

# **Back to Basics**

**2009 Northeast F.C. Camp**

# Why did Jesus have to die on the Cross?

(Reviewing the basics, lesson 1)

Intro. A. Why do Christians talk so much about the blood of Christ, His body, His death?  
Couldn't God have forgiven us without demanding all this blood and death?

B. We can understand the answer to this question if we understand three principles: (1) Sin, (2) Justice and (3) God's love.

*\* There are several different ideas surrounding the need for the death of Christ, but I think the following is the simplest and makes the most sense. We must also remember that there will always be aspects of Christ's great gift that we will struggle to understand.*

C. Read the following verses and answer the questions, talking about what they mean. Write in the answers to all the questions except thought questions. (Thought questions in *italics*.)

## I. Understanding sin

A. Read 1 John 3:4 and answer the questions...

1. What is sin? \_\_\_\_\_
2. *Thought question: How does the Bible concept of sin differ from that of many in the world?*

B. Read Romans 3:23 and answer the question

1. How many have sinned? \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* Of course, just as children aren't responsible before the civil law, they are also considered innocent in God's eyes.*

## II. Understanding justice

A. Violation of law has different punishment according to the seriousness of the law broken:

1. If someone violates a city law by letting the meter expire in the parking place, what is the usual punishment? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is it more serious to violate a State law than a city parking law? \_\_\_\_\_  
What about federal law? \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* Thought question – Why is violation of State or Federal law punished more strongly than violation of a city law (for example, a parking ticket)?*
3. Whose law are we violating when we sin? (city law? state law? federal law? or God's universal law?) \_\_\_\_\_ Brief thought question:  
*Why is this more serious than violating city, state or federal law?*



B. Read Romans 6:23

1. What are the wages (the consequences) of sin? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Read Genesis 2:17

1. What did God say would happen to Adam and Eve the day that they ate of the forbidden fruit?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Did their bodies die physically when they sinned? \_\_\_\_\_ How did they die? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is it reasonable to say that sin causes us to die spiritually, to be cut off from God? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Read Isaiah 59:1,2

1. What do our sins (iniquities) do to our relationship with God? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Why does our sin have to cut us off from God?

1. If God didn't demand punishment, he wouldn't respect His law!
  - a. An unlikely and horrible scenario - Barrabas McQuilkin became angry at an eight year old boy, pulled out a pistol and shot the little boy to death. He was arrested and brought before a judge, who noted that McQuilkin had no prior record, had been an upstanding citizen and was drunk when he shot the little boy. He asked McQuilkin if he would promise not to kill any more little boys and upon receiving an affirmative answer, ordered McQuilkin released.  
*\* If such a scenario occurred, would there be outrage about the injustice?*  
*\* Would the judge in such a case show that he respected the law?*  
*\* What would be some other tragic results that would come from such an injustice?*
  - b. If God didn't demand punishment for violation of His holy law, no one would respect it! He himself wouldn't respect it, an unthinkable concept!

2. God is too Holy to allow himself to associate with sin.
    - a. *Think of a holy and righteous Christian. Give names if you want., Can you imagine that person singing with a group of drunkards in a nightclub?*
    - b. How much less thinkable is it that God could associate with those contaminated by sin!
- G. IF THE CLASS ENDED HERE, ALL RESPONSIBLE ADULTS WOULD BE IN TROUBLE!

