.

1. Faith is the foundation of hope. Heb. 11:1; 6:17-20.
2. To guide and to sustain. II Cor. 5:7; I John 5:4.
3. Its objective or end being salvation. I Pet. 1:9.

E. The helmet of salvation.

1. "and for a helmet, the hope of salvation". I Thes. 5:8.

F. The sword of the Spirit; the word of God.

1. Defensively, our foothold, our security, and our defense.
  - a. We were begotten by the living, abiding word of God. Luke 8:11; I Pet. 1:23-25; I Cor. 4:15.
  - b. The inspired word furnishes completely unto every good work. II Tim. 3:14-17.
  - c. The "implanted word" is able to save souls. Jas. 1:21; I Cor. 1:18; Rom. 1:16-17.
2. Offensively, the sword (weapon) of the Spirit. Heb. 4:12-13; John 6:63.
  - a. To be constantly used by saints in Christ Jesus. II Tim. 4:1-2.



## THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

### I. Meaning and use of the word "Church".

#### A. Meaning of the term.

1. "The collective body of Christians." -Webster.
2. "According to Matthew 16:18 the name 'ekklesia' was first applied to the Christian society by Jesus himself,..." -New Int. Bib. Ency.
3. The "called out"; "separated from".
4. The invisible body composed of all of the saved.

#### B. The uses of the term in the New Testament scriptures.

1. Signifying the entire body of saved believers.
  - a. Thus used eighteen times.  
Matt. 16:18; Acts 20:28;  
Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 1:18,24;  
I Tim. 3:15; Heb. 12:23.
2. Signifying a local congregation of saints.
  - a. Thus used ninety-two times.  
Acts 13:1; Rom. 16:16;  
I Cor. 1:1-2; Gal. 1:1-2;  
Tit. 1:5; Rev. 1:4.

### II. Figures used to describe the church.

#### A. The church as a kingdom.

1. With Christ as king- monarchical head. Matt. 16:18-19; Acts 8:12; Acts 19:8; 28:30-31; Col. 1:13.

#### B. The church as a body.

1. With Christ as the head. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23.

#### C. The church as the house of God; household. I Tim. 3:15.

1. The Son over same. Heb. 3:6.

D. The church as the temple of God; a spiritual building.

1. Christ himself being the chief cornerstone. Eph. 2:19-22;  
I Pet. 2:5.

### III. The church and her members.

A. The church had its beginning- establishment- on the first Pentecost after the resurrection.

1. Jesus had said "I will build my church". Matt. 16:18.
  2. After the death of Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea was looking for the kingdom of God. Lk. 23:51.
  3. After Jesus' resurrection the disciples were inquiring concerning the kingdom. Acts 1:6-8.
  4. On the day of Pentecost "They that received his word were baptized: and there were added unto them in that day about three thousand souls". Acts 2:36-41, esp. 41.
  5. "And the Lord added unto them (the church) day by day those that were saved". Acts 2:47.
  6. Peter, guided by the Holy Spirit, referred to the incidents on Pentecost as the "beginning".  
Acts 11:15-17.
    - a. Paul is spoken of as having persecuted the church. Acts 8:1.
    - b. Philip preached "good tidings concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ". Acts 8:12.
- B. Various names were used to designate the church.
1. The "church of God". I Cor. 1:1-2;  
II Cor. 1:1-2.

2. The "church of the living God." I Tim. 3:15.
3. The "church of the Lord". Acts 20:32.
4. The "church of the firstborn". Heb. 12:23.
5. The "churches of Christ". Rom. 16:16.
  - a. Jesus referred to the church as "my church". Matt. 16:18.
  - b. Jesus purchased the church with his own blood. It belongs to him. Acts 20:28.
  - c. Christ is the head of the church as the husband is head of the wife. The wife takes the husband's name. Likewise, the church takes Christ's name. Eph. 5:23.

