



ORDINATION MANUAL

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PRE-ORDINATION QUALIFICATIONS

MANUAL FOR MINISTERS AND

DEACONS

PREFACE

Anyone desiring to work in God's Great House is to be commended. Our desire is to encourage each individual, and to help nurture the abilities that God has given them for wherever he has called them to serve. There are many ways to serve in God's great work. This manual covers two of the offices in the church: that of Minister and Deacon.

When a man presents himself as a candidate to become a Deacon or Minister of the Gospel, and represent The Church of God of the Union Assembly as an ambassador for Christ, the standard to which he must be held is extraordinary and of the highest regard. In the words of Apostle Paul "a bishop then must be blameless." This manual is not intended to create that standard, but to serve as a guide to help each one with the call of God on their lives to reach that standard. He must live Holy in his daily life and perform his duties for The Lord at the highest level of integrity! To be, again as Apostle Paul said, "a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work."

Men desiring to attain the office of a minister or deacon in the church will be required to meet and pass certain criteria.

1. Must be a member of the church in good standing.
2. Must live a life that is beyond reproach, both naturally and spiritually.
3. Must learn the required basics of the core doctrine contained in this manual, pass the required exam, and demonstrate the ability to preach and/or teach these basics so that others can understand it.
4. Must learn the required basic duties of a minister such as, how to conduct a Baptizing, how to conduct a Funeral, and how to perform a wedding.
5. Must attend any required classroom training or seminars.
6. Must pass a criminal background check.

1 Timothy 3:1-13; 1 Timothy 4:11-16; 2 Timothy 2:15; Titus 1:5-9; 1 Peter 5:1-7

A lot of prayer seeking God's help and guidance, and with untold hours of preparation, our goal is to present a manual with an outline of requirements and expectations to help each one be qualified and capable to be entrusted with the office of Minister or Deacon. We have included the office of Deacon in this manual because the same requirements, except to preach, is expected of them. We feel it is important to point out that most of all, you must spend a lot of time in prayer seeking God's help and Anointing. As a wise man once said, "the key to it all, is to stay humble." Remember, without God, we can do nothing!

May God bless you and your Ministry



2014

Called To Preach

Training Class

Instructor - Leon Allen

Glossary

Section 1	Called To Preach (<i>Lesson Overview</i>)
Section 2	Student Workbook
Section 3	Five Pitfalls For Pastors To Avoid
Section 4	So You Want To Be A Preacher
Section 5	Minister's Credentials (<i>Sample Copy</i>)
Section 6	The Call To The Ministry (<i>My Story</i>)

Called To Preach

Section 1

Lesson Overview

Called to Preach

Isaiah 6:8 - Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

When God puts a calling on your life to preach, it is not selfish to think ***“Lord are you sure that is what you want me to do?”*** What is selfish is when you refuse because it is not in your goals for life.

Jesus said to Peter, a fisherman by trade, ***“Come, follow me and I will make you a fisher of men.”*** We may have a great job, a great education, or other goals. But when the Lord calls you into his vineyard, are you going to be ready to work for him? Will you be willing to go wherever and whenever you may be called upon to do so?

Everybody can minister in some form or another, but to be called to preach is well beyond just ministering. Even though you are ministering to the needs of people, it is your responsibility to not just minister to their material welfare but also minister to the welfare of their soul through the salvation of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul writes in **1 Timothy 4:2-5** to young Timothy to ***“preach the word, to exhort (or instruct) with long-suffering and doctrine.”*** As a preacher in **The Church of God of the Union Assembly**, you need to know the doctrine of the church, our **Tenets of Faith**, learn the history of the church and its progress through the years of its existence. The more you know about the church you’re in, the better equipped you are to answer questions about it. Paul goes on to tell Timothy that some will turn away from the truth, but for him to continue to watch and endure. He tells him to ***“make full proof of thy ministry.”***

The purpose of this course is to hopefully (i) help you know what God’s calling on your life is, (ii) to enlighten you about some of the requirements of a preacher, and (iii) to share some basic knowledge of this calling.

We will discuss in general the following:

- I. Personal Life**
- II. Spiritual Life**
- III. Field of Ministry**
- IV. Continuing Education**

These things will be covered in brief and will allow time for any questions pertaining to these topics to be answered.

Course time: approx. 90 minutes

Called To Preach

Section 2

Student Workbook

Called To Preach

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Romans 11:29

I. Personal Life

A) Character

1. Credibility
2. Integrity
3. Courage

B) Finances

1. Stewardship

C) Household

1. Single
2. Married

II. Spiritual Life

A) Personal Salvation

1. One on One Relationship with Christ
2. A Tried Faith
3. Committed, Faithful

B) Avoiding Snares

1. Hypocrisy
2. Gossip
3. Conduct

C) Supporting Your Church

1. Spiritually
2. Financially
3. Attendance

III. Field of Ministry

A) Evangelist

1. Missionary Work
2. Revivalist

B) Bishop

1. Church Leadership

IV. Continuing Education

A) Knowledge is Power

1. Spiritual Understanding

Called To Preach

*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
Romans 11:29*

Student Workbook

I. PERSONAL LIFE

A) Character

1. Credibility

2. Integrity

The integrity of the minister must always be front and center. He must always keep focus on and examine his core values.