### III. Thinking of God's love

- A. Read 2 Peter 3:9 Does God want us to perish? \_\_\_\_
- B. But here God has a dilemma (He must deal with two apparently contradicting factors)
  1. His justice and holiness demands punishment and separation from us.
  2. But, He loves us and wants to be with us now and through all eternity.
- C. The solution to the dilemma: That someone else satisfy the demands of justice.
  1. John 3:16 Who did God send to earth to pay the penalty for our sins? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Robert Milligan wrote of an ancient king named Zaleucus who reigned in Locrida, a part of ancient Greece about 500 years before Christ. He made a law that it was illegal for anyone to be unfaithful to his wife and that those who were guilty of violating the law would have two eyes thrust out.
  1. However, his son was found guilty of being unfaithful to his wife. Thus, Zaleucus had a dilemma. (1) Not demand punishment and have his subjects therefore lose respect for his laws, or (2) have his son blinded.
  2. The king thrust out one of his own eyes, and then one of his son's eyes.
    - a. Therefore, the penalty was paid, and his subjects would have greatly respected his law. (After all, the king gave up his own eye, to back up the justice demanded by the law.)
    - b. But his son didn't have to be blind
  3. *Thought: Do you think this illustrates in a limited way, God's dilemma?*
    - a. God's laws are perfect and must be respected. A severe penalty, spiritual death is demanded.
    - b. But we, his children, have violated God's law and deserve spiritual death.
    - c. But God has given not his eye, but his Son, to suffer spiritual death in our place.
    - d. Seeing what God has paid to uphold the justice demanded by His law should make us respect His laws even more!
- E. Read 1 Peter 2:24,25 What did Christ do with our sins when He died on the cross?
 

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  1. Now you see why it is important to think of Christ's blood and His death? Through His death and the shedding of blood, we see what our sins have cost and what it took to satisfy the demands of justice for them.
- F. Read Romans 5:6-11
  1. According to verses 6 and 8, How were we when Christ died for us?
  2. How are we justified according to verse 9?
  3. How were we reconciled to God according to verse 10?

\* *Thought questions – What does this love that God has shown towards you mean in your life? How much have you allowed it to change your life and in what ways? How can you do a better job of appreciating His love on a personal level?*

### Conclusion:

- A. No other system of religion: Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism even tries to deal with the problem of sin and evil. God's true religion does.
- B. Review: three reasons why Christ had to die on the cross:
  1. Sin - What is it and how many are guilty of it? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Justice - What is the penalty for sin? \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Love

# How does God talk with us today?

(Reviewing the basics: Lesson 2)

Intro. If God loves us, He wants to communicate with us. But how?? There are a lot of weird ideas out there, but the truth is quite simple.

## I. He revealed the truth to the apostles

A. Read John 16:12-14

1. According to verse 12, Jesus gave all the truth to the apostles **while he was in the world?**  
Yes or no? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Who was going to reveal all the truth to the apostles? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How was the Spirit **not** going to speak? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was He going to speak? \_\_\_\_\_

## II. First Century Christians accepted the words of the apostles as the words of Christ.

A. Read Acts 2:42

1. In whose doctrine (teaching) did the first century Christians continue? *the \_\_\_\_\_ doctrine*

B. Read 1 Corinthians 14:37

1. According to Paul, his teachings were the commandments of the \_\_\_\_\_

## III. The apostles and prophets wrote down the words of Christ that the Holy Spirit revealed to them.

A. Read Ephesians 3:3,4

1. What was made known to Paul by revelation? \_\_\_\_\_  
*"the mystery" refers to God's plan of salvation and how all people, not only Jews would be saved.*
2. How had Paul communicated to them about the mystery before in brief? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How could they understand Paul's insight into the mystery of Christ?  
*by \_\_\_\_\_ it.*



B. These written words of the apostles were collected by early churches and Christians and formed our New Testament which we have today. (A study of the collection of the canon [list of inspired books] is fascinating. Teachers of older students can talk about it briefly if they like.)

C. Summary:

1. Who did Jesus promise would receive all the truth? *the \_\_\_\_\_*
2. Besides speaking, how did the apostles give out the teaching of Christ that the Holy Spirit gave them? *they \_\_\_\_\_ it down.*
3. Can we say that Jesus talks to us through the words that the Holy Spirit gave to first century apostles and prophets which they wrote down? *yes or no \_\_\_\_\_*

## IV. Christ speaks to us today only through the words of the apostles and prophets in the New Testament.

A. What are some ways that many people think that God talks to them besides through the New Testament? What are some spiritual authorities that some think we should follow besides the New Testament?

\_\_\_\_\_

B. Read John 16:13

1. To how much of the truth did Jesus say the apostles would be guided by the Holy Spirit. (50%?, 75%?, 100%?) \_\_\_\_\_%
2. If the apostles and prophets of the first century were guided to all the truth, how much truth was left to be revealed to church leaders and those claiming to be inspired after their death?(0%, 25%, 50% 100%) \_\_\_\_\_%
3. If someone today says that they have been revealed new truths from God that the apostles never received, are they telling the truth? (yes or no?) \_\_\_\_\_

C. Jude 3

\* Note, when Jude talks about "the faith" he is talking about the system of faith given by Christ.