C. Names used in the scriptures to designate the members of the church of Christ.

1. Saints.
  - a. With reference to their relation to Christ and God.
  - b. Thus used about sixty times. Phil. 1:1; 4:21-22; I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 1:1; 13:13; Eph. 1:1; Col. 1:2; II Thes. 1:10, and other references.
2. Brethren.
  - a. With reference to their relation to each other.
  - b. Thus used about two hundred times. Rom. 10:1; 12:1; II Pet. 1:10; Jas. 1:2; I Cor. 1:10; Gal. 6:1; Acts 6:3; 18:18; and others.
3. Christians.
  - a. With reference to their relation to the people of the world.
  - b. Thus used three times. Acts 11:26; Acts 26:28-28; I Pet. 4:16.



D. Means of induction into the church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. The saved are added to the church- to the Lord's body- by the Lord himself. Acts 2:47.

a. The church is the body of Christ. Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23.

b. Salvation is in Christ- in the body. II Tim. 2:10; Eph. 5:23.

c. One is baptized into Christ- into the body. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4; I Cor. 12:13.

d. Saved baptized believers constitute the church. Acts 18:8; I Cor. 1:1-2; II Cor. 1:1-2.

2. Entrance into the kingdom is by way of a birth. John 3:3.

a. A birth of water and of the Spirit. John 3:5.

b. A "washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit." Tit. 3:5.

c. One who is baptized rises "to walk in newness of life." One such becomes "a new creature" in Christ. Rom. 6:4-5; Col. 2:12; II Cor. 5:17.

IV. The relation of the church and salvation.

A. The church (body) is composed of the saved. Acts 2:47; I Cor. 1:1-2; 15:1-4.

1. Jesus is the savior of the body; the church. Eph. 5:23.

B. Baptized believers constitute the saved; the church. Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41, 47; I Cor. 15:1-4; Heb. 5:8-9.

1. The disobedient are condemned.

Mark 16:16; I Pet. 4:17; II Thes. 1:7-9.

C. God is glorified in the church and in the Lord Jesus Christ. Eph. 3:20-21.



## CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

### I. Worship defined.

- A. Humbly to bow down or prostrate oneself in a reverential way in acknowledgment of the great glory and exaltation of a supreme being and power, and dependence upon Him.
  - 1. Act of paying reverence and honor to a deity.
  - 2. Religious reverence and homage.
- B. Actions honoring and giving reverence to God; giving honor and glory to God in humble service, thanksgiving, and praise.

### II. Kinds of worship mentioned in God's word.

- A. Ignorant worship; worship not according to knowledge.
  - 1. Such as offered by the Athenians. Acts 17:22-23.
  - 2. And as engaged in by some of God's people, the Jews. Rom. 10:1-3.
- B. Vain worship; empty and unavailing worship.
  - 1. As practiced by some of the Pharisees. Matt. 15:9; Mark 7:7.
- C. True worship; worship in Spirit and in truth. John 4:23-24.
  - 1. "In Spirit", having right motive and attitude.
  - 2. "In truth", according to God's word, right direction and procedure.

### III. Essential characteristics of true worship.

- A. There must be the proper object of worship.
  - 1. Not false, material gods. Acts 14:8-16; 17:22-29.
  - 2. Not even angels. Rev. 22:8-9.
  - 3. But Jehovah, the true and living God. Matt. 4:10; Acts 14:15; 17:24-29.

- B. There must be the proper objective, or motive, or inspiring force.
  - 1. Proper inspiration; Spirit.  
John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3.
  - 2. Proper aim, objective, or end.
    - a. To honor and hallow the name of Jehovah God. Matt. 6:9.
    - b. To exalt and sanctify Jesus as Lord and Christ. I Pet. 3:15.
    - c. To manifest and express humility and dependence. I Pet. 5:5-6.
    - d. To petition the Father and offer thanks for blessings received. I Thes. 5:17-18; Heb. 4:14-16; Phil. 4:6.
    - e. To teach and admonish each other. Col. 3:16; Heb. 3:13.
- C. There must be the proper attitude in worship.
  - 1. The attitude of humility, reverence, and self subjugation.
- D. There must be the proper method of procedure in worship.
  - 1. According to God's word- truth.  
John 4:23; 8:32; 1:17; 17:17; I Pet. 4:11.
    - a. Not according to precepts of men.  
Matt. 15:9; Mark 7:7.
  - 2. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.  
Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20; 3:21.
- E. There must be the proper items of worship.
  - 1. Preaching-teaching. Acts 20:7; 5:32; Acts 28:31; Matt. 28:20.
  - 2. Prayer- thanksgiving. I Tim. 2:1-8; I Thes. 5:17-18; Phil. 4:6.
  - 3. Singing. Eph. 5:18-19; Col. 3:16.
  - 4. The Lord's supper- communion. Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:17-34; Matt. 26:26-29.
  - 5. The contribution- fellowship. Rom. 12:8; I Cor. 16:1-2; II Cor. 9:1-11.