Reference Scripture – Luke 6:45, Proverbs 15:4, 1 Thessalonians 5:15-24

3. Courage

The minister must always speak the truth and should be intentional that the perceptions of his actions are truthful.

Reference Scripture – Ephesians 6:10-19, 2 Timothy 2:3

B) Finances

1. Stewardship

No deposit, no return – Proper deposit, proper return

Reference Scripture – Luke 12:48

C) **Household**

1. Single

2. Married

Called To Preach

*For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.
Romans 11:29*

II. SPIRITUAL LIFE

A) Personal Salvation

1. One on One Relationship with Christ

2. A Tried Faith

3. Committed, Faithful

The minister must be committed to the Word of God, and faithful in His calling.

Reference Scripture – Romans 11:29, 2 Timothy 2:2

B) Avoiding Snares

1. Hypocrisy

2. Gossip

3. Conduct

C) Supporting Your Church

1. Spiritually

2. Financially

3. Attendance

Every minister should support a local church in prayer, financially, and attendance. Every minister is accountable to a Pastor and a State Overseer.

Called To Preach

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Romans 11:29

III. FIELD OF MINISTRY

A) Evangelist

The field of evangelism is widely spread. In fact, Jesus said, “**Go into all the world and preach the gospel.**” There is a big responsibility upon the shoulders of a true evangelist. He is referred to often as the “traveling preacher.” In a lot of organizations, the evangelist is the forerunner of the Missionaries and Pastors.

1. Missionary Work

2. Revivalist

The minister must seek the guidance of God in order for his message to have a positive impact on his audience. He must have confidence in his delivery and preparation of that message.

B) Bishop

1. Church Leadership

Reference Scripture – Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Called To Preach

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Romans 11:29

IV. CONTINUING EDUCATION

A) Knowledge is Power

The minister must be willing to grow and advance in the knowledge of the Word. He must have an open mind and an open heart to learn more of God's Word and the "how-to's" of getting it into the hearts of people. He must never feel that he is too old to learn, or that he already knows it. Both of these attitudes can be destructive.

1. Spiritual Understanding

There are times to lead and there are times to follow.

Not only should a preacher be apt to teach, but should also be apt to learn as well.

Called To Preach

Section 3

Five Pitfalls For Pastors To Avoid

Five Pitfalls for Pastors to Avoid

By Eddie Lawrence

Introduction - As I typed the title to this post in the form of a sermon outline, I must admit it was a little scary. Why? I am a pastor that has experienced great pain due to falling into one or more of these pits. I take full responsibility for my own actions which is necessary in order for healing and restoration to take place.

However in addition to our own mistakes and sinfulness, the enemy is also at work against the life of every servant of Christ. The Scripture bears this out. Jesus was tempted of the Devil. David sinned greatly. Peter denied Christ. Paul was buffeted. Some of our heroes in the Scriptures fought valiantly and endured the temptation. Others caved in. We can still learn from them all.

Take Peter for example. Jesus told Peter that Satan has asked for him. That's interesting in and of itself. How does that work? Why is this possible? Jesus also told Peter that restoration would be necessary. This was before Peter ever fell. Jesus told Peter he had prayed for him that through it all, his faith would not fail him. You know the story. Peter was sifted like wheat. The end result was Peter was sifted of a presumptuous pride that had led him into trouble more than once. Yes, God can use the attack of the Devil to bring about good in our lives. At the resurrection, Jesus went to Peter to restore him at the seaside. Peter was chosen 50 days after his fall to preach the first sermon at Pentecost. This ought to encourage every servant of Christ who is aware of their own fallen humanity.

Here is a short list of five areas that every pastor should be vigilant about, because the enemy of our souls is lurking around these areas just waiting for the opportunity to bring you down.

1. Pride

The Scripture is clear. Pride precedes destruction and a fall. As a pastor, you are in a situation to be unwittingly elevated in the minds of men. People will unintentionally set you up on a pedestal. If you are not careful, it can affect the way you begin to think about yourself.

You may begin to struggle with feeling too self-important. We must remember that Jesus has run the church for almost 2000 years just fine without any of us. We are servants, not tyrants.

You may begin to struggle with entitlement. This is the "I'm special, therefore I deserve this or that!" attitude. This creates fertile ground for the enemy to poison you and others. He had much rather leave you in the pulpit with this kind of attitude than to pull you out of it. Why? Because you lead the people to focus on you instead of Christ.

