



CHURCH-BASED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

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Prepared by
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The Most Embarrassing Verse In the Bible
The Most Embarrassing Book in the Bible
Why Christians Should Get Involved
Christianised Witchcraft
Commentary on Ephesians

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CHURCH-BASED LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL

This course is designed to help Pastors to equip their leaders with some of the knowledge, wisdom, character, and skills needed to serve within a local church. It explores attitudes, thinking, and ministry application. It is grounded in Scripture and experience - in that order. It is hoped that this will enable small group leaders to better manage their meetings and those involved. It is also hoped that it will help pastors to train up church planters and launch-teams to support church-planters. In addition to these aims, it is finally hoped that it will assist in the development of 'lay' leaders to assist the pastor in shepherding through preaching, visitation and showing care.

A.C.

*“and what you have heard from me through many witnesses,
entrust to faithful people who will be able to teach others as well.”*

Second Timothy 2:2 (NRSV)

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TERM 1

YOUR HEART

Session 1

THE NEED

*“There go the people. I must follow them
because I am their leader.”*

*Prof. Gordon Fee (in reference to the quality of the
U.S Presidential Candidates)*

*“The LORD said to me, “Go and lead the people so that they will go in and take
the land I promised their ancestors.”*

Deuteronomy 10:11 (NCV)

*“Now give me wisdom and knowledge so I can lead these people in the right
way, because no one can rule them without your help”*

Second Chronicles 1:10 (NCV)

Leaders are mature Christians. Mature Christians are always going to lead in some capacity. In this sense, leadership is not just about a ministry with followers, but about establishing an _____ to be followed.

A mature Christian is someone who _____ others into _____. This can be _____, or it can be _____ depending on who the leader is following and being shaped by, and their attitude or motive in doing so. This is borne out in the following Scriptures -

*“I am wisdom, and I am smart. I also have knowledge and good sense...Princes
use me to lead, and so do all important people who judge fairly.”*

Proverbs 8:12,16

“Cruel people trick their neighbours and lead them to do wrong.”

Proverbs 16:29 (NCV)

*“My people have been like lost sheep. Their leaders have led them in the wrong
way and made them wander around in the mountains and hills. They forgot
where their resting place was.”*

Jeremiah 50:6 (NCV)

LEADERSHIP IS AT LEAST INFLUENCE

We are _____ to be influenced and we continue to be influenced all our lives. In fact we _____ influencing. Ultimately our greatest influencing should come from _____.

“Lead me in the path of your commands, because that makes me happy. Make me want to keep your rules instead of wishing for riches.”

Psalms 119:35-36 (NCV)

“But when the Spirit of truth comes, he will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words, but he will speak only what is to come.”

John 16:13 (NCV)

Because people are created to be influenced, God has ordained _____ leadership (Romans 12:8; Ephesians 4:11).

Mature Christians are not just an influence in the _____, they are also an influence in the _____ - _____ as well.

“The leaders of the nations meet with the people of the God of Abraham, because the leaders of the earth belong to God. He is supreme.”

Psalms 47:9 (NCV)

THE LACK OF LEADERS

Estimates vary on how many Christians are actually involved in active ministry in most churches. Some estimate that only 10% of any congregation are involved in a ministry within their church.

Service or “_____” is an unavoidable step in the path of Christian maturity. Yet too few believers plunge themselves into a committed ministry. God is looking for people with the maturity to influence others toward godly maturity.

In the Old Testament-

“The leaders who are to guard the people are blind; they don’t know what they are doing. All of them are like quiet dogs that don’t know how to bark. They lie down and dream and love to sleep. They are like hungry dogs that are never satisfied. They are like shepherds who don’t know what they are doing. They all have gone their own way; all they want to do is satisfy themselves.”

Isaiah 56:10-11 (NCV)

The typical pattern of leadership in the old Testament was where the leader became _____. Eventually the leadership of Israel became so bad that God _____ them from their land.

In the New Testament-

“When he saw the crowds, he felt sorry for them because they were hurting and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus said to his followers, “there are many people to harvest but only a few workers to help harvest them.”

Matthew 9:36-37 NCV)

Christ lamented the _____ of godly leadership.

Paul warned against _____ leadership.-

“Be careful for yourselves and for all the people the Holy Spirit has given to you to care for. You must be like shepherds to the church of God. Which He brought with the death of His own son. I know that after I leave, some people will come like wild wolves and try to destroy the flock.”

Acts 20

WHY NO LEADERS?

Even in industry today, there are many managers but very few _____.

The greater the _____ the higher the leader must rise.

Similarly, the bigger a _____ wants to grow, the bigger its leaders have to be.

Very few people know how to be a *high flier* and yet still keep both feet on the ground. This requires _____.

The greatest enemy of leadership is _____. (Proverbs 16:18)

Therefore the greatest battle to becoming a strong leader is from within a person's own _____.

Why do you think many Christians don't rise up into service within the local church?

Because people need the example of mature Christians and God has said He has placed them within His Church, we must assume that there are people within each local church with the _____, to some degree, of leadership upon them.

It is the responsibility of each local church pastor to encourage people to strive to reach their _____.

THE BIBLICAL PATTERN

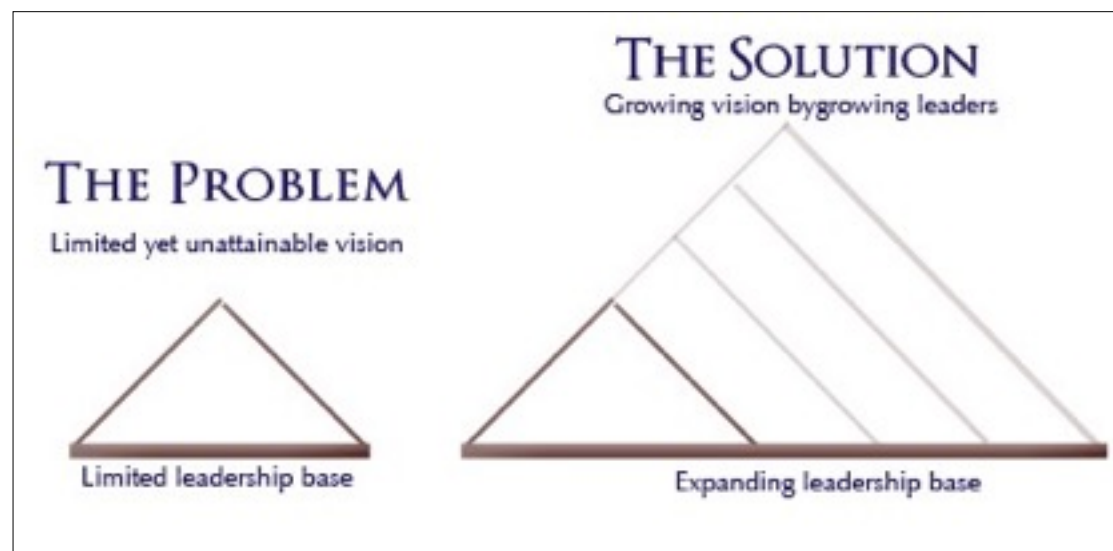
The Biblical means of producing maturity within a church is for people to come under _____ authority.

One man can not do everything. God expects His people to all rise up to a greater level of service (Exodus 18:13-38; Numbers 11:10-15).

The two most basic types of structure within a church are -

1. Leadership with a first among equals
2. Co-equality - everyone equal

The principle of a delegated team leadership structure is seen in the Old & New Testaments - Exodus 18:19; Deuteronomy 1:9-18; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Psalms 133; Amos 3:3; Proverbs 22:14 Matthew 11:29-30; Acts 6:1-3; Acts 13:1-3; Ephesians 4:11.



THE REQUIREMENTS

Those whom God calls He also equips.

Anon

The recently made, very popular expression, *God isn't interested in your ability, just your availability*, is not true. He's interested in both. In fact, good theology tells us that it is God who *gives* us all the abilities that we do have. We must accept that God equips His leaders for His service. No corporation in the world would rationally employ someone to be an executive in their company unless he had the skills to do the job. Similarly, no one is fairly promoted in an organisation unless they have earned their promotion by doing what they currently do very well and showing that they have what it takes to do a task with greater responsibility.

As we have seen, there is a constant need for proficient leaders and mature believers within the Body of Christ. These people are required by Christ to have a shepherd's heart (John 10:21:16-18; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Peter 5:2). Not everyone has the *ability* to shepherd people. The Scriptures have stringent requirements for those who feel they *are* eligible. We will examine the Biblical standards which serve as requirements for those aspiring to leadership.

What requirements for leadership as an elder are stated in First Timothy 3:2-7?

What requirements are made for deacons in First Timothy 3:8-13?

How does this differ from the requirements of an elder?

We can not separate maturity from service. There are three aspects to entering into the kind of maturity that God has for us. We might sum these up by noting what God expects of mature Christians

A Right Heart

To become mature in the way the Bible paints it, believers must undergo heart surgery. Right _____ are paramount to developing maturity.

Called

The mature believer _____ themselves to the area of service to which they are called. This area of service may be not be glamorous, but the believer's maturity causes them to serve faithfully in it because they know it is important to the Lord.

Submitted

The mature believer has learned to trust like a child in those that the Lord has placed over them. Submission is necessary if the believer wishes to enjoy the authority of the Lord in their life.

PREPARATION

A lot of Christians never appreciate how God prepares them for the future. A lot of the testing and trials that we endure are allowed by God to prepare us for what the future holds. In this light, God operates in our lives on three levels -

1. The Heart

- God has dealt with on-going _ _ _
- Attitudes have been sanctified (Philippians 2:5)
- Relationship issues have been resolved (Matthew 5:23-24)
- We are open enough to God to accept His correction (Hebrews 12:1-4)
- We are open to experience God (Acts 1:8)

2. The Mind

- The modern leader will be an avid _ _ _ _ _ (Deuteronomy 17:19; Nehemiah 8:8; 1 Timothy 4:13)

“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

Second Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

This may include the Scriptures, books, magazines and news articles.

- The modern leader will have acquired some grasp of Bible / Theology / Ministry / General Knowledge
- The modern leader will know how to _ _ _ _ _ answers, rather than know all the answers.

3. Experience

- God will use secular work experience. Has it been fruitful?
- Business ventures will add to God’s preparation of the leader
- Sporting endeavours also develop character
- Travel experiences
- Social experiences that reveal an ability to mix with people

FAITHFULNESS

Note what God says of Moses in Numbers 12:7

God foretells of the Messiah in First Samuel 2:35. How is He described?

- Jesus is _ _ _ _ _ for faithful leaders (Matt. 24:44-45; 25:21; Luke 16:11-12)
- The early church _ _ _ _ _ faithfulness (1 Corinthians 4:2; 2 Timothy 2:2)
- Faithfulness precedes Christian ministry, rather than _ _ _ _ _ it (1 Tim 1:12)
- Faithfulness is being diligent to the task that the Lord has given

YOUR MINISTRY

Christ keeps no servants to be idle: they have received their all from him, and have nothing they can call their own but sin. Our receiving from Christ is in order to our working for him. The manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

Matthew Henry, 18th Century Presbyterian minister

‘If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.’

First Peter 4:11 (NIV)

We have seen how the Lord _____ His leaders for service. This involves experiences in business, sport, travel, tragedies, socialising and education. With all this preparation nearly every mature Christian will at some stage wonder *what is my ministry?* This may be because they are not good at one thing in particular, thus, although not necessarily it could mean that they are good at *several* things. They may even enjoy doing several things. Their leadership may have asked them to do a particular type of ministry that they hadn’t considered. And all this leads them to questions *what is my ministry?* They may listen to a passionate evangelist and be convinced that evangelism is their ministry, until they hear a passionate teacher and then be convinced that teaching is their ministry. Often a study of Biblical leaders doesn’t help us because their calls were so sovereignly clear. We will examine what the Bible has to say about the various ministries within the church and how to develop these particular types of ministries.

THE ROLE OF MINISTRY WITHIN THE CHURCH

“Christ gave those gifts (ministries) to prepare God’s holy people for the work of serving, to make the body of Christ stronger.”

Ephesians 4:12 (NCV)

SPECIALISED MINISTRIES

Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers (Ephesians 4:11)

1. Given to prepare/equip/train the rest of the _ _ _ _ into their respective ministries.
2. Given to strengthen the local / broader _ _ _ _ _ .



These ministries are not purely academic. They are _ _ _ _ _ who can *train*. They speak not just out of knowledge but also out of experience.

This, of necessity, demands time for these ministries to _ _ _ _ _ . When the Bible uses the word “elder”, it means _ _ _ _ _ .

HOW TO IDENTIFY YOUR MINISTRY

Discuss the value of the following.

1. An inner sense (intuition) ~
2. A critical ability ~
3. A natural tendency ~
4. A prophetic confirmation ~
5. A desire ~

Your ministry will more commonly, and perhaps more readily, be recognised by those in _ _ _ _ _ As you place yourself into pastoral care you will be shepherded into fulfilment.