## TEACHING GOD'S WORD

- I. Teaching has been enjoined upon God's people in every age- has ever been a part of God's economy.
  - A. As in the dispensation of the law.  
Deut. 4:9-10; 6:4-9; 11:18-20.
  - B. And in the time of the prophets.  
Ezra 7:10,25; Isa. 54:13.
  - C. During the personal ministry of Jesus.  
Matt. 5:1-2; 7:28-29; John 6:45; Acts 1:1.
  - D. After the resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Matt. 28:18-20; Acts 5:42; 15:35.
  - E. Provided for in our own dispensation.
    1. "... and some,.. teachers". Eph. 4:11.
    2. "... thirdly teachers," I Cor. 12:28.
    3. "... faithful men.." II Tim. 2:2;  
Acts 13:1; Rom. 12:7; Heb. 5:12.
- II. What God wants taught.
  - A. Whatsoever Jesus commanded. Matt. 17:5;  
Matt. 28:18-20.
    1. The word of the Lord. John 14:26;  
16:13; Acts 15:35; II Pet. 1:19-21.
    2. The oracles of God. I Pet. 4:11.
    3. Things becoming to (befitting) sound doctrine. Tit. 2:1.
    4. Things such as Timothy received from Paul. I Tim. 4:11-16; II Tim. 2:2.
  - B. Not anything not commanded by Jesus.
    1. As precepts of men. Matt. 15:9.
    2. Fables. I Tim. 4:7; II Tim. 4:3-4.
    3. A perverted gospel. Gal. 1:6-10.
- III. Concerning the "how" of teaching.
  - A. The manner of teaching.
    1. With authority. Matt. 7:28-29;  
Matt. 17:5; 28:18-19; Acts 1:8.
    2. Accurately and effectively.  
II Tim. 2:15; 3:16-17.



3. Continuously. II Tim. 4:1-4;  
I Tim. 4:13.
- B. Methods and places of teaching.
  1. In the home. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4;  
II Tim. 3:15.
    - a. Supplementing and extending the work of the home. Eph. 6:4.
    - b. Lord's day and week day Bible classes planned by elders who are "apt to teach". I Tim. 3:2.
    - c. Elders directing properly prepared and authorized teachers in using prayerfully arranged lessons from God's word. Eph. 4:11-12; Tit. 2:1-8; I Tim. 4:13.
  2. In private dwellings. Acts 18:7-8; Acts 28:30-31.
  3. From house to house and publicly. Acts 5:42; 15:35; 20:20.
  4. In the marketplace. Acts 17:17.
  5. In places of worship. Acts 17:17; Acts 19:8.

#### IV. Ends or objectives of effective teaching.

- A. That children may be properly nurtured or brought up. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4.
- B. That individuals taught of God may learn, and come to Jesus, and be blessed. John 6:44-45.
- C. That "babes" at first requiring "milk" may come to be "fullgrown men" capable of discerning "good and evil". I Pet. 2:1-2; Heb. 5:14.
- D. That all may be built up unto "the inheritance among all them that are sanctified". Jas. 1:21; Acts 20:32.



## PRAYER

### I. Prayer defined.

- A. Earnest petition, entreaty, or thanksgiving addressed unto God. I Tim. 2:1.
  - 1. Supplication; earnest, submissive entreaty in behalf of self.
  - 2. Intercession; petition or entreaty in behalf of others.
  - 3. Thanksgiving; expression of gratitude for divine mercy and blessing.