You may struggle with insecurity. When people exalt you, you begin to fear that they will discover that you are just like them, or that someone else may do a better job than you when you fail to meet their high expectations. The result is feeling threatened by other gifted people. Resorting to control and manipulation to keep things safe for yourself.

2. Burnout

This is rampant. There is often a certain amount of self-deception behind this. The idea that you can do it all. Allowing unreasonable expectations to be placed on you by others or by yourself.

On two different occasions in my ministry I have succumbed to burnout. The first landed me in the hospital with heart and stress related problems. The second time I almost lost everything including my family. In the first situation I had allowed others to heap and heap unreasonable requirements on my life and time. In the second, I carried a huge list of expectations over my own head. In both cases, I was driven to the end of myself.

Take time for yourself and your family. Learn to free your mind of what I called the “guilt of the undone.” it will never all get done and it is foolish for you to think you can conquer it all alone. The applause of the people is very motivating but it is setting you up to bring you down. You have one Master and it is not “them” or “yourself.” it is Christ and he calls you to life of rest and peace which will produce wonderful fruit for which He alone gets the glory.

Eat right and exercise. Learn to have mental activities that allow you to disengage from “war.” This “recreation” will benefit you greatly. I am not suggesting a vacation from God. You never need that. But you do need to avoid viewing God as a taskmaster who is constantly requiring you to “do.” He calls you to Himself to rest and intimacy. Out of that you will get what you need for everything else. What a trap we have fallen into when we begin to associate our Father with our tiredness.

3. Sex

Sex is a gift of God that brings incredible pleasure without guilt when it is expressed and experienced within its intended boundaries. When you begin to use it in illegitimate ways as an escape from your “high pressure” reality, it becomes gunpowder looking for fire. It is highly destructive.

Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the grace to satisfy your true longings for intimacy in godly ways. Share your heart with your spouse. Do not share any kind of intimate conversation with an inappropriate person. That leaves out everyone except your spouse, your counselor, or a trusted godly friend of the same sex. We all yearn and crave to be known. To be accepted. To be loved for who we are. These are powerful emotions that can be seduced by the power of sex. The enemy invites us to a false intimacy.

Stay away from pornography. Flee lust. Be accountable to someone who is nearby. Long distance accountability is a joke. You need someone who rubs shoulders with you on a regular basis. This is someone who can see you around others, look into your eyes, who knows you are struggling and will talk to you about it.

Seek help. Don’t allow fear and pride from causing you to humble yourself when you are struggling. Remember David was alone on a rooftop when his men were off to war.

Don’t allow your need for affirmation or intimacy to seduce you into illegitimately fulfilling your heart cravings. Words are powerful, so be very careful what you say to others, especially if you feel the pull of an illegitimate attraction toward them. Life and death are in the power of the tongue. One remark can set a course toward pain for your life.

4. Money

This is probably the most subtle of the pitfalls. Why? Because we learn how to hide behind “godly” curtains. It is easy to be duped by the power of greed and desire for money. Only the Lord knows the motive of our hearts.

It is not wrong for pastors to be really cared for. As a matter of fact, it is Scriptural. It is wrong, however, when we somehow prostitute ourselves for money. When the motive of what we do becomes to get more money, then we err and can become pierced through with sorrows.

A servant working hard or overtime to adequately provide for family needs is obeying Scripture. A servant who resorts to tactics and motives that conflict with the heart of Christ is in trouble. Father is still our provider and we ultimately trust Him. We do not leave His voice to follow another, even if the other offers more money. Again, this is a tricky one, because it has to do with the motive of the heart, which others cannot see. So guard your own heart.

5. Fear

The fear of failure. The fear of man. The fear of lack. The fear of rejection. Fear, fear, fear..... It can come disguised in a million ways. Yet, it can quickly shut down your faith and your anointing.

Fear will thrust you ahead of God because you are afraid of being seen as fearful because you know you should patiently wait. It can hold you back from God’s plan because you fear you might fail to step into what He is calling you to do.

The antidote for fear is a faith that is rooted in the love of God. When you know how much God really loves you, it becomes much easier to simply trust what you sense He is telling you to do. If you need to wait, then you are unafraid to let people know that it is not time to charge ahead. When you feel led to step out, you are unafraid to step into the unknown because you know your loving Father will not fail you.

In the congregation, there can at times be forces at work to shut you down or speed you up to get “their” own ways. It will be the love of God that will help you correctly respond, patiently endure, and courageously lead your people. This is always the rub for leaders. Some want more, some want less, and some want what God wants.

Conclusion - These are five areas of many that could be listed. I hope that this gives you some food for thought and will help you in avoiding these dangerous areas where the enemy is plotting your demise. Remember..... God is for you and not against you! I pray that you are able to avoid these pitfalls. If you are in trouble now, get help! If you are struggling in one of these areas now, get help! Don’t be foolish and think you can do it alone. Take the advice from someone who knows that very foolishness and what it can cost you.