DEVELOPING YOUR MINISTRY

After identifying your ministry, you are responsible to _ _ _ _ _ it. Jesus illustrated this by the parables of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). Paul told Timothy to stir up the gift within him and to develop his ministry so that his progress might be evident to all.

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.”

First Timothy 4:14-15 (NKJV)

1. Be teachable ~
2. Be submissive to authority ~
3. Be pro-active ~
4. Be focussed ~
5. Be pro-active ~
6. Be resilient ~
7. Be patient ~

UNDERSTANDING YOUR PURPOSE

While God may gift and call people with a similar gift or call, He will give His servants a clear purpose. God’s leaders need to be purposeful. Arriving at God’s purpose takes us through three phases of ministry - *Hidden, Assumed and Arrived*. Reflect on your possible experiences in each of these phases.

Hidden Purpose - What can you now look back on and see that God was actually using to prepare you?

Assumed Purpose - what you might initially believe it to be, but then experience and experimentation reveals something other.

Arrived Purpose ~ when you become content that you are doing what God has called, gifted, enabled you to do.

BIBLICAL AUTHORITY FOR BELIEVERS

“When Jesus finished saying these things, the people were amazed at his teaching, because he did not teach like their teachers of the law. He taught like a person who had authority.”

Matthew 7:28-29 (NCV)

The Christian is one who is _____ to minister. Authorised to minister, entails being given *authority*. Jesus gave His disciples *authority* to minister (Matthew 10:1) Without the Lord’s authority, we are only pretenders.

Any person may wear a police uniform. But this does not make them a policeman. Unless they are given the authority of a policeman by the police hierarchy, they are only pretending. God takes the issue of authority very seriously. When he gives someone authority, he also gives His _____. We see this in the following examples.

<i>One Authorised</i>	<i>Opposed By</i>	<i>Divine By</i>
_____ (Genesis 37)	His brothers	Brothers humbled, Joseph made ruler of Egypt. (Ps. 105:15)
_____ (Exodus 3)	Israel, Korah, Miriam	The generation of Israel that came out of Egypt was destroyed; Korah was swallowed up by an earthquake; and Miriam got leprosy
_____ (John 1:1)	Israel (its leaders)	They were cut off from being God’s people (Rom. 11:17)

“Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted and those who do so will bring judgement on themselves.”

Romans 13:2 (NIV)

Paul, the apostle, _____ his authority repeatedly, but he did so, not in an authoritarian manner, but in such a way that _____ his authority. Authority can be _____. Paul says the evidence of his authority is in what he suffered.

Are they ministers of Christ?; I speak as a fool; I am more: in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren, in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness; besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.”

Second Corinthians 11:23-28

The test of authority is in what a person is prepared to _____. There can be no greater example of this than Christ. We could also examine the other Biblical characters and discover that their authority was also tested through suffering. A false minister will hardly be prepared to suffer for what they know is not genuine, that is, their ministry.

HOW AUTHORITY IS USED

God has _____ degrees of authority into believers to accomplish His purpose. We have seen the purpose of specific ministries. While each of these ministries carries with it a degree of authority, God has established authority in each local setting. Every believer should experience the _____ of being under authority.

The expression “first”, speaks of *authority*.

“And God has appointed these in the church; first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.”

First Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)

It is clear that the early church didn’t view the church as a collective of fragmented communities each doing their own thing, completely isolated in geography and in spirit. Neither did they consider themselves bound to some central controlling body. While each assembly was _____ to conduct themselves as the Spirit led them, there was an external authority to which they were subject. This fact is borne out by understanding the nature of Paul’s epistles.

He wrote as an external authority to _____ churches. Within his epistles we see that he appointed authorities.

“For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you.”

Titus 1:5 (NKJV)

1. Therefore authority is for _ _ _ _ _ within the local church (1 Timothy 2:2; Titus 2:15). It is done at two levels: Firstly, ‘apostolic’ authority (usually *external*, unless *resident*), and secondly, ‘pastoral’ authority (always *within* the assembly).

The writer of Hebrews told his readers to -

“Obey your leaders and act under their authority. They are watching over you, because they are responsible for your souls. Obey them so that they will do this work with joy, not sadness. It will not help to make their work hard.”

Hebrews 13:17 (NCV)

2. Authority within the church is for the building and strengthening of the church (2 Corinthians 10:8; 13:10).
3. It is for relationship. This entails relationships within the assembly and outside it (2 Corinthians 10:14)
4. It is an example. Those in authority are to serve as examples for the rest of the church (2 Thessalonians 3:9)
5. It is to feed the church (1 Timothy 5:17; Hebrews 13:7; 17).
6. God places authoritative leaders in His church to guard it against false doctrine.

Leadership authority stewards these four God-ordained responsibilities-

A. Doctrine

B. Development

C. Direction

D. Discipline

DEVELOPING CHARACTER

*Nearly all men can stand adversity, but
if you want to test a man's character, give
him power.*

Abraham Lincoln

THE GREATEST ENEMY OF BELIEVERS

*So Samuel said, "When you are little in your own eyes, were you not head of
the tribes of Israel? And did not the LORD anoint you king over Israel?"*

First Samuel 15:17 (NKJV)

Self-dependence, self-congratulations, self-importance, manipulated indispensability, attention demanding, self-promotion, isolation from fellowship and rejection of authority are all signs of _____.

The greatest enemy of any believer is pride. To be a Christian in Christ's church is to be a humble _____ (Mark 9:35). Of all the insipid attacks of the enemy, pride is the most damaging. It dethrones God and defies self. It is the worst sin in the cosmos - and we are each guilty of it. It is a subtle crime against God and His authority.

Without question, more ministries have been _____ because of pride, than for any other reason. Therefore, it is important to keep yourself _____ and

1. Be real in the eyes of those that watch you (don't try and be someone else).
2. Be accountable.
3. Be a good steward of your time, resources and talents by being generous.

God may have blessed you with a powerful gift which He has designed for you to use for His glory. Pride will seek to enter in and _____ you of the best way to utilise this gift so that *you* gain the maximum exposure. Many a gifted singer has gone off the rails because they have succumbed to pride's deception luring them away from God's design for their gift. This is not to say that a Christian singer cannot by in the

music industry, but it is to sound a word of caution that not every singer is divinely supposed to be.

WHY CHARACTER IS NOT OPTIONAL

Godly character is the mark of proven maturity (Philemon 2:22). No professional tennis player would use an untried tennis racquet at a critical part of a high pressure match. The racquet must first be “broken in”. It may incur a few scratches, nicks and broken strings, but once the player has worn it in he has *proven* the racquet for match play. It seems that God uses His servants in a similar way.

Note what the following Scriptures contribute to how character is developed-

Job 23:10

Psalm 66:10

Isaiah 48:10

First Timothy 3:10

No servant in God’s Kingdom can avoid character building if they are yielded to God and truly want to be used by Him. The key ingredient to character building is patience. (Romans 5:4 NCV) *And patience produces character and character produces hope.* Before God fully utilises us, He tries us.

How have you grown in your ability to handle correction?

When constructing a major building it is usual practice to put up _____. This goes up quickly and can reach impressive heights. But this is not the building. It takes character to _____ our lives, families, businesses, and church. What we build with determines the real strength and value of what we build.

Based on Romans 5:3-4, what are the things associated with building character?

When the storms of troubles come against a building, the structure of that building will be _____. Scaffolding is easily blown away when a building is put under enough pressure. While builders need scaffolding to build with, it is not used for the super structure of a building. In business, the scaffolding may be gimmicks, the give aways, the decor, but the structure which gives a business its character is (i) its product; (ii) its customer service; (iii) its value, and (iv) its staff.

CHARACTER TOOLS

Character is built by-

Accepting Responsibility

Start with little responsibilities (*putting the garbage out, tidying your room, ring customers back the same day with requested information, meet your wife on time, have your husband's dinner/slippers/newspaper/TV program ready*).

Being Generous

Generosity enlarges a person's capacity to handle difficult times.

Persisting

The "P" in *pressure* stands for PEOPLE! Learning how to relate to people when under pressure is an essential element to being able to persist. Persistent people hang around long enough to cross the finish line-

What virtue in Luke 11:8 does Christ commend?

Persistence (endurance/patience) is the assembly plant of character.

Have A Go!

Walk on water, even if you sink after a few steps! Defeat will inevitably come from time to time, call it failure, or losing, and then learn from it for the future and call it “experience”!

How does Proverbs 24:16a relate to the formation of character?

Be Accountable

How does James 5:16 relate to accountability and the relationship of the believer to a small group of other believers?

How will character development help reach non-Christians?

CONSIDER THE PEARL

Character cannot be formed quickly. It requires time plus challenges, testing, setbacks, obstacles, and most painfully: *successes*, in order to be formed. The pearl is a nice picture of how character forms. The clam has an irritating piece of sand get “under its skin”. To relieve its irritation, the clam slowly secretes a chemical which envelopes the irritation. Over time, the irritating grit is replaced by a beautiful smooth pearl. God will bring certain irritations into your life in order that you too might develop something precious. Perhaps you are facing something ‘gritty’ in your life at the moment? Maybe God has sent someone into your life or church who is irritating? Be sure, that you continue to secrete the sweetness of Christ so that God may be glorified as exceedingly precious.

Session 5

GODLY MOTIVATION

“Pride will destroy a person; a proud attitude leads to ruin.”

Proverbs 16:18 (NCV)

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Jesus Christ.”

Philemon 2:5 (NIV)

Having the right _____ is a vital part of the process of maturing. Without the right attitude, the Bible says we will be _____ (Proverbs 16:18). The most dangerous attitude is _____. But there are also several others that are ruinous to Christians maturing. These include -

Maturing as a Christian involves other people! *People* often involve pain, hurt and humiliation. Look at Jesus and the way some people treated Him! Therefore we need a _____ attitude. Mature believers need to develop a very thick skin. They need to have a _____ attitude which does not undermine the seriousness of their task. The ability to laugh at yourself, at your situations, is a very relaxing therapy both for you and those you will influence.

OUR FOCUS

If we become *people*-centred rather than *God*-centred, we can develop a really bad attitude. We need to recognise that our ministry is *unto* the Lord. That is, we are doing what we do because we _____ the Lord. We see this as the attitude that the Lord was instilling into Peter after the resurrection (John 21:15ff). Our service for God is

because we love God. The implications of this for believers are clear according to First John 4:11-12; 20-21.

THE MOTIVATION OF A SHEPHERD

The consistent picture of God through the Scriptures is that of a _____. The image of a shepherd generates feelings of warmth, affection, oversight, care and leadership. Both the Father and the _____ are identified as being shepherds (Psalm 23; John 10). It was the heart cry of both the Father and the Son that the mature among God's people have a shepherds heart. The ascension gift ministries mentioned in Ephesians 4:11 are all *shepherding* ministries. Let's examine the requirements that God expects of shepherds in the Old Testament. Note the Biblical requirements of a shepherd mentioned in the following passages-

Jeremiah 23

Ezekiel 34

Let's observe what Jesus said in John 10 about what he expected of His leaders

THE GOAL OF THE MATURE WITHIN THE CHURCH

It is the responsibility of every believer to walk with God. We don't seek to fulfil an agenda and then ask God to bless it. Rather we seek to find out what God is blessing and then fulfil that.

Thus, our goal as mature believers is to fulfil what God wants. We know from Scripture what kind of people He wants.

Examine Ephesians 5:25-27. What does this tell us about the kind of Church Christ wants?

We read in the opening chapters of Revelation a remarkable insight of how Christ speaks to individual congregations. Notice Revelation chapters 2 and 3. What are some of the individual things He says to Churches?

It is therefore the goal of those in leadership to remove all obstacles to growth. We must wisely and gently guide other people into maturity. It is not a matter of trying to change, mould, or make people conform (that is the Holy Spirit's task). Growth is our goal, but it is achieved through removal of impediments, rather than through our own ingenuity.

THE ATTITUDE OF FAITH

We take a radically different approach to assessing our circumstances compared to those in the world (2 Corinthians 5:7). Jesus said that it is only when a believer has faith, that they can accomplish what God has for them (Matthew 21:21; Mark 11:22).

Where does our faith come from? (Acts 3:16; Romans 12:3; 1 Timothy 1:14)

As Christians we are not called to be optimistic, or pessimistic, but _____. The world is generally in the quagmire of unrealism, while the Church is founded on the truth of God's Word (which is reality).

No matter what the circumstance, like Abraham of old, we hold on to what God has said. Faith is an essential ingredient to having a right attitude.

It was on this basis that the early church selected its workers (Acts 6:5). We are called to abandon doubt and embrace faith. Only those believers who move in faith, will discover that God is their rewarder (Hebrews 11:6)

Let us move on to develop a right attitude. An attitude of humility, compassion and concern for others, a desire to flow with God's will and of faith.

Write your prayer to God in response to what you have seen in the lesson-

TERM 2

YOUR MIND

HOW TO READ

“In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but rather how many can get through to you.”

