

Introduction to the Bible Course Part I

This Bible course is in two parts. Part I of the course is about the Good News of the Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ. Everyone knows the name of Jesus Christ is about the death of Jesus for our sins, and the resurrection from the dead, but it is about a lot more than just that. Who was Jesus? Was Joseph his father? Did he pre-exist?

Jesus said, ***“I am the resurrection...”***(*John 1:25*) Therefore to understand the name of Jesus Christ, we must understand the resurrection. Why is it necessary? Are only baptized believers resurrected? Do we come out of the grave as mortals, or as immortals? Who is resurrected at the first resurrection? Who is resurrected at the second resurrection? What happens to the people who are resurrected?

The Bible says, ***“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.”*** (*1 John 3:8*) Thus we do not know why Jesus appeared unless we know who the devil is. Thus an understanding of the devil's identity is part of the things concerning the name of Jesus Christ.

This explains what is in Part I of the course.

All quotations are from the New International Version of the Bible.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE
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Lesson 1

Reading the Bible

We should all try to read the Bible every day. Daily readings should begin when we study for baptism. The Bereans, ***“were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.”*** (Acts 17:11). The Bible is so basic to our learning the Truth, that it is spoken of as the seed. (1 Peter 1:23).

Our need for daily reading and meditation on God’s Word does not stop at baptism. ***Psalm 1:1-3*** says the man is happy who delights in the law of the LORD, adding, ***“on his law he meditates day and night. He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.”*** It is interesting that such a one is like a tree planted by the rivers of water since water symbolizes the word of God. (Ephesians 5:26). This shows there is no way to catch up with our readings. Reading sporadically is like a flood on parched ground. Water gives life to plants and makes it possible for them to bring forth fruit. ***Galatians 5:22-23*** says, ***“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*** A plant with no water dies, a plant with a little water grows, but never yields fruit; a plant with regular watering brings forth fruit in due season.

One reason Bible reading, meditation, and memorization is necessary is because without faith it is impossible to please God. (Hebrews 11:6) ***“Faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.”*** (Romans 10:17)

Hence, without the Bible in our hearts and minds, we will not have the faith necessary for salvation.

All of us want God to answer our prayers, but why should He listen to us if we do not listen to His Word? ***“If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.”*** (Proverbs 28:9)

We should make an effort to spend more time with God’s word. If it is not our habit to do the daily readings, we should make an effort to do them. If we are among those who do the daily readings, we should try to study prophecy or even memorize scripture so we can rebuke the devil, as Jesus did in the wilderness, by quoting Scripture. There is room for improvement in almost everyone.

Lesson 2

Daniel Chapter 2

In Daniel 2 we read about a dream King Nebuchadnezzar had, which is a challenge to all time.

In the dream Nebuchadnezzar saw an image. Its head was gold, its arms were silver, its belly and thighs were bronze, its legs were iron, and its feet were part of iron and part muddy clay. Daniel prayed that God would interpret the dream for the king. His prayer was answered and Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar the meaning of the dream.

The image's head of gold was Nebuchadnezzar himself. After Babylon an inferior nation would arise, represented by silver which is inferior to gold. The two arms stand for the Medes and the Persians. The next kingdom was Greece, represented by bronze. Bronze is inferior to silver, and Greece was inferior to Persia. The two legs of iron represent the Eastern, and the Western Roman Empire. Iron is strong and useful but is not ornamental, thus it is a fitting symbol of Rome. The feet of the image were iron mixed with mud, which is what you get when you smelt iron improperly, showing the nations after Rome did not adhere to each other. All these kingdoms ruled over the Middle East when Jews were there.

After the Roman Empire, there were no more empires over the Middle East. This is seen in the image, as there were no kingdoms after the legs of iron. This is a challenge to all time. Put an empire over the Middle East when Jews are in the land, and you will prove the Bible is bogus, something nobody has done in 2600 years. Thus, Daniel 2 helps prove the Bible is God's Word.

Lesson 3

The Jews are God's Witnesses

The history of the Jews is like the history of no other people on earth. They were scattered throughout the earth, but they did not diffuse into the surrounding nations. They were hated everywhere they went. The most amazing thing that happened to them is they became a single nation again, after wandering everywhere for 2000 years. This has happened to no other people. When was the last time you met a Babylonian, or a Philistine? The significance of all this is that the Jews are God's witnesses. (*Isaiah 43:10*) As unwilling witnesses they fulfill centuries of prophesy, showing the Bible is what it claims to be: the Word of God. Let us look at the Biblical record.

As predicted they were scattered throughout the earth and did not diffuse into other nations. (*Leviticus 26:33, Deuteronomy 4:27*) Everyone knows this has happened to Jews down to this day. It is also common knowledge that the Jews have been hated throughout all time as was seen in *Deuteronomy 28:37*, "You will become a thing of horror and an object of scorn and ridicule to all the nations where the LORD will drive you."

To understand the book of Ezekiel in the Bible you must realize Ezekiel wrote when Nebuchadnezzar was the king of Babylon, about 600 BC. The Jewish people had been divided into two nations for centuries. The northern nation had gone into captivity generations before this time. Now in the days of Nebuchadnezzar the southern nation was taken captive to Babylon. The question every Jew asked was, "Will the Jews get out of captivity, and will they be one nation, not two?"

Ezekiel addressed this question in *Chapter 37:16-19*, which reads, "Son of man, take a stick of wood and write on it, 'Belonging to Judah and the Israelites associated with him.' Then take another stick of wood, and write on it, 'Ephraim's stick, belonging to Joseph and all the house of Israel associated with him.' Join them together into one stick so that they will become one in your hand. When your countrymen ask you, 'Won't you tell us what you mean by this?' Say to them, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am going to take the stick of Joseph - which is in Ephraim's hand - and of the Israelite tribes associated with him, and join it to Judah's stick, making them a single stick of wood, and they will become one in my hand.' What a remarkable prophecy this was! In this passage Ezekiel said that two Jewish nations will be one nation again. He called the southern nation Judah, and the northern nation Ephraim. It was fulfilled 2600 years later when Israel was again a nation. Can man prophesy of events 2600 years in advance? Truly, this was written by the hand of God.

Ezekiel went on to say how this was to come to pass. (*Ezekiel 37:1-10*) "The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me to and fro among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?' I said, 'O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones; I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin. I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD. So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.' So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them, they came to life and stood up on their feet - a vast army.'"

Here we see that Israel was to become a nation in stages. First, bone came to bone. Second, flesh came to bones. Third, breath was given to the bodies. Israel became a nation in stages as predicted. In the 19th century the Zionist movement sought a homeland for the Jews. In World War I Britain took Palestine from the Turks, and the Balfour Declaration allowed Jews to return to the Holy Land. Jews in Europe were comfortable and had little desire to return. World War II saw horrific persecution of the Jews, which became the incentive for them to move to Israel. Then in 1948 Israel became a nation.

The unusual history of the Jews made them an unwilling witness to the divine inspiration of God's Word, as their unique history was mapped out thousands of years in advance. It is statistically impossible for this to be a coincidence. Truly the Bible is the Word of God.

Lesson 4

The Second Coming

One of the reasons we can believe that the Bible is the Word of God is because the prophecy of the end of time is coming true.

The main prophecy is **Luke 17:26-27**. (Note the NIV translation uses "Noe" where most translations use "Noah.") ***“Just as it was in the days of Noe, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noe entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all.”*** The account in Genesis sheds light on the marriage customs of the days of Noah. ***“The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.”*** (Genesis 6:2) The son’s of God is a term referring to believers. (Deuteronomy 14:1, Psalm 82:6, John 1:12, 1 John 3:1) In other words, at the time of the end believers in the true God will marry unbelievers.

The people in Noah’s day were very wicked. (Genesis 6:5) We can expect this in the end of time.

Paul also says it will be evil at the end of our age. ***“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God - having a form of godliness but denying its power...”*** (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Denying the true God's power makes no sense, as even back in ancient times, people attributed limited power to there gods. In our age, God is seen as having no power.

A similar prophesy about the end of our age is **Luke 17:28-29** ***“It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.”*** These activities are not evil in themselves, but they were evil because Sodom was so caught up in everyday affairs that they didn’t have time for God.

Just as Sodom had a narcotics problem, we can expect a narcotics problem at the end of time. We see this in **Deuteronomy 32:32** where it says, the grapes of Sodom and Gomorrah were grapes of poison. The word for poison in Hebrew means head, refering to the head of the poppy plant from which opium is derived.

Ezekiel describes how the end of time will be like Sodom saying, ***“Now this was the sin of your sister Sodom: She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy.”*** (Ezekiel 16:49)

The way people lack shame these days was also a characteristic of Sodom. ***“...they parade their sin like Sodom; they do not hide it.”*** (Isaiah 3:9) Living in sin and showing no shame are signs of the end of time.

Fornication, like sodomy, is a sign of the time of the end. (Jude 7)

When Lot went to live in Sodom he went gradually. Inittily, he looked over the area. (Genesis 13:2) He chose this vicinity, and pitched his tent towards Sodom, (Genesis 13:11-12) then he dwelt in Sodom. (Genesis 14:12) Lastly, he took an active part in the affairs of Sodom by being a judge. (Genesis 19:1) In like manner the end of our age has become evil gradually.

The description of the end of time in **Luke 17** is getting more and more like the age in which we live, suggesting that the Bible is the Word of God.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #1

- 1) *Can you find the books of the Bible easily?*
- 2) *Why do we need to read the Bible every day?*
- 3) *How do we get faith?*
- 4) *Does God answer the prayers of people who do not read the Bible?*

Lesson #2

- 1) *Who had the dream?*
- 2) *What does the head of the image symbolize?*
- 3) *What do the arms of the image stand for?*
- 4) *What does the belly and thighs of the image symbolize?*
- 5) *What do the legs of the image represent?*
- 6) *What does the feet of the image symbolize?*
- 7) *How is this dream a challenge for all time?*

Lesson #3

- 1) *Who are God's witnesses?*
- 2) *List 2 things that are amazing about Ezekiel 37.*
- 3) *Was Israel re-established gradually or all at once?*
- 4) *What were the historic stages Israel went through to become a nation again?*

Lesson #4

- 1) *List the ways our day is like the days of Noah and Lot:*
- 2) *What did Paul say the end of our age would be like?*

Lesson 5

The Fall of Man

Paul said, ***“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all will be made alive.”*** (1 Corinthians 15:22) From this we see that we must believe that story of Adam and Eve, because it explains why Jesus had to die on the cross to save sinners.

Adam and Eve did not do what God wanted them to do. When Adam and Eve, the first people, were in the Garden of Eden, God told them not to eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil or they would die. (Genesis 3:1-2) The serpent was crafty, and told Eve no evil would come upon her if she ate the forbidden fruit. She ate it, and gave some to Adam, and he ate it too. (Genesis 3:1-6)

Adam and Eve hid from God because they were ashamed. At this point, Adam and Eve became aware that they were naked, and, ***“sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.”*** (Genesis 3:7)

God called Adam and Eve and asked them had they eaten the forbidden fruit. Adam blamed Eve for eating it: Eve blamed the serpent: and the serpent blamed nobody. (Genesis 3:8-14)

Then God punished Adam, Eve, and the serpent for what they had done. He said the serpent would no longer have legs, but would crawl on his belly. Eve would have pain in childbirth, while men would find supporting their families difficult. Also, there would now be death in the world. (Genesis 3:14-19)

God said he would put hatred between the children of evil and the children of God. (Genesis 3:15) The children of evil would get a death blow in the head. A special child of the woman would be bruised in his foot, which refers to the nails in Jesus' feet when he died on the cross, making this the first prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus in the Bible.