### II. Prayer in God's plan in times past.

- A. In the lives of God's people before the coming of Christ.
  - 1. Abraham. Gen. 18:22-33; 20:17.
  - 2. Moses. Num. 11:2; 21:7-9.
  - 3. David. Psalms. 51:1-17; 86:3.
  - 4. Daniel. Dan. 6:10-11; 9:19.
- B. In the life of Jesus the Christ.
  - 1. Just before choosing the twelve. Luke 6:12.
  - 2. Just after the feeding of a multitude. Matt. 14:23; Mark 6:46.
  - 3. At the mount of transfiguration. Luke 9:28-29.
  - 4. At the close of the last supper. John 17:1-26.
  - 5. In Gethsemane. Matt. 26:36-44; Mark 14:32-39; Lk. 22:39-46.
  - 6. On the cross. Lk. 23:34.
- C. In the lives of the disciples and apostles.
  - 1. As a group. Acts 1:24; 2:42.
  - 2. Peter, on the housetop. Acts 10:9.
  - 3. Paul and Silas, in a Philippian jail. Acts 16:25.
  - 4. Paul and the group at Miletus. Acts 20:36; 21:5.

### III. Prayer in God's plan in our day.

A. God desires that men pray. Matt. 26:41;  
Lk. 18:1.

1. At all times. I Thes. 5:17; Col. 4:2;  
Acts 2:42.

2. In every place. I Tim. 2:8; Acts  
16:25; John 4:20-24.

B. Men need to pray. Jas. 4:10; Acts 8:22.

C. Prayers avail. Jas. 5:16; I Pet. 3:12;  
Heb. 4:14-16.

D. God has revealed how men should pray.

1. With the Spirit and the understand-  
ing. I Cor. 14:15.

2. In faith. Jas. 1:5-7; I John 5:14-15.

3. To be heard of God rather than of  
men. Matt. 6:5-8.

4. In the name of the Lord Jesus  
Christ. Col. 3:17; Eph. 5:20.

E. God has revealed for what men should  
pray.

1. For daily sustenance. Luke 11:3;  
Matt. 6:11; 7:7-11.

2. For a peaceful life. I Tim. 2:1-2.

3. For wisdom. Jas. 1:5-6.

4. For help relative to temptation.

a. Protection against. Matt. 26:41.

b. Strength in. I Cor. 10:13.

c. Deliverance from. Matt. 6:13;  
II Pet. 2:9; I Pet. 3:12.

5. For forgiveness of sins. I John 1:9;  
2:1-2.

6. For help in affliction. Jas. 5:13.

7. For the peace of God. Phil. 4:6.

8. For laborers for the harvest.

Matt. 9:38; Lk. 10:2; John 4:35.

F. Some prayers will not be answered.

1. A sinner's. John 9:31; Prov. 28:9.

2. A doubter's. Jas. 1:6-7.

3. The selfish-lustful. Jas. 4:3.

## SINGING

- I. Singing as referred to in the New Testament.
  - A. Occasions and instances where singing was engaged in.
    1. After the last supper. Matt. 26:30; Mark 14:26.
    2. In a prison in Philippi, at midnight. Acts 16:25.
  - B. References to singing involving quotations from the Psalms, pertaining to the principle of expressing praise, joy, and thanksgiving.
    1. "... give praise..and sing unto thy name." Rom. 15:9; from Psa. 18:49.
    2. "In the midst of the congregation will I sing thy praise." Heb. 2:12; from Psa. 22:22.
  - C. References to singing found in the letters to the churches.
    1. In the letter to the church at Colossae. Col. 3:16.
    2. In the letter to the church at Ephesus. Eph. 5:18-19.
    3. In the letter to the church at Corinth. I Cor. 14:15.
  - D. References to singing found in the Revelation.
    1. Concerning the one found worthy to break the seals of the book. Rev. 5:9.
    2. The song of the one hundred and forty-four thousand "purchased out of the earth". Rev. 14:1-4.
    3. The song of Moses and of the Lamb. Rev. 15:3-4.