— Mortimer J. Adler

“Reading is the basic tool in living a good life” wrote Mortimer J. Adler in his classic book, *How To Read A Book*. Children are taught the elementary principles involved in reading throughout their formative years but curiously by the time they reach High School, they are rarely given anymore training in how to read. Although most literate people can decipher text into meaning, most people do not know how to read a book. In High School, but especially College, students learn to equate reading with passing tests or doing projects - rather

HOW TO READ A BOOK

We are taught to read letter by letter and then word by word. Perhaps when we started out reading we took our pointer finger and pointed at the word we were reading. Then one day our teacher told us not to point at the words any more, just to read them. There are a number of flaws in this system.

- 1) It is slow.
- 2) It discourages concentration.
- 3) It is not natural.

It is slow because we respond much faster to symbols than to groups of letters.

For example:



It discourages concentration because we are capable of taking in vastly more amounts of information, than mere text alone can satisfy.

It is not natural because a language has to be particularly learnt, while symbols have more of an international flavour.

Understanding these principles can help us to read better. In fact “speed reading” is based on these concepts. To turn words into symbols we must do the following-

- Point at the words we are reading, as we are reading them.
- Stop sounding the words out - c a t = “cat,” instead, “cat” = “cat”.
- Deliberately move more quickly and sharpen your concentration.

Of course reading and studying are different. Studying demands more attention to detail. Most people only know how to read slowly and then call that study. Study does not have to be slow. Try the following tips when studying a book-

- Use a highlighter colouring system to make some passages stand out for future reference.
- Get the gist of the book before you read it. Read the back cover first. Read about the author. Read the chapter headings in the table of contents. Doing this gives a feel for the book.
- If you are answering questions about the book, read all the questions first.
- If time permits, read the book first, then go through it again to gain the detail that you skipped over the first time. It’s amazing how much you’ll pick up the second time through.

Recommended reading: *How To Read A Book*, by Mortimer J. Adler.

READING THE BIBLE

“Ezra had worked hard to know and obey the teachings of the Lord and to teach his rules and commands to the Israelites.”

Ezra 7:10 (NCV)

“I have more insight than all my teachers, for I meditate on your statutes.”

Psalms 119:99 (NIV)

Have you ever been misunderstood because someone misinterpreted something that you said? Have you ever tried to describe something to someone but they have had no idea about what you were talking about? Then you’ll understand just how difficult communication can be. God has communicated His message to us through the Bible.

The Word of God is the basis of our authority and faith. We are told to _____ on it (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 4:4; 1 Timothy 4:15); to _____ it. James 1:25 NCV - *“But the truly happy people are those who carefully study God’s perfect laws that makes people free, and they continue to study it. They do not forget what they heard, but they obey what God’s teaching says. Those who do this will be made happy.”* to _____ it (Deuteronomy 4:1; Matthew 15:3); to read it, minister it and love it (Psalm 119:159).

THE NEED TO INTERPRET

The process of communication involves three basic things-

- 1) The Communicator (encoder) - In this case it is ____
- 2) The Message (code) - In this case it is the _____
- 3) The Recipient (decoder) - In this case it is ____

In understanding Scripture, there is always interpretation or decoding. The fact that we have so many modern English translations bears out that there is a demand to understand Scripture in the simplest possible English.

A FRAMEWORK FOR UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

The key to understanding Scripture is _ _ _ _ _ .

This has several layers to it. You may like to draw concentric circles showing the following-

- 1) The surrounding _ _ _ _ _
- 2) The theme of the _ _ _ _ _
- 3) The theme of the _ _ _ _
- 4) The original audience's circumstances
- 5) The time, place & historical _ _ _ _ _

The law of context determines how we interpret a verse of Scripture. We also use it to ask the following question-

Does this interpretation of this particular verse fit the overall message of Scripture? If our interpretation of one verse doesn't agree with the overall message of Scripture, then we need to re-evaluate our interpretation.

DETERMINING CONTEXT

The following resources are helpful in determining the context of a Biblical passage.

- 1) Bible commentaries
- 2) Bible commentaries; Bible Encyclopaedias some Bible Handbooks
- 3) Bible Handbooks; Bible Dictionaries; Bible Surveys
- 4) Bible Commentaries
- 5) Specialised Books on the particular Biblical Book

THE NATURE OF A TESTAMENT

The Bible is known as containing two testaments, but in fact the correct terminology is _____. The Bible is actually one testament, made up of two main *covenants*.

“For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator.”

Hebrews 9:16 (NKJV)

A covenant was an _____ between two parties. A testament was the gracious act of one party toward another. It could only be enacted upon the death of that party. It involves- the testator, the inheritance, the will (which contained the promises and conditions) and the heir.

The entire Bible details how God has established covenants with mankind. To correctly interpret Scripture we need to understand more about ancient covenants.

BUILDING A REFERENCE LIBRARY

The fruit of learning is not to necessarily retain details in a photographic memory bank, but to know where to get the information should the need arise. Albert Einstein didn't even know his own phone number, but he knew where to get it from!

For the Christian leader, there are some things that are essential to have access to. These include books, journals and magazines. Even Paul the apostle treasured these things (2 Timothy 4:13). It is recommended that the leader build their library to include at least books from these catalogues-

- A variety of Bible translations
- Bible Handbooks
- Bible Commentaries
- Systematic Doctrine/Theology
- Bible Dictionary
- Concordance

- Bible Encyclopaedia

- Biographies

There are several excellent software packages that provide the framework for building such a library electronically. These include OliveTree Bible Study, Accordance Bible Software, and Logos.

Write down your general goals for the next three months -

Write down your prayerful commitment to the Lord about how you will improve your Bible reading -

Session 7

OLD TESTAMENT CONTEXT

“Jesus replied, “You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God”

Matthew 22:29 (NJV)

What “Scriptures” was Jesus talking about?

SURVEYING THE OLD TESTAMENT

It is organised into three sections-

A. _____ B. Poetry C. Prophetic

It covers three periods-

A. Patriarchal B. _____ C. Kings

It contains three significant events-

A. Creation B. Exodus C. _____

THE THEME OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.”

Luke 24:27 NIV

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David.

Romans 1:1-3

THE PURPOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”

Romans. 15:4 NIV

The Old Testament was written to _____ us and give us hope!

OLD TESTAMENT WORDS

1. God

Referred to in the original Hebrew language of the Old Testament as-

- Elohim (Genesis 1:1)
- El-elyon(Genesis 14:18)
- El (Genesis 35:3)
- Yahweh (Genesis 15:2)
- Yah (Psalms 68:4)
- Adonai (Psalms 110)

Scholars have observed that the name God used to reveal Himself to mankind varied according to the circumstances. God as we call Him in English, is variously revealed as Elohim (1:1), El-Elyon (14:18) Yahweh (15:2) El Shaddai (17:1). Each of these names revealed a significant aspect to God's character. Derek Kidner observed that Genesis reveals the earliest titles of God, "Most High" (14:18-22), "Almighty" (17:1), "Everlasting" (21:33), "God of Israel" (33:20) and, "Fear of Isaac" (31:42,53). 1

Kidner:33

- He is never referred to in Hebrew as "Jehovah". This is a made up word to translate the Hebrew word YHWH. The best way to translate this into English is either Yahweh or "Lord."
- He is the Supreme Being, presented as the _____.
- The Old Testament presents a Monotheistic being, not a *Monolithic* Being.
- He gradually reveals Himself throughout the pages of the Old Testament.

HISTORIC	Pentateuch	Creator, Law Giver, Deliverer from Egypt
	Judges	Angel of the Lord
POETIC	Job	Redeemer
	Psalms	Lord (785 times)
PROPHETIC	Isaiah	Holy One of Israel
		The Servant of the Lord
	Malachi	The Sun of Righteousness (4:2)

2. Covenant

An _____ that bound two parties together.

They became united and were able to claim their partners resources as their own.

They incorporated each other's _____ into their own.

Their agreement was witnessed and sealed in _____.

3. Law

Four types of Law included in the Old Testament:

- Food Laws
- Civil Laws
- Ceremonial Laws
- Moral Laws

A law was a _____ of God that was applicable to many people over a given period of time.

4. Holy

Means: Pure, separate, rare (in the sense of being special).

We note that God is described as ultimate holiness (Isaiah 6:1ff).

The overall presentation of God in the Old Testament is _____ we are instructed to be holy: Leviticus 11:44.

WHO WROTE THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Before coming to Christ you may have thought, like some, that the Bible was written by one man. In fact, it was actually written by about 40 men. Most of these men never met each other. In some cases, it is uncertain who wrote particular Books despite even the traditional title for that Book bearing a person's name (such as, First and Second Samuel. The account of Samuel's death is recorded before the end of the First Samuel which makes it difficult for him to be the author of Second Samuel!).

THE PENTATEUCH

The Pentateuch is the name given to the first five books of the Bible. Written by Moses, they came to be known as the "Law of Moses." The Jews also call this section of the Bible, "The Torah". The first Book, Genesis, lays the background for the unveiling of God's call and deliverance of His people. The next four Books, whilst dealing with some historical aspects, format the covenant Israel enjoyed with God.



Within the Pentateuch the rest of the Bible lies in embryonic form. Much of Christ's teaching came directly from the Pentateuch. (An example of where Christ simply reinforced the truth of the Pentateuch is in His teaching in Leviticus 19:18)

Genesis	Moses
Exodus	Moses
Leviticus	Moses
Numbers	Moses
Deuteronomy	Moses/Joshua
Joshua	(Eleazer and Phineas)
Judges	Samuel
Ruth	Unknown
First Samuel	Samuel? + Nathan? + Gad?
Second Samuel	Samuel? + Nathan? + Gad?
First Kings	Jeremiah
Second Kings	Jeremiah
First Chronicles	Ezra
SecondChronicles	Ezra
Ezra	Ezra
Nehemiah	Nehemiah
Esther	Unknown
Job	Moses?
Psalms	Compiled by Ezra
Proverbs	Solomon
Ecclesiastes	Solomon
Song of Songs/Solomon	Solomon
Isaiah	Isaiah
Jeremiah	Jeremiah
Lamentations	Jeremiah
Ezekial	Ezekiel
Daniel	Daniel
Hosea	Hosea
Joel	Joel
Amos	Amos
Obadiah	Obadiah
Jonah	Jonah
Micah	Micah
Nahum	Nahum
Habakkuk	Habakkuk
Zephaniah	Zephaniah
Haggai	Haggai
Zechariah	Zechariah
Malachi	Malachi

THE OUTLINE OF THE PENTATEUCH

Genesis - Creation; Fall of mankind; Judgment on mankind by the Flood; Call of Abraham to start a nation (Israel).

Exodus - Israel in bondage in Egypt; God uses Moses to deliver His people; God establishes His covenant with Israel based on the Law.

Leviticus - Deuteronomy - God gives us the civil/ceremonial/food laws; Instructions for the priests and Levites; Blessings and curses.

GEOGRAPHY OF OLD TESTAMENT PLACES

The Bible commences its narrative in Northern Iraq, in a place known as Eden¹. Whilst not seeking to be an atlas, it does speak of population centres in geographic terms. Archaeology has confirmed nearly every geographic claim of the Bible.

For many years Genesis was seen as nothing more than a book of myths. One of the main reasons for believing this was the belief that Moses could not have had access to any records because writing was only a relatively late invention. However, archaeological discoveries have now shown that writing could very well be original. Excavations have shown that not only was writing a flourishing art form during the time of Abraham, but there were also libraries and universities storing large quantities of literature. One city in ancient Babylon was “Sippar” which means City of Books. Its ruins were excavated during the 1880-90s and 60,000 tablets of literature were discovered including a library of 30,000 tablets.



The Weld Dynasty Prism discovered in 1922 just north of Ur, contains the then known history of the world including the accounts of the ten generations of kings prior to the Flood. It was written about 2170 BC., 100 years prior to Abraham.

¹ The Garden of Eden is indicated on the map with a question mark, and the statement that it was located in Northern Iraq is not a conclusive one because all geographical markers prior to Noah's flood are sketchy now due to the flood's devastation of the earth's landscape.



BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

Malachi 4:5-6

The Old Testament closes with disappointment, yet _____. Disappointment because even after the Lord brought the formerly captive remnant within Judah back from Babylon to Jerusalem, they never seemed to fully grasp His heart. Instead, they quickly slipped into complacency, futile religious ceremonies, heartless worship and rigid legalism. These germinating seeds of religious adultery bloomed around the time of Christ with two prominent sects, the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The former were the perpetuators of Ezra’s teachings, while the latter came from the priests (also originating around the time of Ezra, who abandoned the true worship of Yahweh and compromised with liberalism²).

The period _____ the Old and New Testaments is correctly referred to as the Intertestamental Period. To adequately grasp the New Testament, some background information will help the Bible student to appreciate more fully its contents.