This story is important because it shows why Jesus had to die on the cross to save mankind from the effects of Adam and Eve eating the forbidden fruit. (1 Corinthians 15:22)

Lesson 6

Sin

In everyday speech people do not talk about sin, but this was not true in Bible days. In fact, the word sin in the Bible can mean many different things. In this lesson we will look at the many different meanings of the word for sin, and learn how to overcome it.

The first definition of sin is human nature, the sinful nature in each one of us, which we inherit from Adam and Eve. ***“For just as through the disobedience of the one man (Adam) the many were made sinners...” (Romans 5:19)*** Jesus was said in prophecy to be conceived in sin. ***(Psalms 51:5)*** This is because he inherited sinful desires from his mother. ***(Hebrews 4:15, Romans 8:3)*** Sin is called ***“the old man”*** in ***Ephesians 4:22*** and in ***Colossians 3:9*** because it is the sinful nature we all start with. It is also called the flesh or sin in the flesh for the same reason.

One Hebrew word for sin in the Old Testament is chata, which means to miss the bull’s eye. This assumes that a person is shooting at the target, or trying to do what is right in his life. That is why James says, ***“Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn’t do it, sins.” (James 4:17)***

There are other definitions for sin in the Bible also. ***1 John 3:4*** says sin is lawlessness. Transgression can mean to deceive, revolt, or rebel.

The Bible is clear that the way to overcome sin is to put the Bible in your heart. ***“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word... I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:9-11)*** Paul the Apostle agreed with this and said, ***“All Scripture,”*** makes one, ***“thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17)*** This is why this course has an entire lesson on the importance of reading the Bible every day.

The Bible is very specific when it speaks about sin. Sin is defined as the sinful nature we all have, or missing the bull’s eye, or even lawlessness. The reason there is sin in the world is because of the fall of Adam and Eve. The way to overcome sin is to put the Bible in your mind, and in your heart.

Lesson 7

God's Promise to Abraham

Paul said, ***“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham: 'All nations will be blessed through you.’”*** (Galatians 3:8) In these words, Paul is saying the promise made to Abraham is part of the gospel. Because this promise is so important we will look at it in this lesson.

Four thousand years ago, God told Abraham ***“I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people on earth will be blessed through you.”*** (Genesis 12:2-3) God later brought the promise into clearer focus by saying, ***“Lift up your eyes from where you are and look north and south, east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever.”*** (Genesis 13:14-15) Thus we see that God will give the Holy Land to Abraham and his descendants forever.

The seed of Abraham is to inherit the Holy Land. (Genesis 12:7) But who are Abraham's descendants who will do this? They include Isaac, Abraham's son, (Genesis 26:1-4) and Jacob, the son of Isaac. (Genesis 28: 3-4) Jacob is the father of the Jews, so God promised the Holy Land to the Jews, but that isn't all. Jesus is the seed of Abraham, and as such he will inherit the Holy Land too. ***'The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning one person, who is Christ.’*** (Galatians 3:16)

Not only that, Christians will inherit the Holy Land because of God's promise to Abraham also. ***“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ... and if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”*** (Galatians 3:26, 27, 29) So you see that the Holy Land belongs to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, the Jews, Jesus, and even Christians.

Obviously this promise has not been fulfilled yet, as Abraham never inherited the land. (Acts 7:5) We will all inherit the land together. ***“These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.”*** (Hebrews 11:39-40) This is why the Bible says the meek will inherit the earth. (Matthew 5:5, Psalm 37:3, 11, 22, 29 & 34)

God's promise to Abraham and his descendants is part of the gospel and shows that believers of all time will inherit the earth together.

Lesson 8

God's Promise to David

One of the titles of the Messiah is son of David. (*Matthew 9:27; 22:42; 12:23; 15:22; 20:31; 21:9,15, Mark 10:47-48; Luke 18:39; 20:41; and John 7:42.*) This is because God had promised David that he would be an ancestor of the Messiah.

David lived 3000 years ago. Though he sinned, he was a humble man who gave glory to God, and wanted others to do the same. As a boy he was a shepherd, and killed a giant named Goliath, and as an adult he was a fugitive who became Israel's second King.

When he was king, it bothered him that he lived in a cedar house, while God's house was a tent, so he wanted to build God a house to dwell in. God did not let David build Him a temple because David was a man of war.

Then God promised to build David's house! ***"I declare to you that the LORD will build a house for you. When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son, I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever."*** (1 Chronicles 17:10-14)

Here we see the promised descendant of David would also be the Son of God. He would build God a house. (*John 14:2*) His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom. This is obviously a prophecy about Jesus Christ.

One thousand years later an angel told the mother of Jesus that Jesus would sit on the throne of his father David, and that he would rule over the house of Jacob, the father of the Jews. (*Luke 1:32-33*)

Jesus has not yet fulfilled this prophecy, but he will do this when he returns. We will study this when we read the lessons on the Kingdom of God.

The first thing the New Testament says about Jesus is that he is the promised son of David, which is because of the promise God made to David.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #5

1) *Because of Adam's fall: (circle one)*

a) *All mankind is tempted with sin. True false*

b) *Individuals need to be saved. True false*

2) *Who did Adam blame for his eating the forbidden fruit?*

3) *Who did Eve blame for her eating the forbidden fruit?*

4) *Who did the serpent blame?*

Lesson #6

1) *Sin is...*

a)

b)

c)

d)

2) *How do we overcome sin?*

Lesson #7

1) *Why is the promise to Abraham important?*

2) *What will happen to Abraham and his descendants?*

3) *To which of Abraham's seed is the promise made?*

4) *Did Abraham ever inherit the Holy Land?*

Lesson #8

1) *What is one of the titles of the Messiah?*

2) *What did David want to do for God?*

3) *What did God say he would do for David?*

4) *When will Jesus fulfill the promise God made to David?*

5) *What is the promise that God made to David?*

Lesson 9

God

“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.” In these words, *Isaiah 55:9* says God is too pure and wonderful for sinful man to understand without the Word of God. With the Scripture we get a glimmer of His majesty. Let us see what it says about God.

First, there is only one God. The most famous verse in the Old Testament says, **“Hear, O Israel: the LORD our God, the LORD is one.”** (*Deuteronomy 6:4*)

God does not sleep. **“He who watches over you will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.”** (*Psalms 121: 3-4*) Because of this, he is always there to hear our prayers.

God is our Father. **“Have we not all one Father? Did not one God created us?”** (*Malachi 2:10*) We have, **“one God and Father of all.”** (*Ephesians 4:6* see also *Jeremiah 31:9* and *1 Corinthians 8:6*) As our father, he cares for us. **“As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.”** (*Psalms 103:13*)

God is the only being with inherent immortality. He is, **“...the king eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God,”** (*1 Timothy 1:17*) God alone has immortality, but God cannot be seen. **“No one has ever seen God...”** (*John 1:18* see also *1 Timothy 1:17*)

God knows everything. **“Oh the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!”** (*Romans 11:33*) Because of this, nobody can fool God, for his judgments are just.

God cannot be tempted either. **“When tempted no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone...”** (*James 1:13*)

Thus we see the one God is pure and wonderful beyond words. He is our loving father, immortal, and invisible. He is always there for us. He knows everything and cannot be fooled. Neither can he be tempted for he is indeed a great God.

Lesson 10

Jesus

The characteristics of God are not the characteristics of Jesus. Therefore even though Jesus is the only begotten son of God, he cannot be God the Son, a part of the Trinity.

In the last lesson we learned God does not sleep. (*Psalm 121:3-4*) In contrast to this, Jesus slept. (*Luke 8:23*) Thus Jesus is not part of God.

While God is the Father, Jesus is not the Father: he is the Son. Jesus revealed the Father by having the same moral characteristics as the Father, yet he was the Son. Hence Jesus is not God.

While God is immortal “*Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures...*” (*1 Corinthians 15:3*) Jesus had to receive immortality because he did not have it inherently. (*Acts 13:30,34,37* and *Revelation 1:18*) If Jesus was God the Son, and was nailed to the cross, he would be hanging there alive until this day because God cannot die. Thus Jesus is not God.

The Bible plainly tells us that God cannot be seen, (*1 Timothy 1:17* and *John 1:18*) yet Jesus was seen. He was seen in his mortality, (*Mark 9:15*) and he was seen by Paul. (*Acts 9:17*) Jesus appeared to believers after he was raised. (*1 Corinthians 15:5,7*) Because God is invisible yet Jesus was seen, we know that Jesus is not part of God.

We know that God knows everything. (*Romans 11:33*) Yet Jesus had to grow in wisdom. (*Luke 2:52*) He did not know when he was coming back. (*Mark 13:32*) He had to be given Revelation because he did not have it inherently. (*Revelation 1:1*) Since God knows everything, and Jesus does not know everything, Jesus cannot be God.

The Bible tells us that God cannot be tempted, (*James 1:13*) yet Jesus was tempted. (*Hebrews 4:15*) Thus Jesus is not God.

The characteristics of Jesus are not the characteristics of God, therefore Jesus is not part of God.

Lesson 11

The Holy Spirit

The Bible defines the Holy Spirit as the power of God. Let us look at the evidence.

The creation of the universe was by the Holy Spirit, ***“and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.”*** (Genesis 1:2) ***“When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*** (Psalm 104:30) Not only that but, ***“By his breath the skies became fair.”*** (Job 26:13)

God not only made the universe, but he made mankind as well. ***“The Spirit of God has made me; the breath of the Almighty gives me life.”*** (Job 33:4)

It is the Spirit of God that gave Samson his strength. Samson killed a lion with his bare hands with the Spirit of God. (Judges 14:5-6) He also killed thirty men of Ashkelon with the help of God's Spirit, (Judges 14:19) ***“The spirit of the LORD came upon him in power. The ropes on his arms became like charred flax, and the bindings dropped from his hands.”*** (Judges 15:14)

Elisha asked for a double portion of the Spirit of God (2 Kings 2:9) and did twice as many miracles as Elijah did.

The New Testament also calls the Holy Spirit the power of God. ***“...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power...”*** (Acts 10:38) God told Mary, ***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”*** (Luke 1:35) Acts 1:8 says, ***“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you.”*** The Holy Spirit is not the third person of the Trinity: it is the Power of God.

Lesson 12

Holy Spirit Gifts

The Holy Spirit gifts are not in possession of believers today. This is because they existed in the first century to guide the early church while it was being established. *Ephesians 4:12-13* says the gifts were, ***“to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”*** Now that the church is established, the gifts are no longer needed, but when Jesus returns the Holy Spirit gifts will resume.

The giving of the Holy Spirit is compared to the giving of the spring and the fall rain. *Joel 2:23* says, ***“he has given you the autumn rains in righteousness. He sends you abundant showers, both autumn and spring rains, as before.”*** The context speaks about Holy Spirit gifts, ***“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”*** (verse 28)

In the Holy Land, it rains in the spring and autumn. In the summer and winter plant life is supported by dew only. The early rain is the rain of autumn, while the latter rain is the rain of spring. The early rain of autumn symbolizes the giving of the Holy Spirit in the first century to establish the Christian religion, while the latter rain symbolizes the giving of the Holy Spirit when Jesus returns.

