

This New Life

A Class for New Christians

Preface

This document was written as a text for a class for new Christians and as a handout for the members in the class. It can be freely copied as desired to be used for the glory of God.

Let me explain the way scripture references are used. Any time there is a scripture reference, the entire class should turn to that place in the Bible. This will help each student get familiar with the Bible, and will also allow each student to read the passage as it is being discussed.

For a scripture reference like the following:

Colossians 1:15-19 (16-17)

verses 15-19 should be read to get the context, and verses 16-17 specifically relate to the topic being studied.

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1. Introduction to the Bible

The Bible is God's Word. It is the most important book in the world.

1.1 Facts

- Two parts, Old Testament and New Testament
- 66 books in the Bible
 - 39 books in the Old Testament
 - 27 books in the New Testament

1.2 Memorization

1. Memorize the first verse of the Bible: Genesis 1:1
2. Begin memorizing the names of the books of the New Testament

1.3 Importance of the Bible

1. The Bible is God's Word
2. The Word Of God is powerful Hebrews 4:12
3. The Word Of God is eternal Psalm 119:89, Matthew 24:35
4. The Word Of God is pure Psalm 119:140
5. The Word Of God is precious Psalm 119:127, Psalm 19:9-11
6. The Word Of God should be memorized Psalm 119:11
7. The Word Of God can direct our lives Psalm 119.105
8. We should spend time in God's Word Psalm 119:147-148, II Timothy 2:15
9. God's name is holy, and one of the Ten Commandments warns that we should be careful how we speak His Holy Name. But God has exalted His Word above His Name.
Exodus 20:7, Psalm 138:2
10. The scriptures come from God, and are not subject to private interpretation II Peter 1:20-21
11. The scriptures come from God, and are good for instruction II Timothy 3:16-17
12. The Word of God is necessary for the Christian to grow I Peter 2:2
13. When God says something in His word, we can depend on it. We can trust our eternal soul to the promises of God (which is exactly what we do when we get saved). Titus 1:2

1.4 Abbreviations

Most new Christians are not familiar with the names of the books of the Bible, and have difficulty understanding scripture references that use abbreviations for the books of the Bible. For that reason, no abbreviations have been used up to this point in this course. However, most scripture references that we encounter use abbreviations for the books of the Bible. For that reason, a list of common abbreviations of the books of the New Testament is listed here.

New Testament Book	Abbreviations	Memorization Aid
Matthew	Mt, Mat, Matt	
Mark	Mk	
Luke	Lk	
John	Jn	
Acts		
Romans	Rom	
I Corinthians	I Cor, 1 Cor	
II Corinthians	II Cor, 2 Cor	
Galatians	Gal	Go
Ephesians	Eph	Everywhere
Philippians	Phil	Preaching
Colossians	Col	Christ
I Thessalonians	I Thes, 1 Thes	
II Thessalonians	II Thes, 2 Thes	
I Timothy	I Tim, 1 Tim	
II Timothy	II Tim, 2 Tim	
Titus	Tit	
Philemon	Phile	
Hebrews	Heb	
James	Jas	
I Peter	I Pet, 1 Pet	
II Peter	II Pet, 2 Pet	
I John	I Jn, 1 Jn	
II John	II Jn, 2 Jn	
III John	III Jn, 3 Jn	
Jude	Jude	
Revelation	Rev	

2. This New Relationship

Becoming a Christian is the greatest thing that can happen to a person. But becoming a Christian is just the beginning of a long relationship with the Lord. We will look at a few aspects of that relationship.

2.1 *Eternal Security*

One point that confuses some Christians is how long does salvation last? Some think it only lasts until their next sin. Let's look at some scriptures on the subject.

1. John 3:16 (shall have what kind of life?)
2. John 6:37-40
3. John 10:27-30 (verse 28 says it all)
4. Eph. 1:13-14 When we are saved, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit. He is the seal of God's promise to return for us and to take us to heaven. The Holy Spirit is the seal, and He is the earnest, or down payment, of our inheritance "until the redemption of the purchased possession".
5. Heb. 13:5

2.1.1 What Happens When We Sin After We Are Saved?

When we are born into the family of God, God becomes our Father and we become his child. From that point on, He deals with us as His children.

(1 John 2:1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

Notice that the verse says "if any man sin, we have an advocate with the **Father**". It does not say we have an advocate with God. Words in the Bible are important. It says we have an advocate with the Father. When we sin, He is still our Father.

God is never pleased when we sin. When a Christian sins, fellowship is broken with God. But, God loves us and has given us a promise that we can claim to restore the relationship.

(1 John 1:9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2.1.2 Memorization

1. John 3:16
2. 1 John 1:9

2.2 *The Separated Life*

It is easy to become a Christian. It is difficult to live the Christian life. The Christian life is a victorious one, but it is a difficult one.

One thing we must understand is that as a Christian we must live differently than we did as an unsaved person.

(2 Cor. 5:17) Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

Salvation is a new birth, a new creation. The very desires of the heart are changed. The new person will only please God. However, the old person is still there, and the flesh always seeks to be satisfied. If the new person is in charge, we please God. If the old person is in charge, we try to please the flesh, and do not please God.