SUMMARY OF ADDITIONAL WORLD EVENTS

- 535 B.C. - Work on the Temple began and stopped.
- 549 B.C. - Cyrus becomes ruler of an expanding empire.
- 530 B.C. - Cyrus dies in battle in the eastern regions.
- 529 B.C. - Cambyses or Artaxerxes, son of Cyrus (Ezra 4:7, 11, 23) is emperor. He stopped work on the Temple.
- 525 B.C. - Cambyses adds Egypt to his empire with extraordinary swiftness.

² Refer to J. Barton Payne’s “Old Testament Theology,” published by Zondervan. Liberalism is the rejection of the supernatural aspects of God, His activity and His Word. It replaces this with Rationalism, the process of trying to rationalise everything by explanation.

- 521 B.C. - Darius I became emperor. He authorised the completion of the Temple (Ezra).
- 520 B.C. - Work recommences by Haggai and Zechariah.
- 485 B.C. - Xerxes (Ahasuerus) becomes emperor.
- 473 B.C. - Esther saves Jews from genocide.
- 445 B.C. - Nehemiah appointed governor of Judah.
- 444 B.C. - Nehemiah rebuilds the walls of Jerusalem.
- 423 B.C. - Darius II emperor of Persia.
- 405 B.C. - Artaxerxes II emperor of Persia.
- 358 B.C. - Artaxerxes III emperor of Persia.
- 338 B.C. - Arses emperor of Persia.
- 335 B.C. - Darius III (Codomanus) emperor of Persia, eventually lost to Alexander the Great.
- 330 B.C. - Greece becomes the new world empire.
- 280 B.C. - A group of Jewish scholars began to translate the Hebrew Scriptures into Greek. Legend has it that this was done by 70 men. This became known as the “Septaugint” (translation of the seventy). It is symbolised by “LXX” (the Roman symbols for “70”).

Of special interest is the date 458B.C. According to Daniel 9:25 there would be 7 weeks and 62 weeks from then until the appearance of the Messiah. In this reference a week is equal to seven years. This totals to years, which if Christ was born in 5BC and publicly appeared at age 30 in AD 25, this is 483 years from when God told Daniel the Messiah would appear.

Year	Event	Scripture
605 B.C.	First exile of Judah	Daniel 1;1 (prophesied Jeremiah 25:8-11)
597 B.C.	“Good figs”	Jeremiah 23:3
586 B.C.	Final exile-the Temple in Jerusalem is totally destroyed., consequently the Old Covenant is ended and New is about to be.	Jeremiah 23:5; 2 Kings 25: 2 Chronicles 36:18
539 B.C.	Cyrus and Darius share empire control (Babylonian control ends)	Daniel 5:31; 1:21; Ezra 5:13
536 B.C.	The first captives return to Jerusalem(49, 897 in all), sacrifices are made upon the rebuilt altar. 70 years of first exile completed.	Ezra 2:1ff; Neh. 7:5ff; Psalms 126
516 B.C.	Temple completed-70 years of Temple absence ended.	Ezra 6:15-22
480 B.C.	The events of Esther	
470 B.C.	Birth of Socrates	
458 B.C.	Ezra sent to Jerusalem/decreed to rebuild the walls	Ezra 7:6-10; Neh. 1ff
415 B.C.	Nehemiah written	
397 B.C.	Malachi written	
5-4 B.C.	Birth of Jesus (The exact year of Christ’s birth is unknown. It ranges from 6-0 B.C. but is probably closer to 5 or 4 BC)	

Due to the depth of Greek control, all of the then known world was swept into speaking Greek as either their main or second language. It virtually led to it becoming the international language. With the language came the culture also. Out of the Greek culture came two opposing sects of the Jews; Hellenizers and Anti-Hellenizers. A Hellenist was simply another way of describing a Greek thinking person. Consequently, Hellenizers were worldly, intellectual, sophisticated and cared little for religion. Later, they became the main influence upon Sadducees who hardly believed in anything spiritual. Yet the early Church made good use of this universal language for spreading the Gospel. They could freely move and witness through the empire without too many language barriers. Secondly they adapted Greek philosophy into their Gospel presentation (see, John 1:1).

THE MACCABEAN UPRISING

After Alexander the Great died, there was a power struggle between two of his generals, Ptolemy and Seleucus. The descendants of these two rival generals conducted heated military exchanges. In about 170 BC, Antiochus IV, a descendant of Seleucus, retreated to Egypt. The Ptolemies, now aligned with Rome, forced him out of Egypt. He and his army went to Palestine. He wanted to Hellenize the Hebrews. In Palestine he replaced spiritual priests for unspiritual ones. He saw religion as the means to accomplish his Hellenization. He established images of himself in the form of the Olympian Zeus to be worshipped. He banned the Jews from keeping Sabbaths, Feasts, offering traditional sacrifices or performing circumcision. He erected the altar of Zeus on the altar of burnt offerings and ordered swine's flesh to be sacrificed on it.

He then ordered sacrifices to be made in every village of Palestine to heathen gods under the supervision of imperial representatives. But an old priest named Mattathias objected and killed a Jew and the supervision officer who were about to comply. Mattathias and his five sons then fled into the mountains and thus began the Maccabean Revolt. Upon the urging of Mattathias, his son, Judas Maccabeus became the Jews' military leader. He was an appropriate choice. He won two significant battles and became a thorn in the side of the Seleucids (Syrians). He was able to cleanse and rededicate the temple which marked the beginning of the Festival of Dedication or Lights (Hanukkah) in 164 BC (25th Chislev, or: December). Antiochus IV died in 163 BC. Judas Maccabeus was eventually confronted by an army of Syrians sent by Demetrius I Soter, the nephew of Antiochus IV in 160 B.C. Thousands of Jews were killed in the conflict including Judas himself. His two brothers, Jonathan and Simon took up the fight to bring political independence. Rome intervened in 63 B.C.

THE ROMAN EMPIRE

This was Daniel's fourth prophesied world empire. Civil war had broken out in Palestine led by two opposing brothers. One brother, Aristobolus was planning to lead a revolt against Rome. The Romans reacted quickly and under Pompey 12,000 Jews were killed. Under the might of the Romans the world enjoyed great peace because there was no major opposition. Some noteworthy features of the Roman Empire were-

- Caesar Augustus established a road system throughout his empire. This enabled his troops to respond quickly to any possible uprising and also prepared the way for God to send messengers of the Gospel into all the world.
- The period under Roman rule was characterised by-
 - World unity (only time in history)
 - One world language (Greek)
 - World peace
 - An established system of roads, making the world a global village
 - A universal taxation system
 - Citizens (with certain rights) and non-citizens

The fierce oppressiveness with which the Romans ruled Palestine was a constant source of aggravation for the Jews living there. They yearned for God to send the Mighty Messiah and free them from this tyranny.

THE FORMING OF THE PHARISEES

Ezra was the unsuspecting founder of the Pharisees. With the priesthood, Ezra “*had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to practice it, and to teach His statutes and ordinances in Israel*” (Ezra 7:10). Ezra thus became a scribe of the Law. The followers of Ezra meticulously carried out his teachings, closely following the Law and their interpretations of it. By the second century BC a strict sect had been formed and were known as the Hasidim (or Hasideans), meaning “God’s loyal ones.” The Hasidims split into two groups. The first withdrawing from public life after rejecting certain traditions and beliefs, while the majority in the other group sought to control the religion of the state. From this group the Pharisees began. Their name means “separated ones”. In the Gospels they are portrayed as hard-hearted, proud and hypocritical. Yet it must be remembered that they were the most pious people of the day.

THE CLOSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

The basis of relationship that a husband has with his wife is called marriage. The basis of relationship that God has with his people is called Covenant or Testament.³

Books	27
Chapters	259
Verses	7,868
Authors	9 (Hebrews wasn't written by Paul)

These two words occur frequently throughout the Bible. A covenant was a pact between two people that contained conditions, requirements and obligations. It resulted in two parties being bound together. A testament on the other hand was an agreement made by one person to another, with all the work being done by that person, that resulted in only the other person benefitting upon the death of the testator (Heb. 9:16). Some have suggested that *covenant* is a much better word to use than testament when dealing with God's relationship to man. These terms will be looked at through the examination of the various New Testament Books. Suffice to say that the Covenant³ made at Sinai ended when the Temple was destroyed in 586 B.C., yet God still maintained his Covenant promise to David and caused the elect Jews to return to Jerusalem to await the coming Messiah. Thus we find Matthew, who primarily addresses Jews, not concentrating on Moses, but on King David.

REDEFINING ISRAEL

There appears in Scripture a progression in defining *Israel*. Firstly, it referred to a man (Genesis 32:28; 35:10). After his death it was used to describe his descendants as God formed them into a nation within Egypt (see expressions like that in Genesis 32:32 and Exodus 1:1, 7). After the twelve tribes of Israel took possession of Canaan, the land endured tension between the ten northern tribes (known as Ephraim) and the two southern tribes (known as Judah). This came to a head when Rehoboam, the successor to King Solomon, attempted to oppress the united kingdom of Israel with

³ The author sees a difference between the terms "Covenant" and "Testament". The former being an agreement between two parties, which concerning God and man are always monergistic (the work of one, that is-God's grace without any return contribution from man). The latter being an unfolding revelation throughout the Old Testament, with various stages of revelation, which culminated in Christ and His finished work on the cross. Therefore, the testamental revelation (to Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses and David) still stands because they each point to Jesus. With each testamental revelation came a covenant. The Testament that God has with mankind is one which was expressed in two stages yet remained God's one and only Testament with mankind.

stiffer taxes and penalties. The northern tribes rebelled and formed their own monarchy. They became known as *Israel* (or Ephraim) while the southern tribes (predominately Judah and Benjamin) became known as *Judah*. Around the eighth century BC (about 722 BC) these northern tribes were punished by God and sent into exile by the Assyrians. Judah from that point on was also occasionally called Israel by various prophets (such as Malachi 1:1). About one hundred and thirty six years after the northern tribes were exiled, Judah was similarly exiled to Babylon. This took place in stages-

- 1) The exile mentioned in Daniel 1:1 around 604-597 BC called the exile of *Good Figs* (Jeremiah 23:3).
- 2) The final exile referred to by Jeremiah as the *Bad Figs* in 586 BC. (Jeremiah 23:5) From the first exile, Judah was in captivity for seventy years as prophesied by Jeremiah. During the exile the Babylonians nicknamed the captives from Judah: Jews (being short for Judeans). Those who returned became known as Israel even though the ten northern tribes never officially returned apart from those involved in the Judean exile (Luke 2:36). These ten northern tribes are today known as- "*The Lost Tribes of Israel*".

In the New Testament, Israel is initially referred to the same way as the closing Old Testament writers saw it. It also became a geographical reference point as well as a secular identification for a nation of people. A new definition emerges in the writings of Paul though. He begins to see Israel as God's people, whether Jew or Gentile. His arguments for this will be covered in our study on the Book of Romans (especially chapter 9-11).

Beginning around a hundred years prior to Malachi's book, three men had by this time left their mark on history by bringing Israel back to spiritual renewal as well as back to their homeland. The first was Daniel. After studying the book of Jeremiah, he realised that God's time had come for Israel to return (Daniel 9:1-2; Jeremiah 25:11). He began to seek his God contritely as recorded in Daniel 9:3-5.

"So I gave my attention to the Lord God to seek Him by prayer and supplications, with fastings, sackcloth and ashes. And I prayed to the Lord my God and confessed and said, "Alas, O Lord, the great and awesome God who keeps His covenant and loving kindness for those who love Him and keep His commandments, we have sinned, committed iniquity, acted wickedly and rebelled, even turning aside from Thy commands and ordinances".

The second man was Ezra who became a scribe of the Law (Ezra 7:10). He brought Israel back to strict obedience to God's Law. The third man was Nehemiah who administered much of the practical rebuilding of Jerusalem. All three men were extraordinary men of prayer. Thus, all the prophecies of Israel's return to their homeland by the prophets were fulfilled.

The New Testament now views the Church as the people of God - the continuation of Israel (Galatians 6:16). Jerusalem is identified as being heavenly rather than natural (Galatians 4:26; Revelation 3:12; 21:10), and is even identified as being made up of all those in the church (Hebrews 12:22-23). To be a true Jew is to be one inwardly (Romans 2:28-29; Revelation 2:9). The Lord does not look upon those of natural Israel with any special grace (Romans 10:12) but all people are regarded and treated equally (Galatians 3:28-29). All Christians are heirs of the promises made to Abraham (Galatians 3:28-29). A natural Jew can only be saved today by placing his faith in Christ, not trusting in his rich heritage.

Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT CONTEXT

“For this reason Christ is the editor of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins omitted under the first covenant.”

Hebrew 9:15 NIV

The New Testament is comprised of twenty seven different books. It was written from about A.D. 40-65 in the most common language of the day, “Koine” Greek. This language was the lingua-franca (common language of all people). Each of the books of the New Testament were originally distributed separately and were later brought together in a logical order. They can be classed as - Historical Books, Pauline Epistles and non-Pauline Epistles/Revelation.

HISTORICAL BOOKS

The Historical Books make up 60% of the New Testament. They are placed at the beginning of it to provide a backdrop (from the Old Testament) and an introduction to the Epistles and the rest of the New Testament.