Called To Preach

Section 4

So You Want To Be A Preacher

So You Want To Be A Preacher

There is a whole lot more to being a preacher than just tucking a bible under your arm and taking off. Before you can honestly preach to someone about how they should live for Christ, you need to be sure you are living for Him. You need to know that you've been saved before you can help someone else receive salvation.

One of the biggest pitfalls a preacher can find himself in is to preach one way and live another. God calls that **"hypocrisy"** in His Word. You have to be true to God and yourself. You may fool someone else, but you don't fool God. When you claim to be a preacher, you put yourself under the microscope of the public eye. This especially happens in a small town where everybody knows everybody. In big cities you may get by a little longer but people in your neighborhood will soon pick up on your manner of life, and word spreads like wildfire. If you are not careful you will have no credibility with people. Being forthright and honest in your dealings, and show a genuine concern about the welfare of others goes a long way with the people.

It's been said throughout many generations that, **"a man's word is his bond"**, and that **"a handshake is as good as a signature"**. Sadly to say, it's not that way with most folks today. With a few men, it is still that way. I've known men and still know men that walk just that way. That's the kind of men we should want to pattern after today. And if you are not willing to accept instruction, you will never be a true preacher. You might quote Scripture, but that don't make you a preacher.

So as I stated earlier, there is more to being a preacher than just carrying a bible under your arm. If you feel you have been called into the ministry of preaching the gospel, thank God that he counted you worthy to carry His Word.

The church needs men to help plant the seed, to water the seed, to nurture each seed that has been planted. To help it bear the most fruit it possibly can. The church needs preachers to help reap the harvest as well.

Many people are dying everyday lost and unprepared to meet God. It is a wonderful feeling to know God has called you to carry His message of hope and salvation to a lost and dying world. But, it is also a great responsibility that's laid upon the hearts of men who are called. The apostle Paul wrote, ***"woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel."***

1 Corinthians 9:16 - For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

1 Peter 4:10 - As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

I hear men say, *"I feel I've been called into the ministry."* Let's look at *"the ministry."* There are a lot of different ministries in serving God, and you may have been called to serve in one or more of those ministries. I want to name just a few of these ministries that God has called people to serve in. You can have a ministry and not be a preacher *per say*. Some people have been blessed with the ministry of singing or playing instruments. Some are blessed with the ministry to gather goods for the less fortunate. Others are blessed with

the ministry to work with the youth. Some are blessed with the ministry to provide shelter to the homeless. I can go on and on about ministries, and these are all an integral part of the Body of Christ. With just the few I mentioned, a person still needs that relationship with Christ for their ministry to be effective. But I still haven't mentioned preaching in any of these.

You can be called to work with the youth and not be a preacher. You can be called to visit the sick and shut-ins and not be a preacher. You can be called to minister in a number of these ministries and yet not be a preacher. So you can be a minister without preaching, but you can't be a preacher without ministering.

When you are a preacher, you sometimes wear many hats. You may be called on to preach a funeral or officiate a wedding. You may have to get up in the middle of the night and go to the hospital, nursing home, or someone's home to pray for the sick or hurting. You may find yourself called to come to the funeral home to help a family in arrangements of a loved one who just passed on. You may be asked to speak for a baby dedication or perform a baptism. This is just the tip of the iceberg when you are a preacher, even more so if you are a pastor.

There are preachers who feel they have a specific calling. Some feel led to just go into the jails and preach while other preachers may travel and preach, such as an evangelist. Some feel they are called to pastor a church. We just need to realize that whatever capacity we have been called to preach in, we have got to preach.

The title means nothing if you don't fulfill the office of that title. And with that office goes a considerable bit of training. You can know the doctrine of the church front and back, but if you don't know how to deliver the message you can do more harm than good. That is why it is so vital that we train and equip our ministers to be able to serve their church and communities. ***Let your light so shine!*** You cannot be trained to feel the Holy Ghost, which is a gift in itself. But we can learn how to deliver the message that God through his Holy Ghost has laid upon our heart.

Jesus taught His disciples how to pray, how to be good stewards, how to treat all age groups, and many other things such as the importance of having faith. We are taught how to receive faith. One of Jesus' followers referred to Him as "Rabbi" or "teacher".

Men in the service of our country have to be trained in the use of weapons as well as other means of defense. We as preachers are no different. We have to be trained how to use the "weapons of our warfare" too. And when we become skilled in those areas, it is time to teach others as well. One man cannot do it all. Jesus taught us that by choosing the twelve. He knew He would not be with them long, so for three years He taught them how to carry on after His death. It is our obligation and duty as a minister of the gospel to deliver the same message the apostles and elders did of how Jesus came to save sinners. But how we deliver that message can make the difference.