## II. Concerning singing as worship.

### A. The object or purpose of singing.

1. To teach and admonish one another;  
to speak one to another. Eph. 5:19;  
Col. 3:16.
2. To express joy or cheerfulness.  
Jas. 5:13.
3. To express praise; to praise God.  
Heb. 2:12; Rom. 15:9; Acts 16:25.
4. To make melody- express "grace in  
the heart" unto the Lord. Eph. 5:19.

### B. The manner or method of singing.

1. "... with grace in your hearts unto  
God." Col. 3:16.
2. "I will sing with the spirit:..."  
"... and I will sing with the under-  
standing also." I Cor. 14:15.

### C. What should be sung.

1. Psalms, and hymns, and spiritual  
songs. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16.
2. Songs that teach. Col. 3:16.  
"I Will Sing of My Redeemer".  
"I Know That My Redeemer Lives".
3. Songs that admonish. Col. 3:16.  
"Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus".  
"Work For the Night Is Coming".
4. Songs of praise. Rom. 15:9; Heb.  
2:12; Acts 16:25.  
"Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore  
Him".  
"O, Praise the Lord".
5. Songs of prayer and thanksgiving.  
"Jesus, Savior Pilot Me".  
"Thou My Everlasting Portion".  
"In Loving Kindness Jesus Came".
6. Songs of invitation; decision.  
"Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling".  
"Just As I Am".



## THE LORD'S SUPPER

### I. What is the Lord's Supper?

A. A sublime ordinance, with great spiritual significance.

1. Instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;

Lk. 22:17-20; I Cor. 11:23-26.

a. The night of his betrayal.

I Cor. 11:23.

b. To commemorate his death.

I Cor. 11:26.

B. Consisting of simple, significant elements.

1. Bread, signifying the Lord's body.

Matt. 26:26; Mark 14:22; Lk. 22:19;

I Cor. 11:23-24.

2. The fruit of the vine, signifying his blood. Matt. 26:28; Mark 14:24;

Lk. 22:20; I Cor. 11:25.

a. The "blood of the covenant" poured out for many "for the remission of sins".

Matt. 26:28; I Pet. 1:18-19.

C. To be observed faithfully and continuously.

1. By every saint in Christ Jesus.

Matt. 26:26-27; Mark 14:23; Lk. 22:17;

I Cor. 11:28.

a. In a worthy manner. I Cor. 11:27.

b. After a self examination.

I Cor. 11:28.

c. With a discerning of the Lord's body. I Cor. 11:29.

2. Upon the first day of the week.

Acts 20:7; I Cor. 16:1-2; Acts 2:42;

Compare Lev. 24:5-9.

II. The purpose or object of the Lord's supper.

A. It is a memorial to commemorate the sacrificial suffering of Jesus the Christ.

1. "... this do in remembrance of me."  
Lk. 22:19; I Cor. 11:24,25.

B. To "... proclaim the Lord's death till he come." I Cor. 11:26.

C. To foster Christian fellowship.  
I Cor. 11:33; Acts 2:42; 20:7; Compare Heb. 10:24-26; Matt. 18:20.

D. That saints in Christ Jesus might have a part in the communion of the blood and of the body of the Lord.  
I Cor. 10:16; John 6:53-54.

III. The great importance of faithfully observing the Lord's supper.

A. It is a measure of our respect for, and desire to commemorate, the sacrificial death of Jesus the Christ.  
I Cor. 11:26.

B. It is an evidence of the Christian's desire for perpetuating the worship of the early church. Acts 2:42; 20:7; Compare I Cor. 16:1-2.

C. It has value in strengthening spiritually for the duties of the coming week, and preparing for the enjoyment of eternal life. John 6:53-54.