THE GOSPELS

The Gospel means “glad tidings” or “good news” about Jesus Christ. They were not the first or only books to be written about Jesus (see Luke 1:1), but they were recognised by the early church as inspired by God and thus becoming a part of the canon. By the second century, these four records had been given a distinguishing “according to” followed by the author’s name, in order to separate them from spurious works.

The Gospels are like and were like, no other biographical books. They all virtually leave out the first thirty years of Christ’s life and highlight the last week. In all, only about fifty days of Jesus’ ministry are dealt with in all the Gospels.

But why four gospels? Some have suggested that four is significant because of the Biblical importance and relationship to the “earth” (we note that “four” often speaks numerically in the Bible of the world or earth - four winds, four seasons, four corners, four points on a compass, the Lord described four types of soil in the parable of the sower). It could be that the Holy Spirit has given us four accounts of the life of Christ to emphasise that the heavenly has become earthly.

It is apparent though that each gospel emphasises something different (Ezekiel 1:10; Revelation 4:6-8) -

Matthew	Portrays Christ as the Lion(strength,authority)	Christ as King of a Kingdom (frequent referral to the “Kingdom of Heaven”)
Mark	Portrays Christ as the Bull (service, power)	Christ as the servant
Luke	Portrays Christ as the Man	Christ as wisdom, character
John	Portrays Christ as the Eagle (deity, person)	Christ as God

As Christianity spread, so did the oral (spoken) account of Christ’s life. But as it reached beyond Israel, this became inadequate and more dependence was put upon the written word.

THE BOOK OF ACTS

This book is divided into two obvious sections, tracing the lives of firstly Peter, then Paul. Originally it was the second volume to the gospel of Luke which was written to show that Christianity posed no political threat to Rome. It can be rightly called the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Church.

PAUL’S EPISTLES

At last people were able to enjoy all the pleasures of sin such as immorality, greed, gluttony and addictive habits, all with supposed divine approval! Such was the thinking of some of the first Christians in the early church, until one stinging, razor sharp letter after another arrived, both delivered and received, with fierce fear and trembling Paul, the apostle, had arrived so stirred and moved by the Holy Spirit, that it erupted into a volcanic fury of words that at times was almost awesome in its gentleness. Epistles were unheard of as being used of God to convey a divine message until Paul started them. He wrote thirteen canonical (Scriptural) epistles (letters) in all. Their basic purpose was to bring teaching and correction. While they covered very practical issues, they have sparked lofty theological debate down through the ages. Nine of his letters were written to churches and four to individuals. They are arranged with letters to the church first, followed by letters to individuals in order of decreasing length.

NON-PAULINE EPISTLES & REVELATION

These nine letters only make up 10% of the New Testament, yet make a significant contribution to Christian truth and doctrine. While the Pauline epistles received the title of their audiences, these were given the title of their authors. Apart from James, most were probably written after Paul's death and deal with the issue that Paul had prophetically feared would enter the church. These included corruption, wrong doctrine and false apostles (see Acts 20: 29-30; 1 Timothy 4:3-4).

Revelation is the most controversial book in the New Testament, if not the entire Bible. It is known as the *Apocalypse* which means the *revelation*. Written by John in 65AD, it culminated the entire Bible showing that God is seated on Throne of the Universe from where He rules. One on the Throne in complete control. It reveals Jesus as Lord of Lords and King of Kings. Both of these aspects of the revelation would have been a great comfort to the seven Turkish churches to whom this book was addressed as they were facing intense persecution both the Jewish authorities and Rome. It gives the awesome announcement of sure judgment against the wicked declaring -

“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Revelation 21: 8 (NKJV)

It also pronounces the glorious reign of King Jesus with His bride in the merged New Heaven and Earth forever.

OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

Book	Date	Location	Author	Style	Audience	Content
James	45-50	Jerusalem	James, Jesus' brother	Doctrine	Dispersed Jewish Christians	Christian conduct
Galatians	46-48	Antioch	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Antioch and South Galatia	Justification by faith alone
Mark	50?	Rome	John, Mark	Historical	Romans	Christ the Worker
1 Thess.	51	Corinth	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Thessalonica	Christ's imminent return
2 Thess.	52	Corinth	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Thessalonica	The "Soon-but-not-yet" aspect of Christ's return
1 Corinthians	55	Ephesus	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Corinth	Unity & immorality
2 Corinthians	56	Macedonia	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Corinth	Paul's authority
Romans	56	Corinth	Paul	Doctrinal	Assembly in Rome	Glory of salvation
Matthew	56+?	Antioch	Matthew	Historical	Jews in Syria	Christ the King, Son of David
Luke	58	Rome	Dr. Luke	Historical	Gentiles	Christ the Man
Colossians	60-62	Rome	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Colossae	The Glory of Christ in the Church
Philemon	60-62	Rome	Paul	Personal	Philemon & Colossians	Reconciliation
Ephesians	60-62	Rome	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians around Ephesus	The beauty of the Church
Philippians	60-62	Rome	Paul	Doctrinal	Christians in Philippi	Thanks & Farewells
1 Timothy	62	Macedonia	Paul	Personal?	Timothy & Ephesus	Administration of the Church
Titus	62-63	Macedonia	Paul	Personal?	Titus & Cretians	Church order and ministry
Acts	63	Rome	Luke	Historical	Gentiles, Roman authorities	The birth & development of the Church
2 Timothy	63-64	Rome	Paul	Doctrinal	Timothy	Christian Ministry
1 Peter	63	Rome	Peter	Doctrinal	Assemblies in North Asia Minor	God's Grace in suffering
Hebrews	64	?		Doctrinal	Jewish Christians in Rome & Jerusalem	Superiority of the New Covenant
2 Peter	64	Rome	Peter	Doctrinal	Assemblies in North Asia Minor	Truth against error
John	62	Ephesus	John,	Historical	Greeks	Christ the Son of God
Jude	63-64	Unknown	Jude Jesus' brother	Doctrinal	All Christians	Defend the faith
1 John	62	Ephesus	John	Doctrinal	Christians near Ephesus	Love & eternal life
2 John	63	Ephesus	John	Doctrinal	An assembly near Ephesus	Christian love & truth
3 John	63	Ephesus	John	Personal	Gaius	Church protection
Revelation	65	Ephesus	John	Prophetic	Pastors of 7 churches in Asia	Revelation of Jesus

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

“Here, then, is the real problem of our negligence. We fail in our duty to study God’s Word not so much because it is difficult to understand, not so much because it is dull and boring, but because it is work. Our problem is not a lack of intelligence or a lack of passion. Our problem is that we are lazy. ”

Dr. R. C. Sproul, “The Holiness Of God”

ITS INFLUENCE IN SOCIETY

When people encounter big words ending with “*ology*” there is a tendency to shrink back and leave them alone. In the study of God, which we call “THEology”, nearly all of the branches of Theology have this word ending. When a Theologian talks about the study of Christ, he adds an *ology* to the end of “Christ” to make the word “CHRISTology”. To confuse ordinary people even more, some of the studies within theology actually have a Greek word, before the Theologian adds his *ology*. I used to think that Pneumatology (the “P” is not silent in this word) was the study of numbers. Years later, as a Theological student, I found that *Pneumatology* was actually the study of *the Holy Spirit*. The Greek word for Spirit is *Pneuma* (as if we all didn’t know! And it’s actually pronounced *p-nue-ma* as Biblical Greek does not have ‘silent’ letters like English does). The study of numbers is referred to as Numerics. So when you see an *ology* word that looks unfamiliar, it may actually be derived from a Greek word. This is the case with *Soteriology* (the study of salvation).

You may have figured that the word *ology* means “the study of...” It too comes from a Greek word. This word, *logos or logia*, means “the word” or “the reason”. Therefore, we can rightly say that when we study a particular *ology*, we are examining the reasons for believing this. Perhaps a more modern word for this is *doctrine*. Doctrine is an expression of what it is believed along with the reasons for it.

Some prefer to use the words “Doctrine of” instead of *ology*. Everyone has doctrines. We all hear and believe certain things that determine how we behave. In fact *everything you do is based on a personally held doctrine*. The most common example of this is a person’s doctrine of life death. If one person’s doctrine says that life stops at the grave, there is nothing beyond death, there is no God to give account to, then that person will behave accordingly. If another person has a doctrine that life does not stop at the grave, there is either eternal life or damnation awaiting them and there is a God to whom they must give an account of their life, they too will behave accordingly. *Therefore, what you believe, determines how you feel and act.*

During times of war people will die for their nation based on a doctrine they have, both about war and death. Other people will give away vast sums of money to some religious body based on a doctrine. As we study the doctrine of salvation, we will be affecting the way we live. We will see its fundamental importance to life and how this determines how we handle its struggles and challenges. Most importantly though, it will place a conviction within us about the God who so loved us. This will drive us to a fuller appreciation of both His grace and His election of our lives.

THE THEOLOGY OF SALVATION

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Hebrew word for *salvation* is derived from the word “yasa” This word means *width, spaciousness, freedom from constraint*. It is summed up by the word deliverance. Consequently in the Old Testament, “salvation” had a wide application.

Exodus 14:13; 15:2 _____

Isaiah 46:13; 52:10-11 _____

Psalms 106:10 _____

Deuteronomy 20:4 _____

Judges 3:31 _____

The expression “The Lord is my salvation” is described by one scholar as the “*heart of the Old Testament testimony, always with an overtone of undeserved mercy*”⁴. It came to include the meaning of *total wellbeing-politically, nationally and religiously*.

⁴ R.E.O White “Evangelical Dictionary of Theology” Baker, page 967

In the LXX (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) the Hebrew word was translated as *soteria*. Thus the translators gave it a fuller meaning by choosing this word to replace all the connotations of the Hebrew word.

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The New Testament writers carried over the use of the word *soter* to speak of salvation. Yet it is in the New Testament that it takes on an even richer meaning.

Acts 7:25; 27:31; Hebrews 11:7 _____

Mark 5:34; James 5:15 _____

Romans 8:24; Ephesians 2:5, 8; Titus _____

1 Corinthians 1:18; 15:2; 2Corinthians 2:15; 1 Peter 1:9; 3:21 _____

Romans 5:9-10; 13:11; 1Corinthians 5:5; Philemon 1:5-6 _____

The New Testament introduces the concept of salvation extended to all of nature (Romans 8:19-20). *In this sense then salvation is an undoing of all the effects of the Fall.* It is God redeeming mankind. It is God restoring mankind to divine friendship.

Salvation is fully realised in Jesus. He is the Captain of our Salvation (Hebrews 2:10; Romans 5:9-10). Through Jesus, His life, ministry, death and resurrection, salvation was given its fullest meaning.

If salvation is “undoing the effects of the Fall” what were conditions like before the Fall and how will this be fully realised?

In one sentence, define salvation-

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

ORIGINAL STATE	FALLEN STATE	REDEEMED STATE	
		Present Aspect	Future Aspect
Power not to sin, but able to sin	Power only to sin	Power not to sin, but able to sin	Not able to sin
Freedom of the will	Bondage of the will	Freedom of the will	Freedom of the will
ADAM & EVE	THOSE IN FIRST ADAM	THOSE IN LAST ADAM	THOSE IN LAST ADAM

MAN'S ORIGINAL STATE

MAN'S ORIGINAL STATE
MAN ENJOYED FOUR-FOLD
HARMONY IN HIS ORIGINAL STATE



MAN'S FALLEN STATE

The introduction of sin into our world smashed fourfold harmony. Every part of man's relationships with those he was formally at peace with, was now fractured. Sin, not the devil, is man's greatest enemy. In fact, the Bible calls its immediate fruit, death, the "last enemy" (1 Corinthians 15:26).

Death is separation (James 2:26). When mankind introduced sin into the world, he introduced death to all mankind (Rom. 5:12). From the moment his offspring were born, they were dying.

Even nature now groans under the pangs of death (Romans 8:19-22). Because mankind was the federal head of this world, his decisions affected the whole world. Interestingly today there is a strong atheistic push within the Environmental movement to "save" nature. While we were called to be good stewards of all things, we can not "save" nature and neither are we dependent upon nature for our survival. As Romans 8 says, nature is dependent on God and His dealings with mankind.

THE DEFINITION OF SIN

Charles Horne defines sin as, "not only a failure to obey the law of God and/or a violation of it, it is also and perhaps even more significantly- *a deification of self and a dethronement of God.*"

It is the highest insult in the universe. It is the most deadly crime that any being in the universe can commit. This especially applies to mankind. For mankind, created in the image of God, bears the responsibility of displaying to all of creation what the character of God is like. When a member of mankind sins, they are in effect saying to all of creation "This is what the Creator is like."