1. Was "the faith" (system of Christianity) something that was revealed piece by piece over a period of hundreds and thousands of years, or something that was to be revealed once (in one period of time) for all? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Galatians 1:6-9 (the word "anathema" means, "cursed, or condemned")

1. What about an angel or anyone else who preaches something to us different from what the apostles preached? \_\_\_\_\_

E. 2 Timothy 3:16,17

\* Note: Paul here may have specific reference to the Old Testament, but he includes all scripture inspired ("God breathed," or God revealed) of God. Writings of inspired apostles were considered scripture too (2 Peter 3:16)

1. For what is inspired scripture useful? \_\_\_\_\_
2. According to verse 17, how is the man (and woman) of God with inspired scripture? \_\_\_\_\_

\* The word perfect means, "complete."

3. If someone says they need God to talk to them in another way besides through the scriptures (which we now have completely), do they really have faith in this text? Why or why not \_\_\_\_\_

F. Thought: How do these scriptures apply to those who claim the following?

1. "God talked to me through a dream"?  
\* Does God promise to talk to us through dreams today?
2. "An angel told me to do this..."
3. "God put it on my heart to come here."  
\* Sometimes I think people think that when they have a feeling or impulse to do something, it is God telling them to do it. Why is this dangerous?

\* Thought question – Does God "talk" to us through occurrences in our lives?



IV. What about the Old Testament?

A. The Old Testament was written to prepare a people, the Jews, for the coming of Christ and to teach all men in all times about the nature of God and His working among His people.

B. Read Galatians 3:23-25

1. According to verse 25, What was the law (the Old Testament) to be for us? \_\_\_\_\_

\* This probably refers to educated slaves who were to give special training and instruction to children.

2. Now that we are under faith (the system of Christ) what are we no longer under? \_\_\_\_\_

C. Read Hebrews 8:13 (Older students can study the whole section, Heb. 8:6-13 if they have time.)

1. What does the Old Testament become as far as being law is concerned, now that we have the new covenant in Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

D. Read Romans 15:4

1. Though not our law, can we learn great principles from the Old Testament?  
yes or no? \_\_\_\_\_

\* Thought question - Can we really know God well without studying the Old Testament?

**Conclusion:** In few words, how does Jesus Christ speak to us today? \_\_\_\_\_

Does He speak to us any other way??? (yes or no?) \_\_\_\_\_

# How do we know from the Bible what God wants us to do?

## Reviewing the basics lesson 3

**Intro.** We saw in the last lesson that God talks to us through the Bible. But how can we analyze the Bible and know from it what God wants?

**A. It's very important** to know that God wants us to do something before we do it!

1. What does 2 John 9 say about the person who determines to go beyond what is found in the doctrine (the teaching) of Christ? *He doesn't have \_\_\_\_\_.*
2. According to Colossians 3:17 we should do all in the name of whom?  
*\_\_\_\_\_ (That means we will have His approval before doing it.)*

**B. Bible examples of those who acted presumptuously**

1. Read Leviticus 10:1-3 Nadab and Abihu
    - a. What did God not do regarding the fire that they offered? \_\_\_\_\_
    - b. How were they punished? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. According to God, How must we regard Him in our worship? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. The ark of the covenant was sacred to the children of Israel and it should always have been treated with respect. Only the Kohathite Levites were given the responsibility of transporting the ark on their shoulders. Read 2 Samuel 6:3;6,7
    - a. How was the ark transported according to verse 3?  
\_\_\_\_\_
    - b. Who reached out and touched the ark? (vs. 6) \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. What happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. The word "**presumptuous**" is a big word, but good to know. It refers to those who "presume" to know without checking for approval.
  1. Know what this word means. Let's avoid being presumptuous!  
Let's have some indication from God that he wants us to do what we do!