Between these times is a drought of the Holy Spirit. ***“Therefore night will come over you, without visions, and darkness without divination. The sun will set for the prophets, and the day will go dark for them.”*** (*Micah 3:6*) We live in this age. ***“...where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled.”*** (*1 Corinthians 13:8*)

When Jesus returns, the Holy Spirit gifts will be re-established like the spring rain. ***“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.”*** (*Isaiah 35:5, 6*)

Modern religions often ignore this, believing Holy Spirit gifts continue in our age, dismissing the plain teaching of Scripture. Holy Spirit gifts are not possessed in our day.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #9

- 1) Is there only one God?*
- 2) Does God sleep?*
- 3) Is God immortal?*
- 4) Can God be seen?*
- 5) Is there anything God does not know?*
- 6) Can God be tempted with sin?*

Lesson #10

- 1) Is Jesus God the Son?*
- 2) Is Jesus the Son of God?*
- 3) Did Jesus sleep?*
- 4) Did Jesus die?*
- 5) Was Jesus visible?*
- 6) Did Jesus know everything?*

Lesson #11

- 1) What is the Holy Spirit?*
- 2) How was the universe made?*
- 3) What gave Samson his strength?*

Lesson #12

- 1) Why did believers have the Holy Spirit in the first century?*

Lesson 13

The Origin of Jesus

In this lesson we will study the origin of Jesus. Jesus did not exist before he was conceived in Mary's womb. He was both Son of Man and Son of God. As a descendant of man he inherited the curse placed of Adam and needed redemption from his mortality. Yet he was divine, being the literal Son of God.

The Bible says Jesus would be the descendant of a number of people, therefore his genealogy is seen in **Matthew 1** and **Luke 3**. Several people were promised that the Messiah would be their descendant. This includes Eve, (**Genesis 3:15**) Abraham, (**Galatians 3:16**) and David, (**2 Samuel 7:12-14**) If Mary was merely an incubator for the incarnate Jesus this would not have been.

Psalm 51:2 prophecies that Jesus would be conceived with a sin nature. He was conceived and not incarnated.

Because Jesus was a descendant of Adam, he had to redeem himself from his mortality. “...***the God of peace... through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus...***” (**Hebrews 13:20**, see also **Philippians 2:8-9**)

Yet Jesus was the literal Son of God, and not the son of Joseph.

Because Jesus was conceived, and not incarnated, he had to save himself from his mortality. Yet he was divine, being the Son of God.

Lesson 14

The Cross as a Symbol

The use of a cross as a symbol is an interesting one which we will look at in this lesson.

John 3: 14-15 gives us some insight on the subject. ***“Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.”***

The reason Moses lifted up the serpent is seen in ***Numbers 21:4-9***. The Jews were sick of eating manna in the wilderness, and complained. God sent poisonous snakes which bit and killed the Jews. Moses prayed for the people and God told Moses to make a brass serpent and put it on a pole. Whenever a serpent bit someone, he was to look at the brass serpent and live. In the same way, when a Christian sins, if he turns to Jesus he is forgiven.

Later in time the brass serpent Moses had made became an idol which was destroyed by Hezekiah. ***“He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it.”*** (***2 Kings 18:4***) In like manner the cross has become an idol today.

You may think the cross is an idol because Jesus died on the cross but that is not true. The cross is a Christian idol because the first letter in the name “Christ” is the Greek letter chi. When Constantine the Great went into battle against Malentus, Constantine saw a vision in which the Greek letters chi and rho were on top of each other. As they are the first two letters of the name Christ, Constantine put these letters on the shields of his soldiers, and won the battle, which is how Constantine became a Christian.

Besides being an idol for Christianity, the cross was a symbol of ancient sun worship.

Christians should not have idols and for that reason should not use the cross as a symbol. Besides, the cross of Jesus was a method of torture. Why would anyone make an instrument of torture into a piece of gold jewelry?

Lesson 15

The Crucifixion

The death of Jesus on the cross is the most amazing story in history. We must understand it, and know how to respond to it as well.

Death by crucifixion is one of the cruelest forms of torture ever invented by mankind. Because of this, Jesus prayed beforehand that such would not be his fate. (*Luke 22:42*) That night Jesus endured several mock trials in which he was spat on, beaten, and whipped with cords having bone and glass in the cords. The cords cut deeply into his back. When on the cross, Jesus prayed, ***“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”*** (*Psalm 22:1*) This is because he was abandoned to his fate. It grieved Jesus that others had been spared torture, while he had to go through with it. (*Psalm 22:4*)

While Jesus was hanging on the cross, he suffered many things. He was mocked when people said, ***“He trusts in the LORD: let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.”*** (*Psalm 22:8*) Jesus could have responded by taking matters into his own hands using the Holy Spirit to free himself of his Father’s will, but he did not do this. Crucifixion involved more pain than merely that caused in one’s hands and feet. (*Psalm 22: 16*) While Jesus also endured death by torture, his thoughts were on others. He forgave those who crucified him, (*Luke 23:34*) and made provisions for the future of his widowed mother. (*John 19:26-27*)

Why did this have to happen? ***“You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Yet rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*** (*Romans 5:6*) ***“But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”*** (*Isaiah 53:5*)

Christ did not die instead of us; he died on our behalf. If he died instead of us, we would not die.

What should our response to all this be? First, we should repent and be baptized (*Acts 2:37-38*) Then we should put to death our sinful desires and serve God totally, as best we can. (*Galatians 5:24*) Paul said the same thing again to the Christians in Rome. ***“For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin.”*** (*Romans 6:6*) And ***“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me.”*** (*Galatians 2:20*)

The story of Jesus is truly amazing, as he did his Father’s will and submitted to one of the cruelest forms of torture ever invented by man. This involved a lot of both physical and mental anguish. He did it that mankind, including himself, would have a chance at immortality. (*Hebrews 13:20*) Our response to this is that we should not serve our sinful nature, but show our love to God by keeping Jesus' commandments. (*John 14:15*)

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #13

- 1) Does the word incarnate appear in the Bible?*
- 2) Was Jesus conceived or incarnated?*
- 3) Was Jesus a descendant of Adam?*
- 4) Was Jesus tempted with sin?*

Lesson #14

- 1) Is the cross an idol to some people?*
- 2) How is Jesus like the serpent in the wilderness?*
- 3) How did the cross become a Christian symbol?*

Lesson #15

- 1) Did Jesus die instead of us?*
- 2) Tell some of the things Jesus suffered in his death.*
- 3) What should our response be to the crucifixion of Jesus?*
- 4) In what way are we crucified with Christ?*

Lesson 16

The Resurrection of Jesus

The resurrection of Jesus is a proven fact. Many saw the risen Christ, and unbelievers have never been able to explain the story away.

When Jesus was buried, precautions were taken so nobody could fake his resurrection. A guard was posted at the tomb, and it was sealed shut. (*Matthew 27:65-66*)

Despite this, many people saw the risen Christ. *John 20:4* shows how Peter and John found the tomb empty. *1 Corinthians 15:4-6* says, ***“he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve. After that he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers at the same time...”***

The resurrection of Jesus has always been an embarrassment to unbelievers. In the day of Jesus, ***“...some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, ‘You are to say, ‘His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were sleeping...’”(Matthew 28:11-13)*** This doesn't make sense. If the guards were sleeping, how would they know who stole him away?

Modern unbelievers have an even more far fetched explanation. In The Passover Plot it says Jesus revived in the tomb. Despite the huge loss of blood, and the wounds in his hands, side and feet, he removed the huge stone at the mouth of the tomb and escaped without the guard's notice. Do we need to dignify this with an answer?

Jesus did rise from the dead. There were witnesses to the fact, and nobody has ever been able to prove otherwise.

Lesson 17

Born Again

“I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.” Jesus said this to Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, who came to him one night. (*John 3:3*)

We are born again of an incorruptible seed, which is the word of God. (*1 Peter 1:23*) This shows the importance of reading the Bible. Without seed there can be no birth: without the Bible there can be no spiritual birth.

A baby is born in water and blood. The water stands for baptism. Jesus told Nicodemus, a priest of Israel ***“I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.”*** (*John 3:5*) The blood a baby is born in stands for the death of the old way of life, called the old man. ***“...since you have taken off your old self with its practices...”*** (*Colossians 3:9*) Paul had the same idea in *Ephesians 4:22*, ***“To put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires;”***

When we are born again thorough baptism we become new creatures in Jesus Christ. ***“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”*** (*2 Corinthians 5:17*)

The maturity of a Christian follows the pattern of the maturity of a child. Babies drink milk, which symbolizes the word of God. (*Hebrews 5:12-14*) Infants also cannot control their own lives. New Christians may also be aware of their sins, but have a hard time controlling them. Babies grow into children. The new Christian also grows through a childhood, which Paul describes in *1 Corinthians 13:11*. ***“When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. The mature Christians “But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.”*** (*Hebrew 5:14*)

Just as people can die, a person in Christ can die too. We can die if we do not keep the gospel in memory. (*1 Corinthians 15: 1-2*) Paul even said we can fall from grace. (*Galatians 5:4*)

Being born again is a process. First the Word of God conceives us, then we are born in the water of baptism. As a new Christian we cannot control our lives. We see things as children when we are children in Christ. Just as people die, a Christian can spiritually die.

Lesson 18

The Judgment Day

After Christ returns and raises many of the dead (*Daniel 12:2*) a judgment will be held. ***“In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom,”*** (*2 Timothy 4:1*) In this lesson we will gain an understanding of what the Judgment Day is about.

Believers will be one class of people at the judgment. ***“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*** (*II Corinthians 5:10*) Paul wrote this letter only to believers, so the “we” in this verse refers to believers, so believers will not be condemned.

However, they are not the only ones to be judged. *Mark 16:16* says, ***“he who does not believe will be condemned.”*** Thus those who have heard the gospel, and not accepted it will be judged for this. The reason for this is, ***“because law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.”*** (*Romans 4:15*)

Those who never understand die like animals and are hence not judged. ***“he will join the generation of his father, who will never see the light of life. A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish.”*** (*Psalms 49:19-20*). Such people, ***“then sleep forever and not awake.”*** (*Jeremiah 51:39*) ***“and they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick:”*** (*Isaiah 43:17*) ***“A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.”*** (*Proverbs 21:16*) ***“They will fall, never to rise again.”*** (*Amos 8:14*)

After the judgment, those accepted will receive immortality, (*1 Corinthians 15:53*) and become like Christ, being both sinless, and immortal. ***“But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him...”*** (*1 John 3:2*)

Therefore there are three classes of mankind:

- 1) those who never receive the gospel and are hence not raised and judged,
- 2) those who reject the gospel and are condemned, and
- 3) those who believe the gospel and are granted immortality.

Lesson 19

The Gospel

The Bible repeatedly says we must believe the gospel to be saved. (*Mark 16:16, Romans 1:16*)

The opposite is also true. ***“But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!”*** (*Galatians 1:8*)

Everyone agrees that the crucifixion is part of the gospel. But the Apostles preached the gospel before they knew that Jesus was going to be crucified. ***“So they (the disciples) set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.”*** (*Luke 9:6*) After they preached the gospel Jesus told them, ***“Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.”*** ***But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.*** (*Luke 9:44-45*)

We have already seen that the gospel must be believed before one is baptized. *Acts 8:12* says, ***“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”***

There are several parts to the gospel. People who do not believe the story of Adam and Eve do not understand why Jesus had to die on the cross, as he died to undo the damage Adam and Eve did in the Garden. ***“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”*** (*1 Corinthians 15:22*) Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. (*1 John 3:8*) Thus knowing what the devil is, is part of the gospel. The promise God made to Abraham is called the gospel in *Galatians 3:8* which reads, ***“The Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, and announced the gospel in advance to Abraham; ‘All nations will be blessed through you.’”*** We must know who God and Jesus are in order to be saved. *John 17:3* says, ***“Now this is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”*** *1 Peter 4:17* says the gospel is to be obeyed. In other words, the commandments of Christ are part of the gospel.