SIN'S STAIN

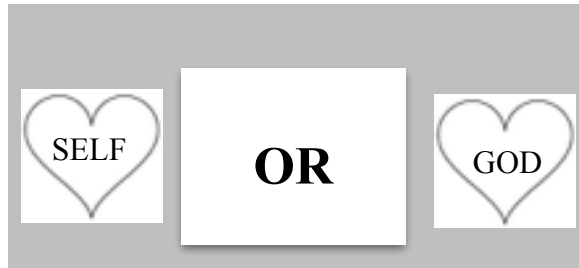
Like a permanent ink stain, sin has permeated every part of man's being. By virtue of Adam being the Head of the human race, all those descended from him are contaminated by the same stain. (Romans 5:12,18). The deep yearning within every soul is summed up by Job when he said

"Truly I know it is so, but how can a man be righteous before God?"

Job 9:2; 4:27

The New Testament confirms what man already knows. There is none who is perfect before God (Romans 3:10; 3:23).

THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN



Ironically because of sin's devastating effect on us, we may never fully understand the depth of treason we each have committed against God by sinning. Sin replaces God's authority, for the authority of self. Anything other than what God has commanded or approved is a criminal act against the Highest Power in the universe.

Let's consider some of the major consequences sin has wrought-

a) FOR MANKIND

1. Estranged from our life Source (spiritually).
2. Estranged from each other (hatred, wars selfishness).
3. Estranged from self (fears, anxieties, guilt, condemnation, worries etc).
4. Estranged from nature ("acts of nature/God" famines, droughts, weeds).
5. Deserving of punishment for disobedience.
6. Destined for the place reserved and created for all the rebellious.
7. Susceptible to deterioration, ageing, sickness.
8. At the mercy of random injustice (fatal accidents, stillborn babes etc).
9. Subject to general oppression (work situations, political conditions, etc).
10. Unable to perform to full potential.

b) FOR CREATION

1. Denied fullest fruitfulness.
2. Subject to deterioration and decay.
3. Robbed of man's created management skill.
4. Infested with alien conditions (weeds, deserts etc).
5. Bound for destruction.

c) FOR SATAN

1. Given permission to control this world.
2. Able to successfully tempt man away from God.
3. Permitted to bring destruction.

d) FOR GOD

1. Obligated to be just and punish according to the severity of the crime.
2. Robbed of His creation's fullest attention.
3. Denied His appropriate glory.
4. Constantly insulted.
5. Misrepresented by His highest creation i.e. man.

e) THE DECEITFULNESS OF SIN

1. Self saving attitude.
2. Self created religions.
3. Self justifying attitude.
4. Self delusion.

Because of the enormity of sin and its effects, combined with man's complete inability to deliver himself from it, he now stands in need of salvation.

THE CHARACTER AND HEART OF GOD IN SALVATION

BEFORE THE FALL

a) Truthfulness

The threat made to Adam for disobedience was instantaneous death. For God to be truthful this threat would have to be carried out.

b) Justice

The threat made to Adam was simply a suitable punishment for his sin i.e. death. God therefore displayed His character as a just God.

c) Grace

God initially allowed Adam free reign over all the Trees of the Garden.

d) Love

God created man as an act of His love.

AFTER THE FALL

God's qualities are eternal. What He is, He has always been (Malachi 3:6). Even after the Fall, God's qualities did not change.

QUALITY	PRE-FALL	POST-FALL
Truthfulness	"Threatened" man with the truth.	What God said would happen, did happen.
Justice	Punishment to suit the crime.	Punishment carried out.
Grace	Given undeserved gifts.	Threat and punishment were delayed.
Love	Mankind was created out of God's love.	Mankind was to be redeemed out of God's love.

THE ATONEMENT

Atonement is the _____ for sin. Criminals refer to their time in jail as *paying for their crimes*. A footballer who misses an important goal during a close match, will try to kick a goal as soon as possible to *atone for his previous mistake*. When mankind sinned, God demanded atonement. The promise made to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden was that a Deliverer (Seed) would come to crush the head of the Devil and make atonement for mankind. This announcement is referred to by Theologians as the *Proto Evangelium* (the *first* announcement of the Gospel). God then proceeded to kill animals and provide clothing for Adam and Eve while simultaneously foreshadowing the atoning work of Christ.

Note the four reasons for the necessity of atonement-

- 1) Holiness.
- 2) Divine Law.
- 3) God's truthfulness.
- 4) Only a substitutionary payment would suffice (Christ had to die for the sins of the world).

THE ATONEMENT BRINGS REDEMPTION

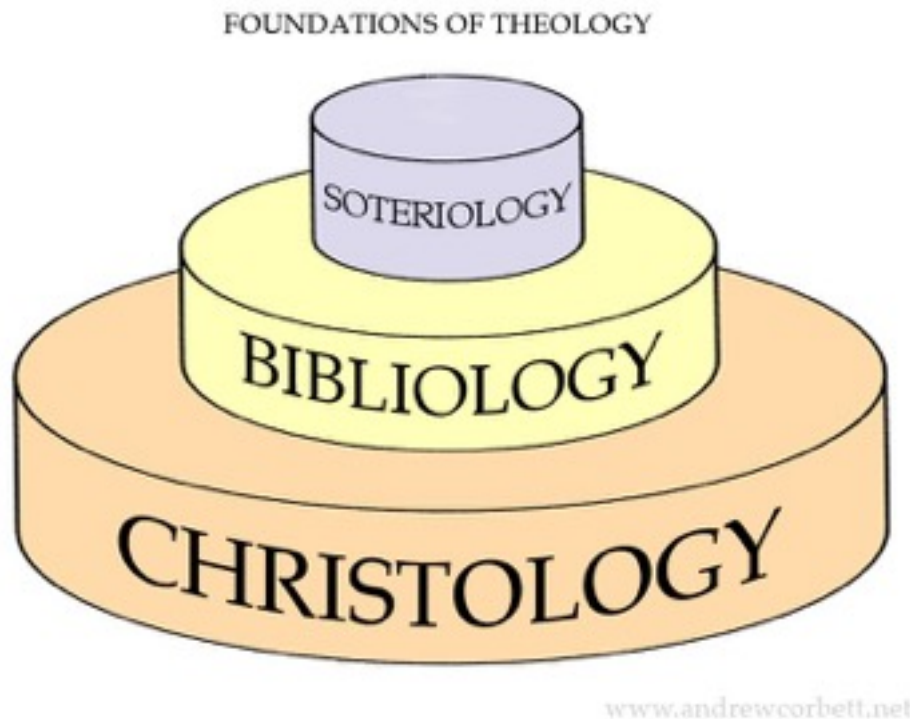
Christ's atoning death redeemed us from-

- Our _____
- Alienation from ____

- God's -----
- Futile -----
- -----

These all equal *darkness*. This is why salvation is consistently pictured as “light.”

THEOLOGICAL DISCIPLINES



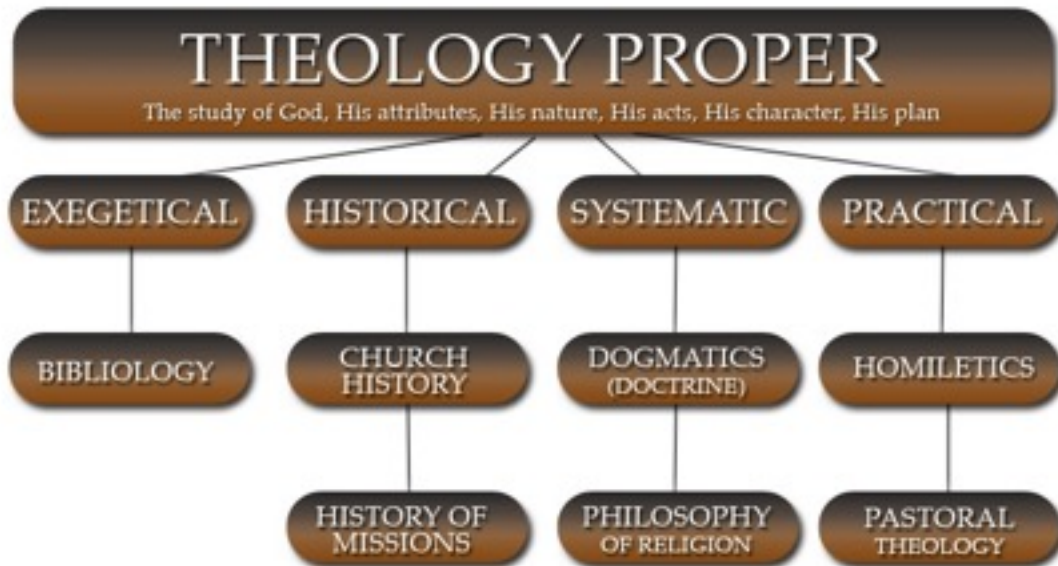
Soteriology is a primary area of theology. It is based on the disciplines of Christology and then Bibliology. Effectively how a person firstly regards Christ will determine *all* proceeding theological convictions. Secondly, a person's theology of the Bible will immediately determine their theology of salvation.

STREAMS OF THEOLOGY

While the essence of Theology is the study of God Himself, the Bible reveals Christ to humanity as the express image of the invisible God. (Hebrews 1:3; Colossians 1:15; 1Timothy 1:17) The study of Christ therefore, is the highest jewel of all theological study. From this basis, theology is divided into four main streams-

1. EXEGETICAL THEOLOGY
2. HISTORICAL THEOLOGY
3. SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY
4. PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

BRANCHES OF THEOLOGY



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Soteriology comes under the stream of Systematic Theology. It is a part of the Discipline of *Dogmatics*. By this, we mean that we are able to take topic-related portions of Scripture and place them side by side to gain the overall message for that topic. This is the method we will be adopting in the course of this study. It is a method distinguished from Biblical theology (a part of Exegetical Theology) which is more the study of Progressive Revelation about a certain topic (i.e how the Bible unfolds this particular topic). Yet as we will see, Soteriology is actually the heart-beat of the Bible's message. We will define the term later, but for now we will use the word Redemption to inadequately sum up what we mean.

Therefore, because the Bible outlines God's plan of Redemption, both historically and prophetically, the study of Soteriology is overlapped by nearly every other theological discipline, except Angelology/Demonology.

Soteriology is one of the most influential theological disciplines. It "ranks" just behind Christology and Bibliology in importance. Its influence is seen in nearly all the areas of popular theological interest, such as End Times Prophecy (Eschatology) and even Church History.

THE ESSENCE OF GOD

Note what the following references tell us about God:

God is _____ (John 4:24)

Colossians. 1:15; Romans 1:2 _____

Joshua 3:10 _____

God has a _____ (Exodus 20:2)

Because God's essence is not the same as ours, we can not define Him in terms of size or material substance. Jesus said that a spirit did not have flesh and bones. (Luke 24:39) Therefore, to try and propose a form for God is preposterous and is what the Bible calls idolatry. God is very grieved when people attempt to portray an image of Him. (Deuteronomy 4:15-19)

How is it that the Bible describes God as *invisible*, yet says that men have seen Him and fought with Him? (Genesis 32:30) Henry Thiessen, in his book "Lectures in Systematic Theology," says, "When one sees himself in a mirror, he in a sense sees himself, yet, in another sense, he does not literally see himself. So men saw the reflection of God's glory, but they did not see his essence." Other scholars interpret statements like John 1:18 to mean that no one has every fully *perceived* the Father. Although men have from time to time seen varying degrees of God and His glory, no one has ever seen to the point of fully understanding the glory, nature and character of God. For this reason it is reasonable for God to say that He could talk to Moses face to face (Numbers 12:8) and yet for Moses to be included in the summary of John 1:18, that no one has ever seen God.

God is not an inanimate object. He is alive. Closely linked with this repetitive statement about God is the fact that God has a personality. Only a personality can talk with personal pronouns and express such a varied range of feelings.

THE UNITY OF GOD

What do the following Scriptures tell us about God?

1) Deuteronomy 4:35 _____

2) First Kings 8:60 _____

3) Isaiah 45:5 _____

4) Mark 12:29-32 _____

5) John 17:3 _____

6) First Corinthians 8:4-6 _____

7) First Timothy 2:5 _____

There is only one God. The Bible is consistent in its declaration of this truth. Some religions present a “polytheistic” (many gods) concept about God. This is not the revelation of the Bible. To suggest that there is two or more infinite beings is foolish in the light of the Scriptures. The God who created and rules the universe is the only God there is. As Christians, we do not serve three Gods, but one God. He is undivided and indivisible. He is numerically one, although unity is not a unit.

The unity of God was especially emphasised in the Old Testament. No doubt Satan knew the true nature of God during his time in heaven. Perhaps armed with this knowledge he set about to corrupt the true presentation of the triune God by the idolatrous promotion of “tri-theistic” idols. (The Canaanites worshipped a trinity of gods - “El” = the father figure; “Baal” = the son; “Asherah” = the mother figure, associated with fertility.)