**HOW CAN WE GET AUTHORITY FROM THE SCRIPTURES?** Common sense! Some have referred to the following thoughts as a "hermeneutical system." (\*The word "hermeneutics" refers to a system of Bible interpretation.) However, it's just common sense! This is the way we determine what any authority wants: parents, teachers, bosses, government, etc.

**I. A direct command** (This is the easiest to understand.)

- A. Read 1 Corinthians 16:2
  1. What does God command Christians to do every first day of the week? \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Read 1 John 4:7
  1. What attitude does God command us to have towards brethren? \_\_\_\_\_

**II. Imitation of others who are accepted by God**

- A. Illustration: If you see that your parents like for your brother or sister to clean up their room, can you know that they would be happy for you to clean up your room as well?
- B. Bible examples:
  1. Who were the Corinthians supposed to imitate? (1 Cor. 11:1) \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Who did the Thessalonian Christians imitate? (1 Thessalonians 2:14)  
*"the \_\_\_\_\_ of God which are in \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ Jesus."*
  3. Should we imitate good people and good churches in the Bible who were approved by God? \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Example: Something we can be confident that God wants because of an approved example
  1. Read Acts 20:7
    - a. What day did the Christians meet to break bread (take the Lord's supper)? \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week.
    - b. Can we know that God will be happy if we partake of it that day? \_\_\_\_\_
    - c. Can we know He will be happy if we partake on Tuesdays? \_\_\_\_\_
    - d. Is there authority to take the Lord's supper the first day of the week? \_\_\_\_\_
    - e. Is there clear authority to take the Lord's supper on Tuesday? \_\_\_\_\_

**III. Logical conclusion**

- A. Illustration: If a son buys some nice coffee cups for his mother and the mother is very happy. Can his brother and sister conclude (infer) that the mother would also be happy be with matching saucers that go with the cups?
- B. Read 1 Corinthians 10:15,16
  1. What does Paul ask them to do for themselves in verse 15? \_\_\_\_\_ for yourselves. \* He pointed out that eating the Lord's supper meant communion with the body and blood of Christ and wanted them to "infer," that is "conclude" that eating in a feast to idols was having communion with them!

- C. An example: How do we know God wants us to eat the Lord's supper each Sunday?
1. According to 1 Corinthians 16:1,2, what day of the week would Christians be together to make an offering for the poor saints in Judea? \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week.
  2. According to Acts 20:7, why did they meet on the first day of the week? to \_\_\_\_\_ bread.  
(take the Lord's supper)

\* **Logical conclusion:** *They met every first day of the week (1 Corinthians 16:1,2) and it was "to break bread" (Acts 20:7) We know that we are pleasing to God when we meet every first day of the week to break bread. We have authority for that!*

**Thought question:** *Would we have authority to meet every first day of the year to break bread? Every three months? When dealing with God's will, why be presumptuous and do things any other way that what we know is right?*

**SUMMARY:** We need to have God's approval by (1) Command (2) Imitation of those accepted by God or (3) Logical conclusion in everything we do for God. To act without such authority is to be presumptuous.

\* But remember God's grace and mercy when thinking of others who may not immediately come to our conclusions when analyzing such things.

### "GENERIC AUTHORITY" (for older students)

**A. Question:** What about song books, blackboards, Powerpoint, P.A. systems, etc. Are they authorized? They're not specifically mentioned in the Bible!

**B. Answer:** They are approved as tools if they are necessary or useful to carry out God's will, when he hasn't specified something else.

**C. Illustration:** Noah and the ark Read Genesis 6:14-16

1. What did God command Noah to make?
2. What are some things he specified about the ark? How long? \_\_\_\_\_ cubits, How wide? \_\_\_\_\_ cubits How tall? \_\_\_\_\_ How many windows? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did God specify tools like hammers, saws, etc.? Since God didn't specify these tools, and they were necessary, was it acceptable for Noah to use them?  
\* *Such tools would have been authorized by generic authority!*
4. But **careful:** If God specifies how to carry out a command, or who should do it, , we have no right to go beyond what he has specified.  
a. *If Noah's wife had decided that it would have helped to have had 3 windows, would Noah have been right to have had 3 windows? why?*

**D. Applying the principle to going to preach**

1. Mark 16:15 What did God tell the apostles (and us) to do?
2. What was the only thing they were to go preach? the \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did he specify how to go? (walk, camel, boat, etc.?)
4. Did they therefore have generic authority to go any way they felt best?
5. Do we have authority to go and preach in cars? planes? boats? however we see fit to go?
6. Do we have authority to use God's money to go and preach politics?