As society changes, our approach and delivery has to change somewhat also. It's still the same message. I believe in different ministrations of the Spirit. Which to me says there are different ways to deliver the message God gives us depending on the leading of the Spirit. I do not believe you have to preach every sermon like a bull in a china shop. One of my

heroes in ministry once said, “*You don’t sow seed when the wind is blowing.*” That makes good sense.

There is a distinct difference in preaching and teaching. I have no problem with getting excited about our salvation, but we need to be skillful in our delivery techniques. You can say the right thing the wrong way and offend people, visitors or members. Our mission is to gather the lost, not scatter the sheep. These things can be true of a pastor, resident minister, or visiting minister.

I wrote above about one of my heroes; he also used this illustration, “*You can take an ear of corn and lead a horse anywhere you want him to go. But you can also take that same ear of corn and beat him over the head with it a few times, and it doesn’t matter how much you hold it out there again, he is not going to come to it.*” It’s not the gospel; it is how we present it sometimes that causes our churches not to grow. I’m still learning and will continue to learn. But, I’m willing to learn.

Abiding Within Our Calling

1 Corinthians 7:20 - Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called.

So through much prayer, I hope you have found your calling with God. You have come to the conclusion that God has called you to preach. Do you know what area of preaching he has called you to do? That is very important to know. If you don’t come to know what direction God has called you to take, then you can still be out of place with God. Seeking God is a must in knowing what He wants from you. Just because a man is called to preach, does not mean he is called to pastor a church. But every real preacher is called to be a minister of the gospel.

Romans 11:29 - For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

In other words, if you are truly called to preach you can’t just quit preaching because it doesn’t go like you think it ought to. Every part of the Body of Christ is important. Working together brings more unity to the body.

Ephesians 4: 11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelist; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

God placed the gifts in the church to bring us to perfection, to mature as Christians. I want you to think about something for a moment. Did you know that the calling God has placed on your life as a minister of the gospel in whatever capacity that may be is a gift not only to you but to the church as well? Paul said God gave these gifts for the building up of the church. If you possess any of these gifts Paul mentioned above, you are a gift to your church. That does not make you superior to the congregation. In fact, it is very humbling, or

should be, to know that God called you into the ministry. You are a servant of the church. You will never do any good in your preaching if you have an exalted spirit. You have to possess a humble spirit and a willingness to preach the Word of God. Sadly to say, I have seen men get ordained and then they changed. And not for the better, either.

Proverbs 29:23 - A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

God will not use a high-minded person. If you seek God, study His Word, and learn how to present the Word using good and godly knowledge, you can be successful in your preaching.

Learn how to treat people, how to feel for their situation to a degree. For example, I'll use a personal experience from my ministry. A friend of mine that I went to high school with years ago lost his father suddenly in death. I had just lost my father suddenly as well. When he and his family came to the funeral home where I worked to make the final arrangements I thought I would take that opportunity to try and comfort him. I said, *"I know how you feel. I just lost my father, too."* He looked at me and replied, *"Was you close to your dad?"* I stated, *"Yes, we were very close."* Then he replied again, *"I wasn't close to my dad. I wish I had been. So how could you possibly know how I feel?"* I just shut my mouth, I felt about two inches tall. If I could have found something right then to crawl under I believe I would have tried. I meant well, but it didn't turn out well. He later apologized for his remarks, and I done the same in return. So you have to be very careful how you speak to people in those types of situations.

You can stand in the pulpit and say something like, *"I don't care what you are going through God knows where you're at."* This is true, but all they tend to hear is *"I don't care!"* They just put up a wall between you and them. Instead, why not say something like, *"Regardless of what you are going through, God knows where you are."* You basically said the same thing just in a non-offensive way. Another example would be like, *"We're glad to be here today"* at a funeral. You just have to be careful how you say things. I can't express that enough.

Proverbs 25:11 - A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

Whether you are called to be a bishop or an evangelist it is a ministry. And of course, that means to minister to the needs of the people. There also has to be a willingness to answer the call at any time not a convenient time. God works on His time, not ours.

Matthew 4: 18-20

18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

20 And they straightway left their nets, and followed him.

Notice here that these men straightway (immediately) followed Jesus. If you will go in the right attitude and for the right reasons, God will supply all your needs. To follow God is a journey of faith.

2 Timothy 2:1-4

1 Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

2 And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

A Bishop

In a lot of denominations you have to advance to elder status before you can become a bishop. In The Church of God of the Union Assembly, we believe a man who feels he has been called to preach should be at least sixteen years of age, on a trial period for at least twelve months, and know the fundamental doctrines of the church in order to be recommended for ordination as a bishop (or an evangelist).

I recommend that you travel among our churches, get close to your state overseer and pastor, preach as often as possible. In other words, you need the exposure.