This form of Paganism could have been developed around the time of Nimrod. (Genesis 11). Legend has it that he proclaimed himself the “supreme” being and his mother, whom he apparently committed incest with to produce a son, became the “goddess” while the son became the third member of this tri-idolatrous mix. Researchers have surmised that there also arose a religious system around these false deities which continued to appear through the ages despite God’s judgement upon Nimrod. (see Genesis 11:8)

THE TRIUNE NATURE OF GOD

The revelation of God throughout the Scriptures is a progressive one. Slowly and over a long period of time, the Creator revealed more and more of His nature and personality. A lot of what we know about God is actually implied in Scripture rather than being directly stated. The aspect of His triune nature is one such example.

What does Genesis 1:26 imply about God?

Who actually did the creating of the universe?

- a) Genesis 1:1 _____
- b) Colossians 1:16 _____
- c) Job 33:4 _____

In the third century AD, Arius began teaching that there has only been one eternal being. This logically followed with the teaching that Christ could not have been eternal and was therefore a created being. Although Arius was refuted successfully by the young Athanasius, some people chose to accept his teachings. Today those who hold to the teaching of Arius include “Russellites”, commonly known as “Jehovah’s Witnesses.”

Earlier this century a doctrine about the nature of God developed. This was called the “Jesus only” doctrine. This reached a height of popularity in the 1950s mainly among Pentecostals. The basic idea of this doctrine was that God manifested Himself in the Old Testament as the Father Lord. In the gospels He manifested Himself as Jesus, while in the New Testament age, He is revealing Himself as the Holy Spirit. Closely associated with this doctrine is the belief that the Name “Lord Jesus Christ” actually endorses this doctrine.

What were the disciples commanded to baptise people in? (Apart from water!)

Matthew 28:19 _____

What did the disciples actually baptise in?

Acts 2:38 _____

Acts 10:48 _____

Some people explain the apparent lack of obedience to the Great Commission injunction to baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit by rationalising that the “Lord Jesus Christ” (Lord= *Father*, Jesus= *Son*, Christ= *Holy Spirit*) can be equated directly to Matthew 28:19. There might have been some merit to this, except that the New Testament does not have *any* reference to the early disciples actually using this expression when baptising people.

PICTURES OF THE TRINITY

In the Book of Revelation, there are many intriguing uses of symbolism. It is generally accepted that the recurring use of the number seven is one of the most significant things about the book. This number represents perfect completion, God’s ultimate approval. Revelation 5:6 describes Christ as having seven horns and seven eyes. Symbolically this means that He is omnipotent and omniscient (All powerful and All knowing). In ascribing these divine attributes to Christ, the Scripture also says that the Seven Spirits of God have these attributes also. In chapters 4 and 5, the

central focal point is the very throne of God. Consistency would demand that the expression “the Seven Spirits/lamps of God” equates to what the Book in other places calls *the Spirit*, that is, the Holy Spirit. Thus, the picture is given in Revelation chapters 4 and 5, is that the Father is on the throne, the Spirit is immediately before the throne, while the Son is in their midst. In Isaiah 11:2 the Holy Spirit is described as having a sevenfold nature-

- 1) The Spirit of the Lord
- 2) The Spirit of Wisdom
- 3) Understanding
- 4) The Spirit of Counsel
- 5) Might
- 6) The Spirit of Knowledge
- 7) The fear of the Lord

At the baptism of Christ, what picture is given that confirms the triune nature of God?

Who is talking in Isaiah 48:16?

According to Genesis 18:1, who appeared to Abraham?

When Abraham lifted his head, how many men appeared?

Who does Paul mention in 2 Corinthians 13:14?

How could Ephesians 2:18 be used to justify the revelation of a trinity?

THE UNITY (ONENESS) OF GOD

God is not a three sided object that appears differently to people depending on how they look at Him. Some have tried to explain the mysterious nature of the triune God by saying that just as one man can be a brother, son and father at the same time, so God is actually a Father, a Son and a Spirit. This idea would have Jesus seem like He was in a fantasy realm every time He prayed to His Father. If He was actually the Father masquerading as the Son, He certainly went out of His way to give a different impression than that to His followers.

It was Augustine who successfully used the argument that if God was love, then He has always loved someone/thing - even before the creation of absolutely anything. This leads to the only possible conclusion available i.e. that God was experiencing love within Himself, the Godhead. The love that each member of the Trinity has for each other is not humanly comprehensible. Out of that love for each other all creation then proceeded, for which the Godhead could express His love to created beings.

TERM 3

YOUR MINISTRY

HOW TO SPEAK IN PUBLIC

“So the elders of the Jews continued to build and prospect under the preaching of Haggai the prophet and Zechariah, a descendant of Iddo. They finished building the temple according to the command of the God of Israel and the decrees of Cyrus, Darius and Artaxerxes, kings of Persia.”

Ezra 6:14 (NIV)

Christ preached (example Matthew 4:17). He commanded His disciples to preach (Matthew 10:7) “Preaching” means to *herald, proclaim, publish*.

THE “P’s” OF PREACHING

- 1) Prayer - (Colossians 4:3; Acts 1:6-8)
- 2) Preparation - (Proverbs 24:27; 1 Timothy 4:13)
- 3) Passion - (Psalm 9:1)
- 4) Practice - (Psalm 37:24)

TYPES OF PREACHING

- 1) Topical
- 2) Exegetical
- 3) Systematic
- 4) Survey
- 5) Character studies

THE AIMS OF PREACHING

- 1) To influence
- 2) To convince
- 3) To persuade (Acts 18:4; 26:28)

Write out Second Corinthians 5:11

What Makes for “Bad” Preaching? Discuss.

What makes for “Good” Preaching?

THE UNIVERSAL ADVICE OF GREAT PREACHERS

K.I.S.S.

Keep it simple stupid!

USING NOTES

- 1) *Know* your notes
- 2) Don't *depend* on your notes
- 3) Learn to edit - *the key is often what you don't say, rather than what you do!*

SUGGESTIONS

- 1) Variety is the spice of life - mix it up!
- 2) Use current issues within your sermon - be relevant
- 3) Use emotions in your message - humour, anger, sadness, delight etc.
- 4) Read widely

5) Be as visual as possible - notes, overheads, videos, visual demonstrations etc.

HOMEWORK

1. Prepare a topical sermon fully written out on two pages
2. Summarise this onto a small sheet of paper (small enough to fit into your Bible unfolded)
3. State on a separate sheet of paper-
 - a) The aim of the message
 - b) What the hearer should do with your message

HOW TO LISTEN TO OTHERS

*The best form of counselling is
preventative counselling.*

*The best form of preventative counselling
is preaching.*

Dr. Gary Collins

ASPECTS OF MAN

People are made up of different aspects. Obviously there is the physical aspect. People's physical needs are very evident. When a person is physically injured or ill, it is relatively easy to detect. But people are not just made up of this aspect. They are also intellectual. We are creatures who think. When a person's thinking is deficient, it is a little harder to detect than physical deficiencies. People are also emotional. Some people's emotions are very evident. Some people are emotionally scarred. And finally, people are also spiritual. Again, a person's true spirituality is perhaps the hardest to discern.

When people are unwell physically, they go to a medical practitioner for help.

When people are unwell intellectually, they can consult a teacher for help.

When people are unwell emotionally, where can they go for help?

When people are unwell spiritually, where can they go for help?

People have a basic desire (need) to be whole in each of these areas. No one wants to be unwell physically, intellectually, emotionally or spiritually. Let's consider the truth that we are made in the image of God. Originally man was created with the following (which can each become dysfunctional and require repairing)

A spirit

Genesis 2:7; Psalms 51:17

The ability to control

Genesis 1:28

Certain freedoms

Genesis 2:16

A sense of moral boundaries

Micah 6:8

A hunger for knowledge

Deuteronomy 5:1

Ability for communication

Genesis 4:1

Capacity to love

1Corinthians 13

A need to work

Genesis 2:15

Propensity for creativity

Genesis 2:20

Functional holiness

Genesis 1:31

An appropriate range of emotions

Genesis 6:6

THE GOALS OF COUNSELLING

“For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and you have been given fullness in Christ, who is the head over every power and authority.”

Colossians 2:9-10 (NIV)

“We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ.”

Colossians 1:28 (NIV)

- 1) To bring people into Christian maturity by bringing them closer to God (Ephesians 4:13).
- 2) To assist people to be effective in the midst of the pressures of daily living (James 1:2-8).
- 3) To help people to relate to others (Ephesians 2:14; 4:1-3).
- 4) To encourage people to see God as their Source (Philemon 4:1-7).

WHAT TO DO WHEN COUNSELLING

Counsellors use their ears as their prime ministry tool. This involves -

- 1) Empathy - express feelings for the person's problem. Don't be critical.
- 2) Accept - the person without endorsing their lifestyle or opinions.
- 3) Naturalness - don't come across as a professional.
- 4) Non-verbals - watch for expressions, movements, body posture, etc.
- 5) How - listen to how things are said. (tone, emphasis, etc.)
- 6) Omissions - note things that are not said. (story gaps, contradictions)
- 7) Questions - don't probe too deeply.
- 8) Eye contact.

PRINCIPLES TO WORK BY

Not everybody responds to the same technique. While a relationship with God is the key element in resolving problems within a person's life, salvation alone will not solve a person's problems. It must be stressed that people are responsible for their own actions and attitudes. They should be expected to do something with the advice they receive. (this may include homework) Our advice is never contrary to the Word of God. We are subject to it and so is our advice.

When bringing correction, do so gently. We should be empathetic, showing empathy (an awareness and understanding of where the person is at emotionally), rather than sympathetically.

Employ the following principles in all counselling sessions:

- Offer hope
- Point to God's provision
- Remind them of God's ability
- Take immediate action
- Encourage a response

REASONS FOR FAILURE

- Under estimated spiritual oppression
- An unwillingness to change
- Too soon
- Mis-diagnosis

HOMEWORK

1. Bert has recently become a Christian and joined our Youth Group. He has asked you for assistance in giving up smoking. This is the first time he has asked you for such help. You will be seeing him in a few days to go through a stop smoking programme. What do you want him to do in the meantime as preparation?

2. Gertrude (for the ladies, Gerhardt for the men) is a friend whom you have seen regularly at church. After one morning service she/he confides in you that they are unhappy in their marriage and have been so for some time. They are not willing to seek professional advice but Gertrude/Gerhardt is asking you for advice. You have noticed that her/his attitude toward her/his spouse is fairly negative. What practical steps would you suggest for an initial dealing with the problem?

HOW TO BE A TEAM MEMBER

*“So Moses’ father-in-law said to him, “The thing that you do is not good.”
“Both you and these people who are with you will surely wear yourselves out.
For this thing is too much for you; you are not able to perform it by yourself.”*

Exodus 18:17 (NKJV)

THE ADVANTAGE OF A TEAM

Dr. Bob went to a disaster zone as an international relief worker. Disease and injury was rampant. He came across with ample equipment and supplies. Upon arriving, he immediately noticed a critically ill patient on the roadside. He quickly mustered the assistance of the relief nurses. They set about frantically trying to relieve the man. They used all the drugs, equipment and techniques they could. Eventually they stabilised the man. Without time for a break, another patient was brought in to them on the roadside where they had just completed their work on the first patient. Several hours went by until Dr. Bob was able to save that patient. That first day on the relief field, Dr. Bob saw four such cases. After two weeks he was exhausted. He expended all the medical supplies and had seriously run down the medical equipment. The relief organisation flew Dr. Bob home to recuperate.

Within three days they sent replacement doctor, Dr. John, over to the disaster zone. Dr. John got off the plane and surveyed the scene. He was allocated the same scarce resources as Dr. Bob. He saw the suffering. He saw where they lived. He enquired as to the source of clean water. During this process several pitiful cases were brought to him for urgent attention. He refused to assist until he had completed the survey.

Dr. John then set about organising the medical relief operation. He recruited several young men and women who had shown an interest in medicine and were reasonably healthy. He trained them in the basics of the frequently used medical procedures. He then had them assist him in a few of these procedures. He then supervised them as they carried out the procedures themselves. After three months, the disaster zone was well and truly in hand medically. Many lives had been saved thanks to the efforts of Dr. John.

What are the advantages of a team approach?

Undoubtedly more can be achieved by a team than by an individual. The philosophy of a team is exactly what God envisages for His people.

THE INGREDIENTS OF A TEAM

Fill in the Church column, the appropriate comparison within a church compared with a sporting team.

A TEAM	A CHURCH
1. A Captain/Coach	1
2. Well recruited team members	2
3. Well qualified team members	3
4. A spirit of co-operation	4
5. A common goal	5

In a team each member is able to focus and concentrate on their particular function rather than trying to do everything. In this way team members complement each other and more is achieved.

The benefits to team members from being in a team also includes-
balance, greater efficiency, mutual support, greater rewards, shared honour and motivation.

THE ROLE OF A TEAM MANAGER

The team manager may also function as the captain/coach It is his job to recruit, train, reward, discipline, motivate and oversee his team Note how this applies in the church-

1. Recruit

2. Train

3. *Reward*

4. Discipline

5. *Motivate*

6. Oversee

Being a team manager is much more than mere delegation. It is “fathering” (1 Corinthians 4:15). It is not a matter of giving everybody in sight a job just to keep them quiet and you lazy. It is hard work because it carries with it the most responsibility. Not everybody can accept such responsibility and not every team manager has the same capacity to lead a team-

“And Moses chose able men out of Israel and made them heads over the people: rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of tens So they judged the people at all times; the hard cases they brought to Moses, but they judged every small case themselves.”