**E. Applying the principle to the Lord's supper: Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

1. What are some things specified? What was eaten? \_\_\_\_\_ What was it to represent? \_\_\_\_\_ What was drunk? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ What was it to represent? \_\_\_\_\_  
On what day was the Lord's Supper observed? (Acts 20:7) \_\_\_\_\_ day of week.
2. Did Jesus specify anything about a plate that could be used? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he specify anything about the types of utensils that should be used to distribute the bread and fruit of the vine? \_\_\_\_\_ Did he specify how it should be distributed? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do we have liberty to use the plates and utensils that we feel are best in the Lord's supper?

**G. Many other practices can be analyzed in this way: Music, teaching, etc.**

**The following questions need to be asked about any practice**

1. What is scriptural principals deal with the practice?
2. What is specified?
3. What tools or aids aren't specified but are needed to carry out what God wants?
4. How can we avoid going beyond what is specified?

**Conclusion:** Review! Let's not be presumptuous! But, let's also be patient with each other as we analyze how to apply the scriptures.



# The grace of God and our response

Reviewing the basics: Lesson 4

## I. God's Grace

A. Definition of grace: **undeserved favor** - We can't earn God's favor!

B. Read Ephesians 2:8,9

1. By what have we been saved through faith? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Is this salvation on the basis of our works? our deserving it? *yes or no?* \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* Remember, that when we talk of salvation, or being saved, we're talking about salvation from the consequences of our sin. Remember lesson 1.*

C. Often God's grace is conditional. He gives us blessings, but asks us to do something to accept them (not earn them!).

1. Read 2 Kings 5:10-14 to see what God told Naaman to do to be healed.
  - a. What did God's prophet Elisha tell Naaman to do to be healed?  
*wash \_\_\_\_\_ times in the \_\_\_\_\_ river.*
  - b. At first did he do it? \_\_\_\_ What was the condition of his leprosy as long as he refused to accept the conditions and obey?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What happened to Naaman when he washed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Without God's grace would Naaman's washing have healed him? \_\_\_\_
  - e. Did Naaman "earn" his healing by washing or did he simply accept it by washing? \_\_\_\_
  - f. If Naaman hadn't washed, would he have been healed? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Another similar example is the blind man who was healed in John 9. He was healed by God's grace, but still had to comply with the conditions Jesus gave him of going and washing in the pool of Siloam.



## II. How do we accept God's grace?

A. By seeking Him! Who does God reward? (Heb. 11:6) *those who diligently \_\_\_\_\_ Him.*

B. By hearing the word

1. Read Romans 10:17 How does faith come? \_\_\_\_\_ *the word of God.*
2. Read 2 Thessalonians 2:14 How does God call us? *by the \_\_\_\_\_*

C. By believing in Christ as the son of God.

1. Mark 16:16 What is it necessary to do before being baptized \_\_\_\_\_  
*\* Thought question: If someone wants to believe, but has a hard time, what should they do according to Romans 10:17? \_\_\_\_\_*
2. True faith implies obedience. According to James 2:17, 26 what is faith like without works (obedience)? *faith without works is \_\_\_\_\_.*  
*\* If you believe in your doctor and he tells you to take antibiotic pills to get rid of Lyme's disease, (hope you don't get it!) what would you do? Would it make any sense to say that you believe in your doctor **if you refuse to take the pills?** When would your faith in the doctor help you, before or after taking the pills? Would you really believe if you didn't obey him and take the pills?*

D. By repenting

1. Acts 2:38 What were the people on the day of Pentecost told to do before being baptized?  
*\_\_\_\_\_ and be baptized.*
2. What does the word repentance mean? \_\_\_\_\_
3. *Thought question: Why is repentance so hard for some people?*

E. Confessing (Read Romans 10:10)

1. To confess is to declare or state something
2. According to Romans 10, what do we confess with? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Baptism for the remission of sins:

1. What two things did Jesus say must be done to be saved? (Mark 16:16)  
*he who \_\_\_\_\_ and is \_\_\_\_\_ shall be saved.*



2. What two things did Peter tell the people on the day of Pentecost to accept the remission (forgiveness) of sins? (Acts 2:38) \_\_\_\_\_ and be \_\_\_\_\_ in the name of Jesus Christ.
3. What did Ananias tell Saul of Tarsus to do in Acts 22:16? *arise and be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ away your \_\_\_\_\_.*
4. What does baptism do for us according to 1 Peter 3:21? *It \_\_\_\_\_ us.*
5. According to Galatians 3:26,27, when do we become children of God by faith in Christ and when do we put on Christ? *when we are \_\_\_\_\_*  
*\* Baptism is like an adoption ceremony by which we become children of God.*

G. But careful.... the baptism which gives us God's blessings is Christ's baptism and not man's baptism. Notice some of the following characteristics of Christ's baptism that differ from baptisms that come from men:

1. What is the word given in Romans 6:4 and Colossians 2:12 to describe what happens to us when we are baptized? *we are \_\_\_\_\_ with Christ in baptism.*  
*\* the word baptism literally means: to be dipped or submerged, esp. in water.*
2. What must we do before we are baptized according to Acts 2:38? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Is a newborn baby capable of complying with this condition? (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_
4. In view of the above passages, is the baptism of little babies who can't repent or who haven't sinned from God or from man? *from \_\_\_\_\_*
5. According to Acts 2:38, we should repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for what? \_\_\_\_\_ of sins.
6. Think: If someone thinks they already have forgiveness of sins and are baptized for some other reason (for example, to show that they already were saved, or had forgiveness), is such a baptism that is not for forgiveness of sins, from God or man? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What did the men in Acts 19:1-5 do when they realized that they hadn't been baptized in Christ's baptism? they were \_\_\_\_\_ again.

H. Though it is very important to be baptized, **it is important that young people (especially those who are younger) not rush into it!**

1. Read Luke 14:28. What did Jesus say must be done before building a tower?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ *What do you think he meant?*  
*\* Thought question – can a child really “count the costs” of becoming a Christian?*
2. *Thought question: What good does it do someone to be baptized if they don't decide to repent, completely, that is, determine to change their lives, beforehand?*
3. The Bible doesn't say how old someone has to be before baptism, but I think it's best not to rush things. It does say that men and women were baptized, not children (Acts 8:12)
  - a. I believe that God is patient with young people who are making the transformation between childhood and adulthood.
  - b. I believe that those in that transformation period should trust God, and not rush things. They should be baptized only when feeling a strong need for forgiveness as responsible adults.

I. Baptism is only the beginning!

1. What were some things that early Christians continued in after baptism? (Acts 2:42) \_\_\_\_\_
2. What did Peter tell Christians to do (2 Peter 3:18) \_\_\_\_\_ in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. How long must we be faithful to be saved? (Rev. 2:10) until \_\_\_\_\_.

**Review:**

- A. What does the word grace mean?
- B. What are some things we must do to accept God's grace?

# What about the "Church"?

## Lesson 5

### I. Definitions

A. The word church (*Ekklesia*) simply means "assembly, congregation, group of people."

B. Fact illustrated: Read Acts 19:39,41

1. Where did the town clerk suggest the problem be resolved? \_\_\_\_\_

\* The word is "*Ekklesia*" or "church."

2. What was dismissed in verse 41? the \_\_\_\_\_ (again - *ekklesia*)

C. False concepts about what the word church means. Write some down

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D. Thought questions: Because of these false concepts, some almost prefer to say "congregation" or "assembly" instead of using the word "church." Can you understand why they feel that way?

### II. The word "church" used in describing all the saved in the world (the church in the "universal sense.")

A. Read Acts 2:47

1. Who did the Lord add to the church (some versions say "their number") \_\_\_\_\_

B. Read Acts 20:28

1. What has God purchased? the \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

2. Can you say that God's church (assembly) is composed of all those saved people who have been bought by His blood? (yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

C. False concepts regarding God's universal church, His body of saved people.

(Probably best only for older students to analyze this section.)