All this goes to show that not all Christians know the gospel. Take the Kingdom of God for example. Some say the Kingdom of God is in heaven, others say it is the church. Some say it is within you, some say it will be re-established when Christ returns. Somebody is wrong: dead wrong.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #16

- 1) How did the Jews in Jesus' day explain away Jesus' missing body from the tomb?*
- 2) How does The Passover Plot explain away this fact about Jesus?*
- 3) How do you explain away Jesus' missing body from the tomb?*

Lesson #17

- 1) How are we born again?*
- 2) What is a baby in Christ like?*
- 3) What does a child in Christ resemble?*
- 4) What is a mature Christian like?*
- 5) Can we lose salvation?*

Lesson #18

- 1) When will the Judgment Day happen?*
- 2) Will everyone be judged?*
- 3) Will only baptized Christians be judged?*

Lesson #19

- 1) Can someone who does not believe the gospel be saved?*
- 2) Is an understanding of Christ's death and resurrection the only part of the gospel?*
- 3) Is an understanding of the Kingdom of God a part of the gospel?*

Lesson 20

The Mortality of Man

One of the biggest errors people commonly believe is the belief of the immortal soul. In this lesson we shall see that this belief is false.

The punishment for the fall of Adam and Eve includes mortality. ***“You return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (Genesis 3:19)*** Because of this, man does not have an immortal soul. People do not want to believe this, but instead they believe what the Apostle Paul calls, ***“the lie,” (2 Thessalonians 2:11)*** which is the first lie spoken of in the Bible. This lie is the words of the serpent, ***“You will not surely die!” (Genesis 3:4)***

The Bible's description of immortality shows we do not have an immortal soul. Only God is immortal. ***(1 Timothy 1:17, 1 Timothy 6:16)*** Therefore man does not have an immortal soul. Immortality is sought. ***(Romans 2:7, Titus 1:2)*** People do not seek for what they already have, therefore man does not have an immortal soul.

Throughout the Bible man is seen as mortal ***“A man who strays from the path of understanding comes to rest in the company of the dead.” (Proverbs 21:16)*** ***“The living, the living – they praise you, as I am doing today;” (Isaiah 38:19)*** ***“Wicked men are overthrown and are no more.” (Proverbs 12:7)*** ***“A little while and the wicked will be no more.” (Psalm 37:10)*** ***“But all sinners will be destroyed; the future of the wicked will be cut off. (Psalm 37:38)*** ***“A man who has riches without understanding is like the beasts that perish.” (Psalm 49:20)*** ***“No-one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from his grave?” (Psalm 6:5)*** ***“Anyone who is among the living has hope – even a live dog is better off than a dead lion! For the living know that they will die, but the dead know nothing; they have no further reward, and even the memory of them is forgotten.” (Ecclesiastes 9:4-5)*** ***“When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain.” (Revelation 6:9)***

The Bible is clear from start to finish. Man does not have an immortal soul.

Lesson 21

The Resurrection of Mankind

“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” (1 Corinthians 15:14) This is because, “For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own turn: Christ, the first fruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.” (1 Corinthians 15:22-23)

Not everyone will be raised from the dead. Many of the dead shall rise. (*Daniel 12:2*) Some will not rise. Some, ***“will sleep for ever and not awake...” (Jeremiah 51:57)*** see also (*Jeremiah 51:39*) ***“...they lay there, never to rise again, extinguished, snuffed out like a wick...” (Isaiah 43:17)***

Knowledge makes people accountable to resurrection. People who do not understand die like animals. In other words, they do not rise from the dead. (*Psalms 49:20*) Jesus said, ***“If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim that you see, your guilt remains.” (John 9:41)*** Belief is important, for Jesus again says, ***“Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son.” (John 3:18)***

The resurrection of Jesus guarantees there will be a resurrection of mankind. Not all people will be raised, only those who have been given the opportunity to know the gospel.

Lesson 22

Heaven and Earth

Nobody, except Jesus, goes to heaven after death. This is because, ***“The highest heavens belong to the LORD, but the earth he has given to man.” (Psalm 115:16)***

Heaven is God’s throne. *Isaiah 66:1* says, ***“Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool...”*** Jesus agrees with this because he said, ***“Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God’s throne...” (Matthew 5:34)*** Thus Solomon asked God to, ***“hear from heaven, your dwelling place.” (1 Kings 8:30, 39, and 43)***

Jesus went to heaven after he was resurrected. (*Acts 1:11*) There he sits at the right hand of God. ***“After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God.” (Mark 16:19)*** Here he is a go-between for God and man, ***“for there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus...” (1 Timothy 2:5)***

The righteous will receive their reward on the earth when Jesus returns, for he said, ***“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me.” (John 14:3)*** In the Sermon on the mount Jesus said, ***“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” (Matthew 5:5*** see also *Psalm 37:11, 22, and 34)*

The Bible clearly says we do not go to heaven. *John 3:13* says, ***“no one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven.”*** David was a righteous man, in fact, God said, ***“I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart.” (Acts 13:22)*** Yet he did not go to heaven, for Peter said, ***“David did not ascend to heaven.” (Acts 2:34)*** Jesus said, ***“Where I am going, you cannot come.” (John 13:33)***

So we can see heaven is God’s home while the earth is man’s place. Jesus is now in heaven acting as a go-between for God and man. We will never go to heaven.

Lesson 23

Hell

There are several meanings for the word hell, which we will now consider.

The oldest word for hell in English is “helan”, which means to hide. The word helmet means mitten that covers. So we see that the early word for hell in English did not mean what it means today.

In the Old Testament hell means a hidden place, like the grave. The burial of soldiers with their weapons was called going to hell in **Ezekiel 32:27**. ***"And they shall not lie with the mighty that are fallen of the uncircumcised, which are gone down to hell with their weapons of war: and they have laid their swords under their heads..."(KJ)*** In the old days, soldiers were buried with their weapons. Even Native Americans did this: so we see hell sometimes means the grave.

In the New Testament there is also a different meaning for hell as well. This is the valley of Hinnom, the garbage dump outside Jerusalem, where fire burned the junk, and worms ate the garbage. This word for hell means the disgraceful end for evil people when Christ returns. ***"If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell," (Mark 9:43-48)***

A fire is unending when it kills or destroys forever. We see this in **Jude 7** where the fire that destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah is called an unending fire. The fire of Sodom went out, but first it destroyed the cities forever. It is an everlasting fire because its outcome was everlasting.

Fire and brimstone mean total ruin. The first time it is used in the Bible it is in the overthrow of Sodom and Gomorrah. (**Genesis 19:23-24**)

We see the Bible has different meanings for the word hell. Sometimes it is a hidden place, like the grave. Other times it is the shameful end of the wicked at God's judgment, like a disgraceful garbage dump.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #20

- 1) Does man have an immortal soul?*
- 2) Are we to seek for immortality?*
- 3) Is God alone inherently immortal?*

Lesson #21

- 1) What is our guarantee that there will be a resurrection?*
- 2) Will everyone be raised from the dead?*
- 3) Will only baptized Christians be raised from the dead?*

Lesson #22

- 1) Where is God's dwelling place?*
- 2) Will we go to heaven if we are accepted by God?*
- 3) Where will we receive our eternal reward?*

Lesson #23

- 1) What does hell mean in the Old Testament?*
- 2) Why is hell in the New Testament sometimes called the valley of Hinnom?*
- 3) What is unending fire?*
- 4) What is the meaning of fire and brimstone?*

Lesson 24

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God will be re-established on earth when Christ returns. (*2 Timothy 4:1*) Like all other nations it will have a main ruler, other rulers, subjects, law, a capital city, and land.

Jesus will be the King of the Kingdom of God. "*Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS.*" (*John 19:19*) *Zechariah 9:9* says, "*Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation...*" (*Zechariah 9:9*)

Like all other nations, the Kingdom of God will have other rulers as well. Jesus told his disciples, "*When the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*" (*Matthew 19:28*) Those who are saved will also be kings in the coming Kingdom of God. (*Revelation 5:10*)

Like all other nations, the Kingdom of God will have subjects. *Zechariah 2:11* says, "*Many nations will be joined with the LORD in that day and will become my people.*"

Like all other nations, the Kingdom of God will have laws. *Isaiah 2:3* says, "*Many peoples will come and say, 'come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.' The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*"

Like all other nations the Kingdom of God will have a capital city, which will be Jerusalem, or Mount Zion. Jesus called Jerusalem, "*...the city of the great king.*" (*Matthew 5:35*) Jeremiah agrees with this saying, "*At that time they will call Jerusalem the throne of the LORD...*" (*Jeremiah 3:17*)

Like all other nations, the Kingdom of God will have land. Israel is called "*the former dominion,*" in *Micah 4:8*. This is because Israel will be the hub of the future Kingdom. The rest of the world will be like the wheel. "*He will rule from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.*" (*Psalms 72:8*)

So, you see the Kingdom of God will be structured like all other nations are structured. As such, it will have a king, other rulers, subjects, laws, a capital city, and land. It will be a kingdom in the truest sense of the word.

Lesson 25

The Joys of the Future Kingdom

Jesus endured because of the joy set before him in the next life. (*Hebrews 12:2*) We also can endure if we have the hope Jesus had about the next life.

When Jesus returns to set up the Kingdom, everyone will know God in Truth. ***“To you the nations will come from the ends of the earth and say, ‘Our fathers possessed nothing but false gods, worthless idols that did them no good.’”*** (*Jeremiah 16:19*)

Not only will people know God, but they will throng to Jerusalem to worship God in Truth, for *Isaiah* says, ***“Many peoples will come and say, ‘Come let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths.’ The law will go out from Zion, the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.”*** (*Isaiah 2:3*)

Illness will be healed. *Isaiah* says, ***“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then shall the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.”*** (*Isaiah 35:5-6*) Not only that, but people will have the boundless energy of youth. (*Isaiah 40:31*) People in the age to come will have glorious bodies.

Everyone will speak one pure language. (*Zephaniah 3:9*) Thus people will be able to talk with, and have friends with others around the world.

Jesus will rule the world in peace and justice. (*Isaiah 2:4*) He will be the perfect ruler because he loves both God and man. He cannot be fooled, nor will he take bribes. Because Jesus is the perfect ruler, oppression will cease. *Luke 1:51-53* says, ***“He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty.”*** (*Luke 1:51-53* see also *Isaiah 2:4*) Food will be in abundance, and nobody will be hungry anymore. (*Amos 9:13*)

Not only will there be a general reward for everybody, but God will reward people on an individual level, wiping the tears from their eyes. (*Revelation 7:17, 21:4, Joel 2:25, Isaiah 25:8*)

Jesus endured death by torture because he focused on the future reward. We too, can endure with this hope before us.

Lesson 26

The Hope of Israel

Every now and then the Bible has a key verse that unlocks the secrets of the Word of God. One of these verses is **John 4:22**, where Jesus says, ***“salvation is of the Jews.”*** From this verse we learn that God’s nation is not the United States of America: God’s nation is the Kingdom of the Jews.

In several places Paul agrees with this. In **Acts 28:20** he says, ***“It is because of the hope of Israel that I am bound with this chain.”*** In **Galatians 6:16** he calls Christians, ***“the Israel of God,”*** and in **Ephesians 2:12** he says Christians are in, ***“the citizenship in Israel.”*** Paul spends all of **Romans 11** explaining how Christians are grafted into Israel.

The hope of the Bible is a Jewish hope. Of Jesus it is said, ***“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”*** (Luke 1:32-33) Jesus himself agrees with this saying, ***“at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*** (Matthew 19:28)

The Bible is clear: God’s nation it not the United States of America, God’s nation is the Kingdom of the Jews.

Lesson 27

After the Kingdom

Jesus will reign for one thousand years. (*Revelation 20:4*) At the end of his reign a final struggle between good and evil will take place, then finally God will be all in all.

Just as there were six days of creation before God rested, there are six thousand years from the days of Adam and Eve until God's rest in the Kingdom. (*Genesis 2:2, Revelation 20:4, Psalm 90:4, Hebrews 4:9 and 10*)

The Kingdom age will be followed by a final struggle between good and evil. ***“When the thousand years are over, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations in the four corners of the earth Gog and Magog to gather them for battle.”*** (*Revelation 20:7-8*) They will surround Jerusalem only to be destroyed by fire. (*Revelation 20:9*)

Another Judgment Day will then be held, ***“And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.”*** (*Revelation 20:12*)

The first Judgment Day is for the good and evil who knew of God's way during the six thousand years before the Kingdom of God is re-established. (*Mark 16:16*) The second Judgment Day will therefore be for those who were mortals during the thousand year reign of Christ.