Exodus 18:25-26 (NKJV)

What was Timothy’s role according to the instruction of Paul in Second Timothy 2:2?

THE BIBLICAL PRECEDENTS

Is the concept of a team relevant for the church, or is it just a secular business principle? We observe godly team structure and ministry in both the Old and New Testaments. As we have already seen-

- Moses was required to establish a team (Exodus 18).
- King David established a team (2 Samuel. 23:8ff).
- Christ established a team (Matthew 10:1-4).
- Paul established a team (Acts 13:1-2).
- The Holy Spirit works through teams (Acts 13:1-2).

The church is described in team-like descriptives (body, nation, people, priesthood).

Homework

1 Organise to perform a song together next week. Decide what role each of you will play in the rehearsal and performance of this song. The song must involve everybody and it must be a “worship” song. You will perform this song next week.

HOW TO BE AN INSPIRING WORSHIPPER

*God has called us to be worshipers first,
then workers.*

A.W. Tozer

The Scriptures seem to assume that people will worship. The issues of “how” are not elevated above the issues of “who”. There are numerous ways to worship, but there is only one option on Who to worship. The first point of the Decalogue makes this clear. There are however some basic and universal ways to worship that seem to be common to all cultures and races. This can only be explained by assuming that they must be “original”. If something is original it was there from the beginning of man. This is why every ancient culture has a creation story. A creation story that involves a serpent, a woman and a fall! What else can we assume is original? Clearly worship is original. Every culture, ancient and modern, has a desire to worship. Those aspects of worship that are seen to be universal can also be assumed to be original.

Singing and music appear to be original forms of worship. Every culture is affected by it. It is conceivable that when God came down to spend time with Adam, that (1) Adam’s immediate and most natural response was to honour God in worship; and (2) worshipping hosts of angels may have accompanied God. Either assumption involves two inseparables i.e. God and worship.

Note how Christ articulated this truth (Luke 19:8-40)

It appears that God has created angels with the prime purpose of offering worship. Apart from the NIV in a couple of references, the Bible does not say that angels sing! Yet quite clearly they do. The point is, even when a worshipping spirit speaks it seems like singing!

“Saying with a loud voice: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom. And strength and honour and glory and blessing!”

Revelation 5:12 (NKJV)

“In a loud voice they sang: “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honour and glory and praise!”

Revelation 5:12 (NIV)

Singing as a form of worship is one of the earliest documented. We note Moses and the response of Israel when they came out of Egypt.

“Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the Lord: “I will sing to the LORD, because he is worthy of great honour. He has thrown the horse and its rider into the sea.”

Exodus 15:1 (NCV)

They sang what was relevant for their time. They sang in a contemporary style. They accompanied their music with contemporary instruments, singing styles and dance. This has been the expectation of the Scripture writers since that time.

“But let everyone who trusts you be happy; let them sing glad songs forever. Protect those who love you and who are happy because of you.”

Psalms 5:11 (NCV)

“I sing to the Lord because he has taken care of me.”

Psalms 13:6 (NCV)

“Praise the Lord! Praise God in his Temple; praise him in his mighty heaven. Praise him for his strength; praise him for his greatness. Praise him with trumpet blasts; praise him with harps and lyres. Praise him with tambourines and dancing; praise him with stringed instruments and flutes. Praise him with loud cymbals; Praise him with crashing cymbals. Let everything that breathes praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!”

Psalms 150 (NCV)

THE VALUE OF WORSHIP IN A MEETING OF BELIEVERS

“Let the teaching of Christ live in you richly. Use all wisdom to teach and instruct each other by singing psalms, hymns; and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.”

Colossians 3:16 (NCV)

The New Testaments sets out the place of worship as a means by which we can build each other up. Worship is good for the growth of the believer! We need music and singing. The Psalms talk about worship as a means of evangelism.

“I waited patiently for the Lord. He turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the pit of destruction out of the sticky mud. He stood me on a rock and made my feet steady. He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many people will see this and worship him. Then they will trust the Lord.”

Psalms 40:1-3 (NCV)

Worship is also called “ministry” to the Lord. (Acts 13:103). It blesses God.

Therefore we need to understand the purpose of worship.

- 1) It serves to focus the believers on God
- 2) It ministers inspiration to believers
- 3) It ministers to the Lord
- 4) It touches the heart of the unbeliever
- 5) It prepares the way for the preaching of the Word

“But now bring me a harpist. While the harpist was playing the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha.”

Second Kings 3:15 (NIV)

“Praise the Lord! Sing a new song to the Lord; sing his praise in the meeting of his people.”

Psalms 149:1 (NCV)

LEADING WORSHIP

- 1) Be contemporary
- 2) Know the song! If you aren't sure of it, neither will those who follow you
- 3) Use appropriate musical accompaniment
- 4) When using back-up singers, lead rather than sing
- 5) Try to select songs that confirm a consistent theme
- 6) Try to select songs that are possible to run together i.e. they are in the same key
- 7) Be a worshipper by lifestyle

Homework

1. Organise a 5 minute Bible study, based on your sermon notes that you did earlier. You will lead this Bible study next week.

HOW TO LEAD A SMALL GROUP

“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising 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; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Part of the task that the Lord has given the Church to do is discipling and teaching. From the example of Christ and many of the early apostles it appears that they carried out this task in small groups. Christ had an inner circle of three, then twelve apostles and then seventy (plus a constant band of women that followed and supported His ministry as well). This all confirms that Christ worked in small groups. Paul the apostle also had a band of disciples in his team that obviously learned from him (Colossians 4:7-14). We can see a pattern in both the ministry of our Lord and the early apostles. This pattern may be stated as-

Preach to the crowds

Teach and train the group

THE BIBLICAL PRECEDENT FOR SMALL GROUPS

The pattern of the earliest church continuing to meet in the temple on the Sabbath and then in homes throughout the week is seen in the early chapters of the Book of Acts.

“So continuing daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart.”

Acts 2:46 (NKJV)

As the church developed and the persecution against it increased, the church was, in many parts of the Empire, forced to meet in homes. The argument that the Church was intended to only meet in homes is not a very convincing one, but the argument that the church needs to teach and train in small groups, while it preaches to the multitudes, *is* an extremely convincing one.

THE ADVANTAGE OF SMALL GROUPS

Discuss and list the advantages of using small groups within a church-

Small groups provide an ideal ground for nurturing. The wise home group leader can achieve good pastoral results within a small group. Whilst there are a variety of small groups each serving different purposes, we will proceed with an examination of one type i.e. the pastoral home group.

THE PASTORAL HOME GROUP

The purpose of this type of small group is the maintenance of the pastoral care programme of the church. It is recognised that one, or even two church services on a Sunday, can not in themselves adequately satisfy the pastoral needs of believers. While the broader teaching and preaching emphasis of the church can be conducted in the Sunday meetings, it is not appropriate for discussion and questions to be voiced mid-sentence during the preachers sermon. Neither can the preacher legitimately use the pulpit to deal with everybody's peculiar situations. These matters are best left to a pastoral small group.

A pastoral small group meeting in a home can achieve several things while serving to maintain the pastoral care programme of the church.

- 1) People can be taught more intimately, with greater room for detail and subsequent discussion and questions.
- 2) People have a more relaxed opportunity to fellowship with their brothers and sisters while in a home meeting.
- 3) The small group pastor is in a better position to discern where people are at. Through the building of trust and confidence in the leader, people are more inclined to relate more closely to him/her and consequently be more open.
- 4) The leader is able to exercise his pastoral giftings of teaching, leadership, prayer ministry and counsel, in an on-going fashion.
- 5) People are able to crawl before they walk in such matters as (1) song leading, (2) laying on of hands (3) teaching (4) spiritual gifts and (5) fellowship.

- 6) It also gives opportunity for people to exercise the ministry of hospitality.

THE ROLE OF THE LEADER

The pastoral home group leader is the key to its success. Poor leadership will result in a mediocre home group. The leader must have a pastoral heart plus the necessary developed skills to carry out pastoral ministry. He must be confident without being cocky. He must be able to read well and explain what he is saying. He must like people! He needs to be a good listener. He needs experience in real life situations. He needs to be the one who is controlling the meeting by directing its flow and ensuring that its purposes and goals are met. All too often leaders fail in small group leading because they don't understand the dynamics of a small group meeting.

THE DYNAMICS OF THE SMALL GROUP

People sometimes come to the small group with an agenda. It is important that the group clearly understand what the purpose of the group is. Confusion at this point may lead to some trying to change the flavour of the group. If this happens several times, the group becomes vague and loses its effectiveness. The pastoral home group may use the following as a guide -

7:30pm - 7:45pm Worship and opportunity for using the spiritual gifts

7.45pm - 8.00pm Sharing and prayer requests

8:00pm - 8:15pm Prayer for immediate & ongoing needs

8:15pm - 9:00pm Bible Study

9:00pm - 9:30pm Fellowship over supper

Some of the dynamics that need to be happening in the group include- the training of people in worship, prayer, Bible teaching and care; the opportunity for people to express themselves for where they are at; the opportunity for people to make mistakes; the discipling of people and the care of people.

CHURCH-BASED LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

ANSWER KEYS

Page 9

- example
- influences
- action
- good
- bad
- born
- need
- God

Page 10

- godly
- church
- market place
- ministry
- corrupted
- exiled

Page 11

- lack
- corrupt
- leaders

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

- responsibility
- church
- humility
- pride
- heart
- External pressures- examples: expectations of others; criticisms; competition; deadlines Discouragement factors - examples: negative people; lack of training; lack of resources; failure to prepare; no network support (of people)
- gift
- potential

Page 12

- delegated

Eldership requirements include - above reproach; blameless; husband of one wife; self-controlled; consistent; wise; respectable; hospitable; able to teach; not a drunkard; not violent; gentle; peaceable; not quarrelsome; not a lover of money; manages family well; not a new convert; good reputation with outsiders

Deacon requirements are the same, but with one exception i.e. ***the ability to teach*** (this does not mean they don't teach, but they may not necessarily have a gift to do it).

Page 14

- attitudes
- dedicates
- sin

Page 15

- reader
- Numbers 12:7 - Moses was "faithful"

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

- 1 Samuel 2:35 - “faithful” ‘a heart after Me’
- seek
- looking
- expected
- develops

Page 17

- prepares

Page 18

- body
- church
- doers
- mature
- older

Page 19

- leadership
- develop

1. An inner sense (intuition) - Whatever your God-given ministry is, should not be a surprise to you!

2. A critical ability - You will often criticise most what you actually have gifts for

3. A natural tendency - ‘Water finds its level’ and people tend to do what they’re gifted at

4. Prophetic confirmation - Others will endorse or confirm to you your gifts and ministry

5. A desire - God will place in you a desire to do what you are called to do (Philippians 2:14)

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

1. Be teachable - Proverbs 12:1; Timothy 2:12
2. Be submissive to authority - Hebrews 13:7, 17
3. Be pro-active - Acts 16:6
4. Be focussed - Galatians 2:9; 1 Corinthians 9:27
5. Be pro-active - 1 Timothy 4:14-15
6. Be resilient - Psalm 37:23-24
7. Be patient - Ecclesiastes 7:8; 1 Thessalonians 5:14

Hidden Purpose - God is 'secretly' preparing a person for their purpose. Life's trials and lessons don't always appear to have a good purpose at the time.

Assumed Purpose - A person begins to understand how God has gifted them and what He generally wants them to do.

Arrived Purpose - Being led by the Spirit, the maturing leader will arrive in that place where they understand and accept who they are, how God has gifted them, and what their ministry sphere is.

Page 21

- authorised
- victory
- emphasised
- showed
- gentle
- Joseph
- Moses
- Jesus

Page 22

- suffer
- invested
- benefits

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

- free
- local

Page 23

- order

Page 25

- pride
- servant
- ruined
- humble
- convince

"These include"... {Group discussion answers. Suggestions: *negative, selfish, doubting, introspective, self-righteous...*}

Page 27

- scaffolding
- build
- tested

Page 29

- attitude
- ruined
- pride
- resilient
- humorous
- love

Page 30

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

- shepherd
- Son
- Revisit Jeremiah 23 and Ezekiel 34. Suggestions: *build up the people, bring people together, feed the sheep, care for the sheep, provide security, etc.*}

Page 32

- realistic

Page 37

- God
- Bible
- us

Page 38

- context
- verses
- passage
- book
- setting

Page 39

- covenant
- agreement

Page 41

- history
- Judges
- exile

ANSWER KEYS Cont'd

Page 42

- Saviour

Page 43

- agreement
- blood
- command

Page 44

- that

Page 49

- hope
- between

Page 68

- payment
- guilt
- God

Page 69

- wrath
- works