1. It's an organization, alliance or network of local churches

a. Some say, God's universal church is made up of all local churches that follow him.

b. Why is this concept wrong?

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\* Note for older students: This is the erroneous concept behind what some call "institutionalism." Some think this alliance of churches should pool their funds to support "Church of Christ" universities, orphan's homes, publishing houses, etc. But God's church is not a network of local churches, but simply all the saved individuals in the world. To see God's church as some kind of alliance of local churches is to see it as a denomination. (Talk about this if you want.)

2. Some say, "You need to join 'the church of Christ'"

Why is this wrong? (Hint: Acts 2:47)

3. God's church has an official name, "the Church of Christ."

Why is this wrong? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Thought question: Why is the following quote wrong: "The Church of Christ has over 3,000,000 members in over 120 countries."

### III. Local congregations of God's people (the church in the "local" sense.)

A. The Bible also talks about churches (congregations) in a local sense.

1. Who was the book of 1 Corinthians written to? (1 Cor. 1:2) \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ which is at \_\_\_\_\_

2. Who was 1 Thessalonians written to? (1 Thess. 1:1) the church of the \_\_\_\_\_.

3. The above verses and more aren't talking about all the saved in the world (the church in the universal senses) but rather local congregations where Christians met to praise God and work together.

B. Though one doesn't join God's universal church (he's added to it), he is expected to "join" a local congregation to work and praise God with other Christians.

1. What did early Christians continue in according to Acts 2:42? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What are some other things they did according to Acts 2:46,47?

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#### IV. The organization of local congregations

Though no men are involved in the organization of God's universal church, He has shown how he wants local congregations to be organized.

##### A. Elders

1. Read Acts 20:17,28 - What are some other designations used to refer to elders? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Paul and Barnabas ordain in every church? (Acts 14:23) \_\_\_\_\_

\* There are high standards for elders. Though we don't have time to read them in this class, they are found in 1 Timothy chapter 3 and Titus 1.

\* Also, it is important to notice that you never read in the Bible of "the elder" or "the bishop" of a congregation. There was always a plurality of elders, i.e. "the elders."

3. Who were elders authorized to shepherd? (1 Peter 5:2) the \_\_\_\_\_ of God which is \_\_\_\_\_ you.

\* Notice that elders were authorized only to shepherd the local congregation of which they were members ("the flock of God among you") not other congregations (other flocks). This principle is violated in some churches today as elders of a large congregation try to take on responsibilities that belong to other congregations.

4. (Read 1 Peter 5:3) How should elders not shepherd? \_\_\_\_\_  
How should they shepherd? \_\_\_\_\_



B. Deacons: The word "deacon" means "servant." They were special servants who served the congregation in open, public ways.

C. Notice: The churches in Southern Galatia existed several years before elders were appointed (Acts 14:23). It is also necessary sometimes for churches to exist without elders until men become qualified.

D. Violations of these principles: Older students can discuss some:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### IV. Worship in local congregations (no time for detailed study, but a quick review will be in order if time permits.)

##### A. The assembly

1. (1 Corinthians 14:23) Where did the church come together? in \_\_\_\_\_ place.

2. (Acts 20:7) On what day did they meet to break bread? \_\_\_\_\_ day of the week.

##### B. Some things they did

###### 1. The Lord's supper

a. On what day did they meet to partake of it? (Acts 20:7) \_\_\_\_\_

**Read 1 Corinthians 11:23-26**

b. What did the bread represent? \_\_\_\_\_

c. The fruit of the vine? \_\_\_\_\_

d. What do we remember as we partake? \_\_\_\_\_

###### 2. Collection (Read 1 Corinthians 16:1,2)

a. On what day did they take up the collection \_\_\_\_\_

b. Who did they give for? \_\_\_\_\_

###### 3. How are we to speak to one another? (Ephesians 5:19) \_\_\_\_\_

4. (Acts 4:31) What did the Christians do before the place was shaken? \_\_\_\_\_

\* When reading Acts, it is amazing how much importance was given to prayer. How can we give more importance to it today?

5. (Acts 20:7) What did Paul do for the Christians in Troas after they had the Lord's supper?  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Conclusion:** Review, Final Test – Thanks for your interest!