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur...” (*Revelation 20:10*) Angels cannot die. (*Luke 20:36*) Therefore *Revelation 20:10* cannot refer to a fallen angel. The word “devil” here is elsewhere translated slanderer. (*1 Timothy 3:11*) These are mortals during the reign of Christ who slander Christ with lies. Fire and brimstone is symbolical destruction because the first time the term is used is the destruction of Sodom. (*Genesis 19:24*)

“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death.” (*Revelation 20:14*) Hell cannot be the lake of fire because hell is cast into the lake of fire. What is the lake of fire? It is the second death. (*Revelation 20:14*)

During the reign of Christ the earth will be prepared for God to be everything to everyone. There will be a final struggle between good and evil. This will be followed by a Judgment Day, which will be for those in the kingdom. Then God will be all in all. (*1 Corinthians 15:28*)

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #24

- 1) When will the Kingdom of God be re-established?*
- 2) Who is the King of the future Kingdom?*
- 3) What are the characteristics of the Kingdom?*
 - a)*
 - b)*
 - c)*
 - d)*
 - e)*

Lesson #25

- 1) When will everyone know the gospel?*
- 2) When will blindness be healed?*
- 3) What language will everyone speak when Jesus returns?*

Lesson #26

- 1) What nation is God's nation?*

Lesson #27

- 1) How long will Jesus reign?*
- 2) How long ago did Adam and Eve live?*

Lesson 28

Demons

Words sometimes mean something other than what the root meaning is. The word “echo” comes from a goddess in Greek mythology named Echo who loved someone who ignored her. Because of this, she wasted away until only her voice was left. We do not have to believe in Greek mythology to use the word echo.

The word demon is like this. When Jesus lived, Greek culture was the rage. People spoke in Greek terms even if they did not believe in the Greek gods. In the Greek system, demons were minor gods who controlled illnesses. You did not have to believe in demons to use the term demon, anymore than we do not have to believe in Echo to use the term echo.

Throughout the Bible demons refer to false gods. ***“they sacrificed their sons and their daughters to demons. They shed innocent blood, the blood of their sons and daughters...”*** (Psalm 106:37-38) This verse says sacrifice to demons is the same things as sacrifice to idols. Hence a demon is an idol. ***“They sacrificed to demons, which are not God - gods they had not known.”*** (Deuteronomy 32:17) Here Moses said demons were idols. John said, ***“The rest of mankind...did not stop worshipping demons, and idols of gold, silver, bronze, stone and wood – idols that cannot see or hear or walk.”*** (Revelation 9:20) This last verse shows not only that a demon is an idol, but that it cannot see, hear, or walk.

Beelzebub was seen to be the prince of demons. (Luke 11:15) In truth, he was a false god from Ekron. (2 Kings 1:2) Beelzebub means ‘lord of the flies.’ He was the god of healing for even then people knew flies had something to do with illness. Beelzebub was an idol and as such had no real power. People spoke of him even if they did not believe in him, just like we speak of echo even if we do not believe in Echo.

Many illnesses were called demon possession as a figure of speech as in **Mark 5:15**. The record is so exact that the specific kind of insanity can be seen from the account. Other illnesses are also spoken of as demon possession.

Words are tricky. We can use a word because it is popular without believing in the idea behind it. Demons are an example of this. A demon is a false god, and thus it had no real power. Demons were given credit for causing disease, like Beelzebub, the lord of the flies, was a god of Ekron. He, like other demons, was given credit for causing disease. The Bible says demons are not real: in fact, they cannot see, hear, or walk.

Lesson 29

Satan

"Satan" is a Hebrew word-meaning enemy. Sometimes the Bible translates it as adversary, but sometimes it is left untranslated. In any case, Satan is not a fallen angel.

An example that shows Satan is not a fallen angel is in **Revelation 2:13** where Satan's throne is in a town in Turkey called Pergamos. Why would the devil have a town in Turkey for his headquarters? What this verse means is Pergamos was the headquarters of the enemy of the gospel.

Nowhere does "satan" refer to a fallen angel, but "satan" can refer to a good angel. **Numbers 22:22** clearly shows this saying, ***"But God was very angry when he went, and the angel of the LORD stood in the road to oppose him."*** The word in the original manuscript for oppose is "satan", an angel of God.

Men can also be "satans" or "enemies". The Bible has many examples of this. When Peter did not want Jesus to die on the cross, Jesus called Peter "Satan" saying, ***"Get behind me, Satan! he said. "You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men."*** (Mark 8:33) Peter was at this time an enemy of God, and thus a satan.

The Bible even calls God "Satan" because God called David to number Israel. (*compare 1 Chronicles 21:1 with 2 Samuel 24:1*)

"Then the LORD raised up against Solomon an adversary, Hadad the Edomite, from the royal line of Edom." (1 Kings 11:14) Here a specific person is called an adversary, which in the Bible is satan. Not only did David call others satan, but David is called satan by others. David was with the Philistines when war broke out between the Philistines and Israel. "The commanders of the Philistines were angry with him (Achish): and the commanders of the Philistines said to him, ***"Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us (satan) during the fighting."*** (1 Samuel 29:4) The Philistines were afraid David would be their enemy, or satan, in battle.

"Satan" means enemy or adversary, either good or bad. Men, angels, and God have been called "satan" in the Bible. Satan's headquarters was a town in Turkey called Pergamos. This Satan was simply an enemy of the gospel. There is no fallen angel named Satan.

Lesson 30

The Devil

The Bible says some unusual things about the devil. For example, the Word of God says nothing about what the devil looks like. In the Garden of Eden, God punished Adam, Eve, and the serpent, but He did not punish the devil. Nowhere in the Bible does it say the devil is a fallen angel! Who then is he?

Jesus died to defeat the devil. ***“The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil’s work.” (1 John 3:8)*** The book of *Hebrews* says Christ defeated sin by his death. ***“But now he has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself.” (Hebrews 9:26)*** It is easy to see that the devil is sin.

There is only one God, who does good and evil. ***“I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things.” (Isaiah 45:7)***

In the Old Testament the word devil never appears, but the word “devils” is sometimes used for false gods.

In the account of Adam and Eve the word devil is not seen. The New Testament says, ***“Eve was deceived by the serpent’s cunning.” (2 Corinthians 11:3)*** Nowhere does it say the devil made the serpent speak. When punishment is handed out, the devil was not punished because he was not there.

The devil cannot be a fallen angel because the devil, ***“was a murderer from the beginning” (John 8:44)*** A fallen angel would have been good at the beginning, while sin (the devil) murders from the beginning.

Because the wages of sin is death, (*Romans 6:23*) there are no immortal sinners. All angels on the other hand, are immortal. ***“and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels.” (Luke 20:36)*** Again we see the devil is not a fallen angel.

If an angel could fall, the spiritual would come before the natural. But, ***“The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual.” (1 Corinthians 15:46)*** Because of this angels do not fall.

Angels cannot die, and there are no immortal sinners, therefore the devil is not an immortal sinner. Paul said you cannot go from immortal to mortal, as a fallen angel would have to do. Jesus defeated the devil (a symbol for sin) by his death on the cross. The devil is a symbol for sin like Uncle Sam is a symbol for the United States. God made sin look like an evil and powerful being in order to show how powerful it is. There is no fallen angel devil.

Lesson 31

The Antichrist

In this lesson we will learn what the Antichrist really is.

There are only a few verses in the Bible about the Antichrist, we will now examine these. **1 John 2:18** says many Antichrists have come. So there is not just one Antichrist. The verse associates the Antichrist with the last hour.

1 John 2:22 says the Antichrist is a liar who denies Jesus is the Christ. Christ means anointed. Jesus was anointed prophet, priest, and king. A King has a throne, dominion, laws, rulers, and a capital city, not to mention subjects. Most people deny Jesus will be a real ruler of a real nation. They deny Jesus is the Christ, and are hence Antichrist.

1 John 2:22 also says the Antichrist denies the Father and the Son. Some people say God is a trinity, while others say He is a unity. Those who are wrong are Antichrist.

“Many deceivers, who do not acknowledge Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh, have gone out into the world. Any such person is the deceiver and the antichrist.” (2 John 7) Jesus means savior. Whom did Jesus save? Did he save himself also? Why is it necessary for Jesus to save? Christ means anointed. For what was Jesus anointed?

The saying that Jesus was come in the flesh means he was tempted with sin. Not all Christians believe this, and are hence antichrists. **1 John 4:3** makes similar points, saying, ***“but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”***

Note that the Bible does not say the Antichrist will appear suddenly, that he would be a Jew, and lives in Jerusalem, doing miracles. The Bible also does not say the Antichrist would force the world to submit to his rule. Modern views of the Antichrist say this, and are not based on the Bible.

In fact, Jesus will be mistaken for the Antichrist by millions of “Christians” when he returns, while some of these same Christians are the Antichrist themselves!

Does it matter what we believe? It’s crucial.

Lesson 32

Reincarnation

One thing that is popular to superimpose on Christianity these days is the belief in reincarnation. Is this a true teaching of God?

The Bible clearly states reincarnation is a false belief. In fact, the word “reincarnation” appears nowhere in the Bible. *Hebrews 9:27* says, “**man is destined to die once ...**”. If reincarnation were true we would die over and over again. Also if reincarnation were true, we would have done good or evil before we were born, yet Paul said, “**before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad ...**” (*Romans 9:11*)

People who believe in reincarnation try to force this belief on the pages of the Bible. They point out, “**In my Father’s house are many rooms ...**” and assume you go from room to room, or are reincarnated. However the immediate context of this remark refutes the theory of reincarnation. “**And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be with me where I am.**” (*John 14:3*) Thus our hope is not reincarnation: our hope is being with Christ when he returns. It is pointed out that John is spoken of as Elias (*John 1:13-14, Matthew 17:10-13*) It is believed this would only be true if Elias was reincarnated as John. However John denied he was Elias. (*John 1:21*) In truth he represented Elias figuratively.

Reincarnation is not logical as beings are assumed to grow spiritually as they go from life to life, yet animals don’t grow spiritually at all. If you have a pet cat or dog, you can see that it has no sense of spirituality, as it’s idea of right or wrong is, “Will I get caught if I misbehave?”

People who believe in reincarnation often point out that people who come back to life after dying often have experiences giving an impression of reincarnation. However dying takes several moments. Is it possible that while bodies lose function in the death process that and they begin to decompose, they may be subject to hallucinations that are similar to each other and suggest reincarnation?

According to the DVD Unlocking the Mystery of Life, a thimbleful of cultured liquid may contain 4 billion bacteria. That means two thimblefuls of cultured liquid contains more life forms than all the people on the planet. There are not enough higher life forms for lower ones to inhabit if they are reincarnated.

The phrase “immortal soul” nowhere appears in the Bible as our hope is the resurrection of the dead. (*I Corinthians 15:14*) Reincarnation just isn’t part of the picture.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART I

Questions

Lesson #28

- 1) What are demons?*
- 2) Who is Beelzebub?*
- 3) What is demon possession?*

Lesson #29

- 1) What does Satan mean?*
- 2) Is there a fallen angel?*
- 3) Can people be satan?*

Lesson #30

- 1) Who did Jesus defeat in his death?*
- 2) What are devils in the Old Testament?*
- 3) Are there immortal sinners?*
- 4) Can an angel fall?*

Lesson #31

- 1) Who is the Antichrist?*
- 2) Is there more than one Antichrist?*

Lesson #32

- 1) Is it logical to believe animals improve spiritually?*
- 2) What does the Bible mean when it says John the Baptist was Elias?*
- 3) List two Scriptures that prove reincarnation is not biblical.*
- 4) What is the Christian hope for the next life?*

Introduction to The Christadelphian Bible Course Part II

You have completed Part I of the Bible course.