## THE CONTRIBUTION

- I. Some general principles concerning giving.
  - A. "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35.
  - B. Giving is a grace, and Christians are exhorted to abound in this grace as in others. II Cor. 8:7.
  - C. True giving involves the giving of one's self to the Lord. II Cor. 8:1-5.
  - D. Christians are, in reality, only stewards of God. I Cor. 10:26; 6:20; Acts 4:32-37.
  - E. Giving is a matter of Christian fellowship. Acts 2:42; Phil. 4:14-16.
- II. Some special details concerning giving.
  - A. When should Christians give?
    - 1. Upon the first day of the week. I Cor. 16:2.
      - a. This seemed to be the general "order". I Cor. 16:1.
  - B. How should Christians give?
    - 1. As individuals. I Cor. 16:2; II Cor. 9:7; Acts 11:29.
      - a. As each has prospered. I Cor. 16:2.
      - b. According as each hath- that there might be equality. II Cor. 8:12,13-14; I Tim. 6:17, 18-19.
      - c. Not of necessity- grudgingly. II Cor. 9:7.
      - d. But cheerfully- with liberality. II Cor. 9:7; Rom. 12:8.
      - e. As unto God, and not as unto men. Matt. 6:2-4.
      - f. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Col. 3:17.

2. As congregations. II Cor. 8:1-2;  
Phil. 4:15-16; Acts 11:27-30.

C. For what purposes should a Christian give?

1. To provide relief for needy brethren. Acts 11:27-30.
  - a. Ministering unto the necessities of the saints. Rom. 12:13;  
II Cor. 8:3-4; 9:1; Acts 4:34-35.
2. To provide for needy widows. Acts 6:1-6.
  - a. "... widows indeed". I Tim. 5:3.
  - b. "... the fatherless and widows in their affliction". Jas. 1:27.
3. For the furtherance of the gospel. Phil. 4:15-16; 1:5; I Cor. 9:14;  
II Cor. 11:9; Rom. 10:15.

III. Joys and blessings resulting from giving.

A. The enrichment of the giver.

1. That he "... may abound unto every good work". II Cor. 9:8.
2. And "... reap also bountifully". II Cor. 9:6.
3. That his every need might be supplied. Phil. 4:19.

B. To increase the fruits of the giver's righteousness. II Cor. 9:13.

1. To the filling up of the measure of the wants of the saints. II Cor. 9:12.
2. To the glory of God. II Cor. 9:13.



## THE CHRISTIAN'S HOPE

### I. Hope defined.

- A. Desire, with expectation of getting or attaining what is desired.
  - 1. Belief that what is desired will be obtained or attained.
- B. Trust in the promises of Jehovah God.
  - 1. Anticipating and expecting God's promised rewards. Jer. 17:7; I Pet. 1:3; II Pet. 1:4.

### II. Hope considered.

- A. Faith in the promises of God is the basis of the Christian's hope.
  - 1. "Now faith is assurance of things hoped for,..." Heb. 11:1.
  - 2. "... through comfort of the scriptures we might have hope". Rom. 15:4.
- B. God's "... precious and exceeding great promises;..." constitute the source of the Christian's hope. II Pet. 1:4.
  - 1. The promise of salvation from, or remission of, sins. Mark 16:16; Lk. 24:46-47; Acts 2:38-39.
  - 2. The promise of help in and deliverance from temptation. Heb. 2:18; I Cor. 10:13; II Pet. 2:9.
    - a. God will not suffer one to be tempted above that which one is able. I Cor. 10:13.
    - b. He will, furthermore, provide a means of escape. I Cor. 10:13.
    - c. And knows how to deliver the godly. II Pet. 2:9.
  - 3. The promise of God's providence and concern. Heb. 13:5-6; I Pet. 5:6-7; I Pet. 3:12.

4. The promise of a resurrection from the dead. I Cor. 15:20,22;  
I Thes. 4:14; John 5:28-29; 11:25.
  - a. Victory over death through Christ. I Cor. 15:54-57.
  - b. Immortality and incorruptibility. I Cor. 15:53.
5. The promise of a home for the soul, a place eternal, in the heavens.
  - a. A house of many mansions, prepared. John 14:1-3.
  - b. A building from God, eternal, in the heavens. II Cor. 5:1.
  - c. The city with the foundations. Heb. 11:9-10; 13:14.
  - d. A dwelling place of righteousness. II Pet. 3:13.
- D. God's promises are sure- He will keep them.
  1. He kept his promises made in times past unto the fathers. Josh. 23:14; II Kings 8:56.
  2. He will keep those promises given unto us. II Pet. 3:9; Heb. 10:23.