It is also required by the church that you meet the qualifications as stated in 1 Timothy Chapter 3. These scriptures actually apply to preachers in general. I know it speaks of the office of a bishop, but all ministers should walk in this manner.

1 Timothy 3:1-7

1 This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach;

3 Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre; but patient, not a brawler, not covetous;

4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;

5 (For if a man no not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

6 Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil.

7 Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and snare of the devil.

However, you need to take notice of some key words such as **blameless, vigilant, good behaviour, apt to teach, novice, pride, good report, reproach, and snare.**

Blameless: Titus 2:7-8

7 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity,

8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Vigilant: Ephesians 5:15 - See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

Good Behaviour: 2 Thessalonians 3:7 - For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us: for we behaved not ourselves disorderly among you;

Apt To Teach: 2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

Novice: 2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Pride: Proverbs 29:23 - A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Good Report: 2 Timothy 3:10 - But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,

Reproach: 1 Timothy 4:12 - Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

Snare: Titus 3:8 - This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.

All these things listed above need to be taken to heart. It is very easy to let things get a hold of us that would cause us to lift ourselves up. When we begin to think we don't need any instruction or guidance, that we already know what we need to know, something will come our way that will cause us to fall into the trap Satan lays for us. This is why it is so important to stay humble where God can use you. There are traps and snares everywhere when you are trying to win souls to Jesus. Satan is a sore loser. But if we study the Word of God, do our best to lift people up, keep our soul in line with God, and keep a good name, then we will do well as a bishop or evangelist.

Now the governing body of the church feels that a man should be ordained as a bishop if his desire is to pastor a church. This does not mean he cannot conduct a revival if he feels led to, but he has to keep the welfare of his flock in mind. He can't be gone all the time and care for them properly. In the future there will be a committee appointed to review men that have been recommended to be ordained. Those recommended will have an examination of the fundamental doctrines of the church to assure their readiness as a minister.

All bishops in the church do not have a pastoral position due to the fact that we have more preachers than churches to pastor. These bishops should be helping their local church as a resident minister and under the government of that pastor and state overseer.

An Evangelist

An evangelist cannot truly pastor a church because the pastor needs to stay close to his congregation. The evangelist on the other hand should be constantly traveling to preach anywhere he is given the opportunity.

As an evangelist, you should always contact the pastor of the church you wish to preach at. You should never just show up and expect the pastor to change the service or plans to accommodate you. Remember you are the “visiting preacher”. If the pastor is doing his job, then no one knows that congregation like the pastor. If you are not scheduled to speak that week, don’t be offended if the pastor carries on with the plans already in place. Be respectful to them and they will be respectful to you.

If an evangelist wants to go into a town where we do not have a church, you should work in close contact and upon approval of that state overseer. If we do not have a church within that state, you should work in close contact and upon approval of the Council and General Overseer. Always respect those over you in the Lord.

Hebrews 13:16-17

16 But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

These Councilmen and Overseers are there to help us. They want to see the church grow into new areas as well. But as I stated earlier, every preacher must be held accountable to somebody.

2 Timothy 4:1-5

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lust shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

The whole objective to the work of an evangelist is to help gather the lost, to strengthen the existing churches, and to help plant new churches. Sometimes we don’t always know how we are going to be financially able to go and preach, but God said he would supply all our needs.

Philippians 4:19 - But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Must have faith for the journey!

I want to speak briefly about the role of a pastor from personal experience. A pastor's calling goes well beyond just preaching when you are called to a pastoral position you are put into a leadership role. John Maxwell states in his book *Developing the Leader Within You* that *"He who leads with no one following, is only taking a walk."* You must have a vision for your church and a way to reach your goal. So you have to prepare yourself for the journey if you expect your congregation to follow suit. Don't ever ask your staff to do anything you are not willing to do. Remember most every position within your church is voluntary. Do your best to make them feel that the job they do is important and to do it with pride. Reinforce them with a *"good job."* Everybody likes a pat on the back from time to time. If you respect your members, they will respect you.

You have to keep in mind that the local church did not get where it is overnight and you are not going to change them overnight. If you are just taking on the role of a pastor, you may have some big shoes to fill. The previous pastor may have done a great job. But just keep in mind that 'you are you and not the previous pastor. With new pastors comes change. Be willing to listen to your staff. Find out what they have been doing in the past. It may be that their vision and yours is the same. Don't be afraid to share your vision and goals as a pastor. This can be accomplished without them feeling like you are pushing them. Don't ever talk down the previous pastor or staff. The key to anything you do as a pastor should be done in the Spirit of Meekness. You are the servant of that church. But in the same turn, you are not their slave. You have a life outside the walls of the church, and it is evident that you are not going to please everybody.