This course is about the gospel. *Acts 8:12* says, “***But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning The Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.***” Because the gospel is about the Kingdom of God, Part I of the course deals with the Kingdom of God. Is it the Church? Is it in your heart? Will it be re-established on earth when Jesus returns? What promises did God make to righteous men in the Old Testament about the Kingdom of God?

The gospel is also about the name of Jesus Christ. For this reason, Part I of the course answers questions like: Did Jesus pre-exist? Is Jesus the second person of the Trinity? Was Joseph or God the father of Jesus? Why did Jesus come the first time? Why will he return?

1 John 3:8 says Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. Thus Part I of the course covers who the devil is.

However, the things concerning The Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ do not cover all of the gospel. For this reason a second part of the course has been written.

There are a number of verses that say the gospel must be obeyed. *1 Peter 4:17* says, “***What shall the end be of them that obey not the Gospel of God?***” *2 Thessalonians 1:7-8* says, Jesus will come, “***...in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.***” Since the gospel is to be obeyed, it stands to reason that the commandments of Jesus are also part of the gospel. For this reason, Part II of the Bible Course is about the commandments of Jesus.

All quotes in this course are from the New International Version of the Bible.

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Lesson 1

The Tongue

The Bible says those who control their tongues can control themselves in every other way. (**James 3:2**) However, James goes on to say, **“no man can tame the tongue...”**(verse 8) Therefore we must look to God through the Scriptures for ways to control the tongue. The tongue is small, but has great power. **“When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.”** (**James 3:3**)

One aspect of the tongue that is most damaging is gossip, which often amounts to character assassination. **“The words of a gossip are like choice morsels; they go down to a man’s inmost parts.”** (**Proverb 26:22**) The law of Moses says, **“Do not go about spreading slander among your people.”** (**Leviticus 19:16**) A gossip reveals secrets. (**Proverbs 20:19**) Therefore we should avoid people who talk too much.

We should have discretion in our speech as it says in **Proverbs 11;22**, **“Like a gold ring in a pig’s snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.”**

Advice and correction are part of the duties of our tongue. (**Proverbs 9:8, 25:11**) However, there are right and wrong ways to go about this. We must remain calm when insulted. (**Proverbs 12:16**) People appreciate frankness. (**Proverbs 28:23**) We should be patient, and kind when we correct someone, (**Proverbs 15:1, 1 Corinthians 13:4**) and give a gentle answer. (**Proverbs 15:1**) Lastly, we should quote Scripture as we are correcting others. (**2 Timothy 3:16-17**)

Dealing with fools is a no win situation. Either we become a fool ourselves by insisting we are right, or we leave them in their foolishness. (**Proverbs 26:4-5**) This is because it is hard to correct a fool since, **“A fool finds no pleasure in understanding but delights in airing his own opinions.”** (**Proverbs 18:2**)

There are other aspects of right speech. One fault of the tongue is telling lies. **Proverbs 6:16-19** says God hates this. We must think before speaking, (**Proverbs 17:28**) which should come with maturity. We must avoid dirty language, (**Colossians 3:8**) and should not use foul language or abusive language. (**Ephesians 4:29**) The worst form of foul language is dragging the name of God through the mud. **“Ascribe to the LORD the glory due to his name;”** (**Psalms 29:2**) **“O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!”** (**Psalms 8:1**) When we are in a court of law, we must not swear to tell the truth, but affirm. James says, **“Above all, my brothers, do not swear – not by heaven or by earth or by anything else.”** (**James 5:12**) Because we must seek first the Kingdom of God, (**Matthew 6:33**) we must not pledge allegiance to the flag. When Jesus returns he will crush all the kingdoms of the world and bring them to an end. If Christ is to crush all nations, why are we to pledge allegiance to them?

We all make mistakes, but those who control their tongue can control their lives in every other way. (**James 3:2**) So we should lean on God’s strength in His word to control the tongue.

Lesson 2

Divorce and Remarriage

Now we will look at divorce and remarriage after divorce from several angles, all of which support the belief that remarriage for a believer after a divorce is a sin.

The Bible consistently speaks against divorce.

Mark 10:5-12 says, "It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. 'But at the beginning of creation God' 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.' When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, 'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery.'"

Paul agrees with this view. *"For example, by law a married woman is bound to her husband as long as he is alive, but if her husband dies, she is released from the law of marriage. So then, if she marries another man while her husband is still alive, she is called an adulteress. But if her husband dies, she is released from that law and is not an adulteress, even though she marries another man."* (Romans 7:2-3) Paul again says *"A woman is bound to her husband as long as he lives. But if her husband dies, she is free to marry anyone she wishes, but he must belong to the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 7:39)

People who do not know God are not under the law. (Romans 3:19, 4:15, 5:13) Those who become divorced while in darkness and are legally remarried are married in God's eyes. *"Are you married? Do not seek a divorce. Are you unmarried? Do not look for a wife."* (1 Corinthians 7:27)

If one is single through divorce and is baptized he is free to remarry in the Truth because he is single at the time of baptism. *"But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery."* (Matthew 5:32) Matthew also says, *"I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery."* (Matthew 19:9) Matthew was written to Jews, and Jewish women were not allowed to divorce their husbands, hence this is not covered in these verses.

There were two Jewish schools of thought on divorce in the days of Jesus. The school of Hillel was the one the Apostle Paul studied under, and supported divorce for every cause. In contrast, the school of Shammai said a wife's unchasteness was the only ground for divorce. Matthew dealt with divorce while the law was still in effect. This is not a mere academic matter as the commandments of Christ are part of the gospel. (1 Peter 4:17, 2 Thessalonians 1:8, Romans 2:8)

Lesson 3

The Sabbath

The Sabbath law was part of the Ten Commandments, and therefore it is not binding on Christians.

The Ten Commandments introduced the Sabbath law. ***“Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.” (Exodus 20:8-10)*** The Sabbath lasted from sundown Friday night to sundown Saturday night. The Jews were to rest, and not pursue their own interests that day. ***“If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD’s holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD,” (Isaiah 58:1-14)***

The Sabbath was a covenant between God and Israel, and as such it is not binding on Christians. ***“Say to the Israelites, ‘you must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.’” (Exodus 31: 13)*** ***“Also I gave them my Sabbaths as a sign between us, so they would know that I the LORD made them holy.”(Ezekiel 20:12)***

Because the Sabbath law was new in the days of Moses, the first time it was broken, the Jews didn’t know what to do. ***“While the Israelites were in the desert, a man was found gathering wood on the Sabbath day. Those who found him gathering wood brought him to Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly, and they kept him in custody, because it was not clear what should be done to him.” (Numbers 15:32-34)*** This would not have been the case if the Sabbath had been kept since the beginning.

Nowhere in the Bible does it say Sunday is the Christian Sabbath. Each individual Christian decides if one day is to be set aside as holy or not. ***“One man considers one day more sacred than another; another man considers every day alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind.” (Romans 14:5)***

The Sabbath day is part of the Ten Commandments, and a covenant between God and Israel, and thus it is not binding on Christians.

Lesson 4

Substance Abuse

Those who love Jesus should avoid substance abuse in all its forms as it is a hideous master that takes us away from serving God.

There are two reasons why we should avoid substance abuse, first, it enslaves us. Jesus said, **“no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other;”** (Matthew 6:24) The second reason we should avoid substance abuse is it ruins the temple of God. **“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred and you are that temple.”** (1 Corinthians 3:16-17)

The slavery of substance abuse is graphically described in **Proverbs 23:29-35**. **“Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaints? Who has needless bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? Those who linger over wine, who go to sample bowls of mixed wine. Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper. Your eyes will see strange sights and your mind imagine confusing things. You will be like one sleeping on the high seas, lying on top of the rigging. ‘They hit me,’ you will say, ‘but I’m not hurt! They beat me, but I don’t feel it! When will I wake up so I can find another drink?’”** Although this describes alcohol abuse directly, it also describes narcotics abuse as well.

We should not even associate with people in substance abuse. **“Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat, for drunkards and gluttons become poor, and drowsiness clothes them in rags. (Proverbs 23:20-21)** And **“A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.”** (Proverbs 22:3) See also **1 Corinthians 5:11**.

Substance abuse can enslave us and should be avoided at all cost.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART II

Questions

Lesson #1

- 1) Why is speaking with fools a no-win situation?*
- 2) What does discreet speech mean?*
- 3) How do we avoid dirty language?*
- 4) Do Christians take oaths or pledge allegiance to the flag?*

Lesson #2

- 1) Is divorce acceptable to God?*
- 2) What does a new Christian do if he is in his second marriage when he enters a covenant relationship with God?*
- 3) Is a Christian free to divorce after he enters a covenant relationship with God?*
- 4) Why are the commandments of Christ important?*

Lesson #3

- 1) When did the Sabbath law begin?*
- 2) Who did God want to keep the Sabbath?*
- 3) Is Sunday the Christian Sabbath?*
- 4) When is the Sabbath observed?*

Lesson #4

- 1) List reasons why substance abuse is a sin.*
- 2) Should we associate with people in substance abuse?*

Lesson 5

The Role of Women

The role of women in the Christian community is often misunderstood. Neither the Bible as a whole, or the Apostle Paul in particular, were against women. On the other hand, wives are to obey their husbands, and women are to be silent in the church.

The Bible is clearly not against women. The Law of Moses was the only law of its day, they said, ***“Honor your father and your mother.” (Exodus 20:12)*** All other cultures of the day said, ***“Honor your father.”*** The Law of Moses allowed women to make vows to God. ***(Numbers 30:6-15)*** This just wasn't done in the surrounding nations, so we see the Bible is not against women.

Not only is the Bible not against women, but the Apostle Paul was not against them either, as some say. Paul said the love of a husband for his wife should be so strong that he should be willing to die for his wife if he was called upon to do so. ***(Ephesians 5:25)*** Paul also said a wife had sexual rights in marriage. ***“The husband should fulfill his marital duty to his wife, and likewise the wife to her husband.” (1 Corinthians 7:3)***

However, wives are to obey their husbands. Paul said this in ***Ephesians 5:22-23*** ***“Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church...”*** Here we see that the relationship between Christ and his followers is like the relationship between a husband and his wife. Peter agrees with Paul and says, ***“Wives, in the same way be submissive to your husbands...” (1 Peter 3:1)*** Nobody says Peter didn't like women!

Women are to keep silent in the church. ***“I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent. For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.” (1 Timothy 2:12-14)*** Paul again said, ***“Women should remain silent in the churches. They are not to be allowed to speak, but must be in submission...” (1 Corinthians 14:34)***

So we see that the Bible and the Apostle Paul are not against women. However women are to obey their husbands, and be silent in church.

Lesson 6

Fellowship Part I

Fellowship is a basic teaching of the Bible. It requires belief in the gospel, and centers round the breaking of bread. Because of this, believers must be separate from the world.

Fellowship requires belief in the one gospel. Paul told the believers in Ephesus, ***“There is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” (Ephesians 4:5)*** John said, ***“But, if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” (1 John 1:7)*** The early church thus had one mind, and had the breaking of bread only among its members.

Fellowship centers around the breaking of bread. ***“Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts.” (Acts 2:46 see also verse 42)***

Those who worship God in Truth must be separate from the world. In fact, the words “holy” and “sanctify” mean “set apart” in both Greek and Hebrew.