(1 Cor. 6:19) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

(1 Cor. 6:20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and we are not to contaminate the temple of God! The passage says “and ye are not your own... For ye are bought with a price...” What kind of person is bought and sold? The answer: a slave. We were slaves to sin, and we have been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ. We belong to God. When we were saved, we accepted Jesus Christ as our **Lord** and **Savior**. We belong to God: our body and spirit, and we are to glorify God in everything.

(Rom 12:1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

(Rom 12:2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Notice that verse 1 says “... which is your reasonable service.” In verse 2, how do we transform our mind? By spending time in God’s Word. Verse 2 also emphasizes the importance of finding God’s will for our life. Notice that verse 2 says “And be not conformed to this world...”. We have a new standard: God’s way, God’s Word; not the world’s way.

2.2.1 Memorization

1. 1 Cor. 6:19-20
2. Rom. 12:1-2

3. Jesus The Creator

Gen. 1:1

John 1:1-3

In John 1:1, “Word” is someone’s name. Whose name is it? Verse 14 tells us that “Word” is Jesus Christ. Verse 3 tells us that “Word” made all things “... and without him was not anything made that was made.”

Col. 1:15-19 (16-17)

In verse 17, “...by him all things consist.” Jesus Christ holds the creation together. He is the power behind the “laws of nature”. He is the power that keeps the earth in its orbit around the sun, so that we don’t collapse into the sun and burn up, or sling away from the sun and freeze. Opposite charges attract and like charges repel, so what keeps the protons in the nucleus of every atom together? Answer: Jesus Christ.

Rom. 11:36

Rev. 4:6-11 (11)

3.1 Memorization

Continue to work on memorizing the books of the New Testament.

4. Ordinances of the Church

Under the Old Testament law, there were many sacrifices, Sabbaths, Feast Days and Offerings that were required.

In the Age of Grace, or Church Age (now), there are only two ordinances, or sacraments, that God requires of the Christian. They are **baptism** and **communion**.

4.1 Baptism

The first ordinance for a new Christian is baptism. Jesus is our example in all things, and Jesus was baptized. (See Mat 3:13-17 ; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22)

The Christian is instructed to be baptized.

(Mark 16:16) "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

This does not mean that baptism is required for salvation, but shows the proper order. A person must get saved, then get baptized.

(Acts 8:36) "And as they went on *their* way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, *here is* water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

(Acts 8:37) "And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

(1 Pet 3:21) "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

Baptism does not "put away the filth of the flesh", or take away our sin, but is "the answer of a good conscience toward God". It is an act of obedience after we get saved.

Baptism is a public act that says to the world, "I am a Christian and I'm not ashamed of it!" We are identifying ourselves with the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Baptism is an act of obedience in following the Lord. If a Christian refuses to get baptized, he will not do much for Him.

If it is impossible for a person to get baptized after they are saved, that will not keep that person out of Heaven. Jesus said to the dying thief on the cross next to him:

(Luke 23:43) "And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

That man died on the cross after he got saved. He never had a chance to get baptized, and he is in Heaven today.

How should a person be baptized? We believe baptism should be by immersion. The Greek word (The New Testament was written in Greek) is (from the Hebrew-Greek Dictionary of QuickVerse®)

G907. baptizo, bap-tid'-zo; from a der. of **G911**; to make whelmed (i.e. fully wet); used only (in the N.T.) of ceremonial ablution, espec. (techn.) of the ordinance of Chr. baptism:--baptist, baptize, wash.

G911. bapto, bap'-to; a prim. verb; to whelm, i.e. cover wholly with a fluid; in the N.T. only in a qualified or spec. sense, i.e. (lit.) to moisten (a part of one's person), or (by impl.) to stain (as with dye):--dip.

From the dictionary, the word **whelm** (from G907, whelmed)

whelm \ˈhwelm, ˈwelm\ *verb* [ME] (14c)

verb transitive

1 : to turn (as a dish or vessel) upside down usu. to cover something : cover or engulf completely with usu. disastrous effect

2 : to overcome in thought or feeling : OVERWHELM

verb intransitive

: to pass or go over something so as to bury or submerge it

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A question that often comes up is “I got baptized before I got saved, do I need to be baptized again?” The answer is YES. If a person got baptized before getting saved, he only got wet. It in no way fits in the order of ordinances given to the Church. A person gets baptized **after** getting saved.

4.2 Communion

The second ordinance of the Church is communion. The two main passages in the Bible are **Mat 26:26-30** and **1 Cor 11:23-31**. The passage in 1st Corinthians 11 talks about not taking communion unworthily. It says that a person should “examine himself” [verse 28] before taking communion. Verse 30 says that there were many weak and sickly among them and many sleep because they took communion unworthily. When it says they “sleep”, it means they are dead. Communion is a time to stop in the busy race of life and examine ourselves before a Holy God to make sure all sin is confessed and everything is gone that has come between us and God. We need that time of refreshing and examination, to get back close to God. Close to God is the best place for a Christian to be. Communion is something that God set up for us to make sure that from time to time, we check up on ourselves to make sure we are where we should be.

Some people avoid communion because of the warning of taking it unworthily. Not taking communion is disobeying God, because He told us to do it.

The Bible does not say how often to take communion. Each local Church establishes their own schedule for communion. Be faithful to the communion services at your Church.