The pastor has a great responsibility in making sure that he as a "shepherd over a flock" feeds the sheep. The pastor will spend many hours in study of God's Word to preach for thirty minutes to an hour sometimes. One of the biggest mistakes a pastor can make is to get up at any service and say, *"I don't really have anything on my heart today"* or *"I don't really have a burning sermon lined up."* If you are not on fire, how can you expect the congregation to be? You may not feel particularly like preaching, and that's okay. Turn the service over to your assistant or another minister that might feel like speaking. But don't ever make those statements from the pulpit to your congregation because they came to be fed and you just told them you didn't have anything to feed them with. You may have the pastorate by yourself and not have anyone to turn to in time like that. But I know God, and if we pray we will have something to preach. God has never failed me! Another pitfall a pastor can make is to try and show how much he knows. Have you heard the saying *"Nobody cares how much you know, till they know how much you care?"*

Trust, confidence, and respect are qualities that you earn with your congregation. You can't just talk the talk; you have to walk the walk. Show an interest in what your church is doing. Get involved. Encourage the members with your positive reinforcement.

You will also find out that everybody is not going to get involved with church activities. As much as you want it to be 100%, it's not going to happen very often. The members' schedules differ from time to time. And some will just not participate period. Another

lesson in leadership or pastoring listed in John Maxwell's book that I mentioned earlier is the "Perato Rule." This rule states, *"You will find that 20% of the people do 80% of the work, and that 80% of the people do 20% of the work. And usually those doing 20% of the work do 80% of the complaining."*

It is good to delegate responsibilities. A lot of people are willing to help but feel needed more if they are asked directly rather than waiting on them to volunteer. Another mistake easily made by pastors is to give someone a job or task and tell them how to do it. You will get less help in the future if you do this much. Let it be their job. It may not get done just like you think it ought to but try and encourage them still. If something in their task needs to be changed, be very tactful about it in a suggestive way such as, *"Do you feel this would take away from the project if you changed this right here? What do you think?"* Make sure they feel they are still in charge of that project. I was taught several years ago that a working church is a growing church.

Being a pastor is a lot like managing a business. From time to time you have to do a little housekeeping duties. You have to be very discreet in handling all matters. Positive reinforcement is very important. Do not look for things to complain about, but rather edify. I'd much rather have a church full of people who make mistakes, than a church full of empty pews because I was too critical.

Being a pastor is a wonderful and rewarding job. I was also taught that a person, who loves their job, will never work a day in their life. Sometimes we face heartaches and disappointments with the way some people conduct themselves. But when that person comes up to you after that Sunday morning service and says, "Pastor that was a good message today. It really helped me over a trial," or maybe "Pastor we appreciate your help today. It sure made things easier." These types of comments make the hard words not so hard.

As a pastor:

- Be Punctual
- Be a man of your word. If you tell someone you will do something, do your best to do it. It will build confidence with the people.
- Be concerned with the upkeep of your church facilities. Lead by example.
- Stay in touch with the sick and shut-ins.
- Show a genuine concern for your members' well-being.
- Let your congregation know you are there for them.
- Be careful in opening up your pulpit.
- Dress neatly.

There are many others too numerous to mention.

Called To Preach

Section 5

***Minister's Credentials
(Sample Copy)***

The Church of God Of The Union Assembly, Inc.

MINISTERS CREDENTIALS

*"And hereby we do
know that we know
him, if we keep his
commandments."
1 John 2:3*



*"He that saith I know
him and keepeth not
His commandments is
a liar, and the truth is
not in him."
1 John 2:4*

To Whom It May Concern:

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That _____
is ordained by The Church of God of the Union Assembly, Inc., to the office of a
_____ in the Church of God, as long as his life and doctrine
corresponds with the New Testament and he executes his office as a _____
and conducts himself as becometh the servant of Christ, always adhering to the
pure doctrine of the gospel, being authorized to administer the Lord's Supper and
feet washing, to baptize and to celebrate matrimony according to the law; and
to feed the Church of God which Jesus has purchased with His own blood; taking
the oversight not as a lord over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.
At any time the bearer fails to conduct himself as becometh a minister of the
Church of God, these credentials become of no effect.

Signed by order of The Church of God of the Union Assembly, Inc.

Given under the hands of the following Presbytery:

This, the _____ A.D. _____

_____ General Overseer

_____ General Secretary

Called To Preach

Section 6

***The Call To The Ministry
(My Story)***

The Call to the Ministry **(My Story)**

I remember when I felt the call to preach. At first, I didn't know how to respond. After all, I was only ten years old.

Our General Overseer, Reverend Jesse F. Pratt was preaching at a Minister's Meeting in Fort Worth, Texas. There had been such an outpouring of the Holy Ghost at that morning service. I remember standing at the left side of the podium as Rev. Pratt was standing behind it. Ready to dismiss the morning service, Rev. Pratt asked if anyone else would like to speak before we dismissed. I felt like my heart was about to beat out of my chest, scared to death, and didn't know what was happening with me altogether but I knew I had to speak. I gave a brief testimony and asked if could be a preacher. Rev. Pratt looked down at me and said, "You sure can son." He then patted me on the head and said, "This is Brother Richard Allen's son, a fine young man."