In the Old Testament believers are said to be separate from the world. This is the symbolic meaning of ***Leviticus 19:19*** which says, ***“Do not mate different kinds of animals. Do not plant your field with two kinds of seed. Do not wear clothing woven with two kinds of material.”*** ***Leviticus 15:31*** also says, ***“You must keep the Israelites separate from things that make them unclean.”***

The New Testament says the same thing, ***“Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: ‘I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.’” (2 Corinthians 6:14-17)***

We have fellowship in the gospel (***Philippians 1:5***) For this reason, Dawn Christadelphians have closed communion, and only fellowship those who walk in the light. (***1 John 1:7***)

Lesson 7

Fellowship Part II

Paul said, “ ***No doubt there have to be differences among you to show which of you have God’s approval.***” (1 *Corinthians 11:19*) In the Law of Moses there was a story of the house with leprosy. Although we do not keep the Law of Moses in our day, the story symbolically told us what to do with a church which is in error.

In the Bible, a house symbolized a church. (*Ephesians 2:19*) The plague of mildew was either reddish, symbolizing sin, (*Leviticus 14:37, Isaiah 1:18*) or greenish with sickly vegetation. “***and I put a spreading mildew in a house in that land.***” (*Leviticus 14:34*)

The contents of the house were considered unclean. *Leviticus 14:36* said, “***The priest is to order the house to be emptied before he goes in to examine the mildew, so that nothing in the house will be pronounced unclean.*** The house was then inspected. If the mildew was deeper than the surface, the house was locked up for seven days.

If at the return inspection, the mildew had spread, the stones on the affected areas were removed. (*Leviticus 14:40*) Stones were constantly used in the Bible to symbolize sons. (*Mark 12:10, Psalm 118:22-23*) This is because the Hebrew word for son is very similar to the Hebrew word for stone. The removal of the stones symbolized the removal of the sinning people from fellowship.

If the plague reappeared, the house was then destroyed. *Leviticus 14:42-45*. Since the house represented a church, the destruction of the house represents destruction of a congregation. In other words, the congregation was removed from the brotherhood.

Allowing a congregation with uncorrected error to remain in the fellowship would only allow the error to grow. (*1 Corinthians 5:6, Galatians 5:9*) Removal of brethren who are unsound is for the benefit of both the erring brother as well as a benefit of the fellowship. (*1 Corinthians 5:5*) Removal of a church from the fellowship is also sometimes necessary.

Divisions are sometimes given to us by God to try us. That is one reason why we have the story of mildew in the house.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART II

Questions

Lesson #5

- 1) Did the Apostle Paul hate women?*
- 2) Must wives obey their husbands?*
- 3) Should women speak in church?*

Lesson #6

- 1) Should believers have closed communion?*
- 2) Should believers team up with unbelievers?*
- 3) What is the symbolic meaning of **Leviticus 15:31**?*

Lesson #7

- 1) What is the symbolic meaning of **Leviticus 14**?*

Lesson 8

Adultery and Fornication

In our age it is taken for granted that everyone sleeps around. This is a sin that is against our own body, symbolizing idolatry.

Let us define the terms. Adultery is a breaking of wedlock, while fornication involves two people who are not married to each other, whether or not either party is married to someone else.

Adultery is more serious than fornication for two reasons. First, a vow to God is broken. Second, innocent third parties, such as spouses and children, are devastated.

Adultery and fornication are sins against our own bodies. ***“Do you not know that he who unites himself with a prostitute is one with her in body? For it is said, 'the two will become one flesh.' Flee from sexual immorality. All other sins a man commits are outside his body, but he who sins sexually sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”(1 Corinthians 6:16-20)***

When you murder someone you use a weapon: when you commit sexual sin you use your own body, which is more precious than a weapon. That is why sexual sin is so grave.

In both the Old Testament, and the New Testament sexual sin symbolically means idolatry. God is our husband. (***Isaiah 54:5***) Thus, following other gods is spiritual adultery. This symbol is not as obvious today as it was in biblical times, because when the Bible was written idols were worshipped by sexual acts. Thus adultery was both literal and figurative idolatry. It is interesting that in our age few people care about sexual sins, and few people care about false religion.

Sex outside marriage is serious sin as it is against the body, the most precious thing we have. It causes heartache, and symbolizes idolatry. Despite popular belief, it is a grave sin.

Lesson 9

Homosexuality

Practicing homosexuality is always been seen in the Bible as a sin. In this lesson we are going to look at what the Bible says about homosexuality, and how to overcome it.

The Bible never allows for a believer to practice homosexuality. **1 Corinthians 6:9** for example, says homosexuals will not inherit the Kingdom of God. The Law of Moses says, **“Do not lie with a man as one lies with a woman; that is detestable.” (Leviticus 18:22)** In fact, practicing homosexuality in Old Testament times carried the death penalty. **(Leviticus 20:13)** The New Testament is also against homosexuality. **Romans 1:26-27** says, **“Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned the natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed indecent acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion.”**

Some people say that Noah was gay, and therefore it is not a sin to be gay. However if you look at **Genesis 9: 20-24**, it does not say Noah had a homosexual experience. I asked a Rabbi about this verse, and that is what he said.

If you are gay, you may have to be called to celibacy. Here are some guidelines. You must avoid tempting people and places. **“A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge, but the simple keep going and suffer for it.” (Proverbs 22:3)** Take one day at a time, as anything more will be overwhelming. **“Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” (Matthew 6:34)** **“Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation.” (Matthew 26:41)** Lastly, you must strengthen yourself by the word of God. **“I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.” (Psalm 119:11)**

The Bible is clear: practicing homosexuality is a sin, however, the Bible also tells us how to overcome this sin.

Lesson 10

Gambling

There are two reasons why gambling is a sin. First, it is the result of greed, which is a sin. Secondly, it can grow into an addiction where the sinner worships money instead of worshipping God.

Gambling is all around us. Not only are casinos making millions off of it, but you can't even go to the grocery store without running into the lottery. Horse races are not as popular as they once were, but they also are a form of gambling. We should expect gambling to be common in our age, because love of money is one of the signs that we live near the time of Christ's return. (2 Timothy 3:1-2)

Gambling thrives because of greed, which is a sin. ***"Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."*** (Luke 12:15) Paul said, ***"let there be no...greed among you, because these are improper for God's holy people."*** (Ephesians 5:3) Even the Ten Commandments say, ***"Do not covet."*** (Exodus 20:17)

Greed is a bottomless pit. ***"Those who love money will never have enough. How absurd to think that wealth brings true happiness."*** (Ecclesiastes 5:10)

Gambling can become an addiction, destroying families and personal finances. This is why there is a self-help program called Gamblers Anonymous. Gambling can become a master whom we serve instead of serving God. ***"No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money."*** (Matthew 6:24) For this reason it is called idolatry. (Colossians 3:5)

Gambling comes from greed, which the Bible calls a sin, and it can lead to an addiction, enslaving the soul.

Lesson 11

Witchcraft

The occult has existed in all nations and in all times. In America today it is seen in palm reading, card reading, crystal ball reading, the psychic hotline, the ouija board, and the very popular horoscope. An example of a long-standing worldwide occult organization is the Association for Research and Enlightenment which teaches horoscopes, reincarnation and tries to contact the spirits of the dead. New Ageism is also a form of witchcraft. All this is denounced throughout Scripture. It is commonly believed that the occult comes from a fallen angel, but nowhere in the Bible does it say this. In fact, the Bible says witchcraft comes from the flesh, that is human nature. (*Galatians 5:20*)

Horoscopes originated in the Babylonian religion and appear in most major newspapers except the Wall Street Journal. In the beginning, horoscopes told of the political future, and not personal matters like modern horoscopes. Believing in horoscopes does not make sense, as thousands of people died in the terrorist attacks in New York City on September 11th, 2001, yet they did not share the same sign of the zodiac.

Throughout the Bible, witchcraft is seen as a sin. The Law of Moses said, “***Do not allow a sorceress to live.***” (*Exodus 22:18*) *Deuteronomy 18:10-12* says, “***Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD...***”

The New Testament says, “***A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly.***” (*Acts 19:19*) The value of the books was several million dollars.

Witchcraft enslaves us, giving us another master. (*Matthew 6:24, Luke 16:13, Romans 6:16, 2 Peter 2:19*)

Some people dabble in these things as a joke without really believing in it. This is wrong and we must, “***Abstain from all appearance of evil.***” (*1 Thessalonians 5:22 King James Version*)

The occult is alive and well today. I even know of a man who was sacrificed in a satanic rite! We must avoid the occult as it is an appearance of evil.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART II

Questions

Lesson #8

- 1) What is adultery?*
- 2) What is fornication?*
- 3) Name two reasons why adultery is more serious than fornication.*
- 4) What do adultery and fornication symbolize?*

Lesson #9

- 1) Is homosexuality a sin?*
- 2) What does Genesis 9:20-24 mean?*
- 3) List Scriptures that can help a gay Christian live a godly life.*

Lesson #10

- 1) List two reasons why gambling is a sin.*

Lesson #11

- 1) Is practicing the occult a sin?*
- 2) Where does witchcraft come from?*
- 3) What is the Association for Research and Enlightenment?*

Lesson 12

Civil Disobedience, Protesting, and Voting

There are two reasons why a Christian does not engage in civil disobedience, protesting, or voting. First, we are pilgrims in this life. Secondly, because God controls human government, if we protest or vote we may be going against God's will.

We learned earlier that God's nation is not the United States of America: God's nation is the Kingdom of the Jews. (***Matthew 19:28***) "***When the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel***" ***Luke 1:32-33*** says, "***He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.***" ***Galatians 6:16*** says, "***Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule, even the Israel of God.***" Christians in the United States are merely pilgrims here. ***1 Peter 2:11*** says so. The word sojourner here is paroikol, meaning a sojourner, or a temporary resident. (Young) The Imperial Reference Dictionary says it means, one journeying through in this life as a stranger in this world.

The patriarchs considered themselves pilgrims as well. "***All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.***" (***Hebrews 11:13***)

The Bible repeatedly says God chooses the rulers of this world. "***The Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.***" (***Daniel 4:17***) God made Nebuchadnezzar insane until he acknowledged, "***that the Most High is sovereign over the kingdoms of men and gives them to anyone he wishes.***" (***Daniel 4:25***, see also verse 32, and ***Daniel 5:21***)

Not only does God choose rulers, but he also chooses their policy. "***The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases.***" (***Proverbs 21:1***) A vote or protest against a ruler, or policy may be a vote or protest against God's will.

As Christians, our allegiance is to the Kingdom of God, and not to any other nation. We are merely sojourners here thus, thus if we engage in civil disobedience, protesting, or voting we may be going against God's will.

Lesson 13

Service in the Military or in the Police Force

There are several jobs that a Christian can never hold, including service as a policeman or service in the military. This includes deskwork as a policeman, and non-combatant service in the military. There are two reasons for this: firstly, we must not resist evil. Secondly, nobody can serve two masters.

A Christian is somebody who turns the other cheek. *Matthew 5:39* says, ***“But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.”*** This is impossible to do in some military and police jobs.

However, a Christian should avoid all police jobs and military occupations, including being a meter maid, desk work in the police force, and so-called non-combatant military service. This is because a Christian is bought with a price, and hence cannot be a slave to men. *1 Corinthians 7:23* says, ***“You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”*** There is no room on the top of a totem pole for two heads. Either God is the first concern in our life, or our job is the first concern in our life. ***“But seek ye first his kingdom and his righteousness.” (Matthew 6:33)*** ***“No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other.” (Matthew 6:24, see also Luke 16:13)***

The issue is not merely academic. There is a religion that insists that all its members be conscientious objectors that calls itself the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith. Up until the Korean War it allowed its members to be non-combatant in the military. Once in the Korean War while the fighting was heavy, a member of this faith was handed a weapon and ordered to the front line to join the others in killing the enemy. He was told he would be executed on the spot if he refused to do so. He went to the front lines, but the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith has never again allowed its members to be non-combatants in the military.