### III. Hope in God's scheme of redemption.

- A. It is a sure anchor for the soul, sure and fast. Heb. 6:19; Rom. 12:12; 15:4.
- B. Motivating self purification. I Jn. 3:3.
- C. Affording comfort and consolation. I Thes. 4:13-18; I Cor. 15:19-22.
- D. It is one of the three abiding principles of God. I Cor. 13:13.
- E. Without hope one is in a tragic condition.
  1. Mercy and opportunity, hence hope, were extended in and through the blood of Christ. Eph. 2:11-13.
  2. Those not in Christ have no hope. I Thes. 4:13; Acts 4:12.

## HEAVEN

- I. Heaven as an existing, eternal place.
  - A. It is the abode of God. Matt. 5:48;  
Matt. 6:9; 10:32-33; 23:9; John 17:1.
    - 1. It is the place of the throne of God. Matt. 5:34; Acts 7:49;  
Rev. 3:21; Cf. Isa. 66:1.
      - a. God's throne is eternal.  
Heb. 1:8.
  - B. Jesus Christ the Son came down from heaven. John 1:1-5, 14; 6:32-35, 38.
  - C. After his completed work Christ returned to heaven. Mark 16:19;  
Lk. 24:50-51; Acts 1:10-11.
    - 1. He is now in heaven, at the right hand of God. Mark 16:19; Eph. 6:9;  
I Pet. 3:22; Rev. 3:21.
  - D. When Jesus returns he will come down from heaven. Matt. 26:64; Acts 1:11.
    - 1. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven,.." I Thes. 4:16.
    - 2. ".. at the revelation of the Lord Jesus from heaven with the angels of his power..." II Thes. 1:7.
- II. Heaven as a prepared, eternal home.
  - A. The Father's house of many mansions.
    - 1. A place prepared. John 14:1-3.
    - 2. ".. a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal, in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1.
  - B. The city with the foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Heb. 11:10.
    - 1. Of immense dimensions.  
Rev. 21:16-17.
    - 2. Of priceless value. Rev. 21:18-21.
    - 3. Filled with immeasurable glory.  
Rev. 21:22-26; 22:1-5.

4. Provided and prepared for faithful pilgrim saints in Christ Jesus the Lord. Heb. 11:10,13-16.
- C. A place where treasures can safely be laid up. Matt. 6:19-21.
1. Purses that wax not old- treasures that fade not away. Lk. 12:33; Cf. Mark 10:21; Lk. 12:15-21; 16:19-26; I Tim. 6:9-10; 17-19.
  2. Incorruptible treasures.
    - a. Our hope. Heb. 6:19; Col. 1:5.
    - b. Our recorded names. Lk. 10:20; Rev. 20:11-15; 21:27.
    - c. Our reward and inheritance. Matt. 5:12; I Pet. 1:3-5.
  3. That which is committed unto God- unto Christ Jesus. II Tim. 1:12.
- D. A place of holiness, righteousness, and eternal bliss. II Pet. 3:13.
1. Its occupants being pure and holy as little children. Matt. 18:1-4; Matt. 19:14.
  2. Free from the blight of sorrow, pain, and death. Rev. 21:4.
  3. Filled with joy, singing, and supernal bliss. Rev. 14:2-3; 15:3-4; Rev. 21:1-5.
- E. A place of rest from labors- a home.
1. Rest from labors. Rev. 14:13.
  2. "... our habitation which is from heaven." II Cor. 5:1-2.
  3. "... the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:" "eternal life". Matt. 25:34,46.
- F. A place for such as have "fallen asleep in Jesus". I Thes. 4:14.
1. Victorious through the Lord Jesus Christ. I Cor. 15:55-57.



"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to his great mercy begat us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, unto an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who by the power of God are guarded through faith unto a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."

- - -

"Grace to you and peace be multiplied in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that his divine power hath granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that called us by his own glory and virtue; whereby he hath granted unto us his precious and exceeding great promises; that through these we may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust."

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"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not vain in the Lord."

- - -

"Wherefore, brethren, give the more diligence to make your calling and election sure:..."

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