As Christians, there are two reasons why we cannot serve as policemen, or in the military. First, it is hard to turn the other cheek when your life is on the line. Secondly, a Christian puts God first in his life, not his job.

Lesson 14

The Priesthood

The first century church had no ordained priesthood. This is an example we should follow.

In the early church, every member was a member of the priesthood. ***“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)***

All believers are equal to each other in the fellowship. ***“But you are not to be called ‘Rabbi,’ for you have one Master and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth ‘father,’ for you have one Father that is in heaven. Nor are you to be called ‘teacher,’ for you have one Teacher, the Christ.”(Matthew 23:8-10)***

Those who support ordained ministers quote ***1 Corinthians 9:9-10***. ***“For it is written in the Law of Moses: ‘Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain.’ Is it about oxen that God is concerned? Surely he says this for us, doesn’t he? Yes, this was written for us, because when the plowman plows and the thresher threshes, they ought to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.”***

However, these verses have two possible meanings: either we are to ordain ministers, or we are to pay traveling expenses of those who do the Lord's work. I believe ***1 Corinthians 9:9-10*** means we are to pay the traveling expenses of those who do the Lord’s work, for two reasons: First, the Apostle Paul was a tentmaker. (***Acts 18:3***) If he was ordained, this would not have been the case. Secondly, ***Luke 10:4-7*** says, ***“Stay in that house eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker deserves his wages.”*** This is a clear example of those who do the Lord’s work getting traveler’s expenses paid for it.

In the Christian community, all the believers are priests, none rank above another. Those who do God’s work get traveling expenses paid for this. There are no paid ministers.

Lesson 15

Marrying an Unbeliever

Throughout the Bible, believers were only supposed to marry other believers. For this reason, Dawn Christadelphians only marry Dawn Christadelphians.

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?” Ezra scolded the believers of his day because, ***“You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women, adding to Israel’s guilt.” (Ezra 10:10)***

Solomon was a man who not only had holy spirit gifts, but also wrote several books of the Bible. He asked for wisdom, and God gave it to him, yet Solomon lost the pureness of his faith and slipped into idolatry because he married unbelieving wives. This is why the Bible says, ***“You are not to give your daughters in marriage to their sons, nor are you to take their daughters in marriage for yourselves. Was it not because of marriages like these that Solomon King of Israel sinned? Among the many nations there was no king like him. He was loved by his God, and God made him king over all Israel, but even he was led into sin by foreign women.” (Nehemiah 13:25-26)***

So we see it is not wise to marry an unbeliever. It is a sin as it leads people from the straight path of following the true God.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART II

Questions

Lesson #12

- 1) Who chooses the rulers of the nations?*
- 2) Who chooses the policies of the world's affairs?*
- 3) Why are civil disobedience, protesting and voting sinful?*

Lesson #13

- 1) List two reasons why service in the military or service in the police force are sins.*
- 2) Should a Christian serve as a non-combatant in the military?*

Lesson #14

- 1) What did the Apostle Paul do for a living?*
- 2) What is the meaning of **1 Corinthians 9:9-10**?*

Lesson #15

- 1) Is it practical for a Christian to marry a non-Christian?*
- 2) Is it sinful for a Christian to marry a non-Christian?*

Lesson 16

Forgiveness

We are living in difficult times. In fact, there is so much evil in our age that it is hard to forgive. It is said of the end time, ***“Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold.”*** (Matthew 24: 12) In fact, it is often so hard to forgive, that we cannot do it without God’s help. In this lesson we will look at the importance of forgiveness, and steps we can take to love others.

We are commanded to love and forgive others. The Lord’s Prayer says, ***“forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors.”*** (Matthew 6:12) John said, ***“Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.”*** (1 John 4:8) We are to forgive over and over again. ***“Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, ‘Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? up to seven times?’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.’”*** (Matthew 18:21-22)

The Bible tells us how to forgive. We must pray for our enemies, ***“Pray for those who persecute you!”*** (Matthew 5:44) and do good to them, feeding them when they are hungry. ***“If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.”*** (Proverbs 25:21)

It can be a help to realize that our enemies are given to us by God. ***“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*** (Romans 8:28) Joseph knew he was sold as a slave into Egypt so that others might benefit. ***“God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”*** (Genesis 50:19-29) David once said, ***“If he is cursing because the LORD said to him, ‘Curse David; who can ask, ‘Why do you do this?’”*** (2 Samuel 16:10) Likewise, Jesus knew God caused his crucifixion, not Pilate, for he said to Pilate, ***“You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above.”*** (John 19: 11)

It is common in the States to have loaded handguns in the house in case somebody breaks into the house. There are two reasons why this is a sin. First, we are supposed to love and forgive everybody, and if we forgive, we don’t shoot people. Second, we should trust God and not handguns for safety.

Our age has many horrible people and it is sometimes humanly impossible to forgive. But God helps us to love if we let Him. We must pray for our enemies and do good to them. It sometimes helps us to know that God gives us our enemies, and there is a purpose in it all.

Lesson 17

The Mass Media

There is no commandment in the Bible that tells us point blank that we should not watch TV or go to the movies, but if we do, we must control it instead of it controlling us. Television and the movies are programmed to control us. Advertisements and shows are created by people who study mind control in college. The angle at which news events are filmed gives us a bias on the news. Television erodes communication in a family. This is so true, that whenever a family goes to counseling, people are told to remove the TV from the bedroom.

The media erodes moral values. The average age children are exposed to pornography for the first time on the internet is twelve. I believe the only innocent children in America are Amish children, who never watch television or go to movies. I say this because I saw group sex described in detail on daytime television. Don't watch soap operas! They indorse homosexuality, adultery, fornication, incest, jealousy, selfishness, divorce, pride, impatience, unkindness, rudeness, hatred, vanity, envy, and covetousness. Most sitcoms are to be avoided as well for example, Everyone Loves Raymond is indiscreet. **Titus 2:5** says women in the church are to set an example by being discreet.

Some people who claim to be Christians go to dirty movies and say its okay because they close their eyes when skin is shown. What they don't realize is the plot of these movies is only interesting if you think sinfully, and the humor of these movies is only funny if you think sinfully.

Television is a time waster. **Ephesians 5:16** says we should be, ***“making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.”*** This command is again seen in Colossians 4:5. We should replace television viewing with good works. It is also a waste of time to spend hours surfing the net, or playing computer games.

Jesus describes those who are rejected at the Judgment Day as being like goats. These animals are well known for eating anything, even tin cans. They are like people who are not careful about what they watch in the media. We become like what we focus our attention on, so we should attend to positive things.

We sin if we see things that are not appropriate "Turn my eyes away from worthless things; preserve my life according to your word." (Ps 119:37 see also Isaiah 33:15)

Television invites the world into our home. Both it and movies are part of the mass media and the masses are up to no good. ***“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”*** (Matthew 7:13-1) A good rule to follow is only watch the media if Jesus would sit down and watch it with you.

Lesson 18

Baptism

Baptism is necessary for salvation. Peter said this point blank in *1 Peter 3:21* when he said, ***“baptism that now saves you”***

Leading a good life is not enough, as God wants us to be baptized even if we are upright. Cornelius was a good man, in fact, ***“He (Cornelius) and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.” (Acts 10: 2)*** Yet good as Cornelius was, it was necessary for him to be baptized, as the rest of the chapter shows.

The word baptism comes from a word that means, "to dip." The word is used when cloth is dipped in dye to change color. When we are dipped in the water of baptism, we change our standing before God. ***“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:3-4)***

Because of the importance of dipping as a symbol, a baptism that involves just pouring or sprinkling is not a proper baptism.

Before we are baptized we must know the gospel. ***“But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.” (Acts 8:12)*** There are three things we learn about the valid baptism in this verse. First; the person who is baptized must know the things concerning the Kingdom of God. What is the Kingdom of God? Is it in your heart? Is it the Church? Will it be established on earth when Jesus returns? Whoever does not know the answer to this question before he was baptized did not have a proper baptism. Second; before a person is baptized he must know about the name of Jesus Christ. Was God the father of Jesus Christ or was Joseph his father? Did Jesus pre-exist? Is Jesus the second person of the Trinity? Why did Jesus come the first time? Why is he going to return? Since Jesus died to destroy the works of the devil (*1 John 3:8*) we do not understand the gospel of Jesus Christ unless we understand who the devil is. A person who did not know the answer to these questions before he was baptized did not have a proper baptism. Thirdly; *Acts 8:12* says that men and women were baptized, but it does not say that children were baptized. People who were baptized as children did not have a proper baptism.

The gospel to be believed before baptism also includes a knowledge of the commandments of Christ. This is because the gospel is to be obeyed. *1 Peter 4:17* says, ***“And if (judgment) begins with us what will the outcome be for those who do not obey the gospel of God?”*** Other verses say the gospel must be obeyed. *Romans 2:8* talks of obeying the Truth. *II Thessalonians 1:8* speaks of those who, ***“obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus.”***

If the gospel is to be obeyed the commandments of God are part of the gospel. What are the commandments of God? Is it a sin for a believer to marry an unbeliever? to divorce? to marry after a divorce? Is it a sin to gamble? Practice fornication? or homosexuality? Is it a commandment to be loving towards our enemies? Should a Christian refuse to serve in the military or in the police force?

The reason this course covers the material it does, is this material must be understood to make a baptism valid.

Before we are baptized, we must repent. John the Baptist, ***“He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.” (Luke 3:3)*** Peter said, ***“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness***

of sins...” (Acts 2:38)

Another thing we must do before we begin our life as a Christian, is count the cost of discipleship. Paul said, ***“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men.” (1 Corinthians 15:19)*** This is because the world hates Christians, just as the world hated Jesus. ***“If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belong to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you. (John 15:18-19)*** For this reason Jesus said, ***“Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Will he not first sit down and estimate the cost to see if he has enough money to complete it? For if he lays the foundation and is not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’” (Luke 14:28-29)***

It is easy to see that baptism of children, retarded people or infants is not valid. Can a baby repent? Can a retarded person know the gospel? Can a child count the cost of a future walk in Christ? Baptism of babies, children, or retarded people are not valid baptisms.

If a person has not been baptized properly he needs to be baptized again. ***“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance.’ He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized into the Name of the Lord Jesus.” (Acts 19:1-5)***

Baptism is the beginning of a persons walk in Christ. First he learns the gospel, repents of his sins and counts the cost of following Jesus. Then he is buried in water (***Colossians 2:12***) symbolizing the death of the old way of life. When he is raised from the waters of baptism he is a new creature in Christ Jesus. This is the only valid baptism.

DAWN CHRISTADELPHIAN BIBLE COURSE PART II

Questions

Lesson #16

- 1) How will God treat us if we love and forgive others?*
- 2) Should we forgive someone over and over again?*
- 3) How should we treat our enemies?*
- 4) Does God give us our enemies?*

Lesson #17

1) Should a believer watch a lot of television? Tick the appropriate answers:

- a) It's okay.*
- b) No.*

2) If a believer chooses to watch TV, why should he be discerning in his TV viewing? Tick the appropriate answers:

- a) To redeem the time.*
- b) To not give the appearance of evil.*
- c) Many shows encourage compromising standards.*
- d) Nobody is a discerning TV viewer. Why be different?*

Lesson #18

- 1) Is baptism necessary for salvation?*
- 2) Is baptism by sprinkling a proper baptism?*
- 3) Is baptism by pouring a proper baptism?*
- 4) Is baptism by immersion a proper baptism?*
- 5) Must we know the gospel to make a baptism valid?*
- 6) Is baptism of children, babies and retarded people valid?*
- 7) When, if ever, is it necessary to re-baptize someone?*
- 8) Do you want a Dawn Christadelphian to baptize you?*