After the service ended, I went up to the General Secretary (Brother Richard Jackson) and gave him my name to be put on the Junior Board of Ministers. That was in April of 1969.

I began reading my Bible a lot and asking my dad questions about different verses.

He gave me some pamphlets written on various doctrinal subjects of our church, and I would study those over and over. I would listen to recordings of old radio broadcast and revival meetings trying to grasp all I could to be a good soldier for the Lord.

As I grew a little older, other things started to get my attention and I got in a little trouble here and there. Nothing major, but it could have led to something worse.

Dad had moved our family to Arizona so he could work on the ranch that our church organization owned at the time. In 1971, Rev. Pratt came out there on some church business. While he was there we had a few revival services. One night during his preaching, he cautioned me to be a good boy and not to follow the world. Very shortly after that, dad moved us back to Georgia. Rev. Pratt asked him if he would be a deacon at the church in Cedartown. So that is where we moved.

The desire to preach was still in my heart and I was trying to learn more and more how to be a preacher. By now I was in high school and I was having trouble staying focused on God. The burden of high school and all the temptations that go with it was weighing very heavy on my shoulders. I felt like my soul was dying.

Rev. Pratt was conducting a huge tent revival in Cartersville, Georgia in the spring of 1973 I believe it was around that time. Anyway, each night he would have a different church group to sit on the stage. Well this particular night was the Cedartown church group. I was sitting on the back row of the stage and Rev. Pratt was forevermore preaching under the anointing of the Holy Ghost. He was from one side of that stage to the other, people shouting and praising God all under that tent. It was truly a Holy Ghost revival! I couldn't stay still. I was praying and asking God for that anointing on my life. I was following him from side to side trying to see him as he was preaching. As I was moving across the back row of the stage, I was praying "God send me blessing of hope!" when all of a sudden everybody in front of me

just parted and there stood Rev. Pratt looking me right in the eyes. He stretched out his hand and said, "Come here son. God is going to make you a pillar in this church!" I'll never forget that night as long as I live and in my right mind. He and I danced all over that stage.

In March of 1974, Rev. Pratt went home to be with the Lord. I thought my heart would burst. He was a hero in my eyes, and always will be. I knew he was a man of God. But I also knew he wasn't God. The following month was our Minister's Meeting in Dalton. On the last night Friday April 26th (my dad's birthday) I was recommended to be ordained. The council had already ordained the bishops, so I was ordained as an evangelist. But I knew my calling was to be a bishop and pastor churches.

I traveled as best I could at 15 years of age. It was kind of hard when you weren't old enough to drive on your own. I went with older ministers learning everything I could about God and preaching styles. My ministry seemed to propel me to greater heights with God. Later I was ordained as a Bishop.

I began to help pastor churches through the years from Georgia to Alabama, back to Georgia, then to Indiana, and back to Alabama. Then in 1994 I was elected to serve on the Board of Elders where I currently preside. Also in 1994, I moved to Dalton to work with the youth at that local church. I served in that capacity until November 1999. During those years at Dalton, I helped organize Rock Solid Youth Ministries, working with and helping establish youth programs throughout our organization.

In January of 2000, I moved to Cedartown. I didn't have any plans of pastoring anymore, but God had other plans. In April of 2000, I was asked to be the Associate Pastor of the local church. I resigned as National Youth Director and accepted the position as Associate Pastor. In 2001, the Senior Pastor died with a massive heart attack. I felt the burden of that church come into my heart. I served as interim Pastor until April of 2002.

At our April Minister's Meeting I was installed as Senior Pastor. I still remain in that position and have no intentions of going anywhere else. But who knows what God has in store for my ministry. When He calls I will answer!

Leon Allen

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You Bridge to a Better Future- John C. Maxwell

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David L. Northcutt

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Sermons On Evangelism - Hyman J. Appelman

Evangelism And Missions - Demetrius Crespo, B.Th.

Pastors In Pain - Gary Preston

Introduction to Christian Counseling - Dr. Kenneth Meadors

Christian Counseling 3rd Edition - Gary R. Collins, Ph.D.

Becoming A Dynamic Youth Leader - Larry Maxwell

The Power of a Covenant Heart -David Huskins

Other Resources Used in this Course Packet

Start Church

www.startchurch.com

A complete guide to church planting.

Child Welfare Information Gateway

www.childwelfare.gov

Mandatory reporting for child abuse. What state laws require.

Enrichment Journal

www.enrichmentjournal.ag.org

A Minister's Code of Ethics

Sermon Seedbed

www.sermonseedbed.com

Five Pitfalls for Pastors to Avoid by Eddie Lawrence

May God Bless Your Ministry Abundantly!



2015

Ethics and Ministry – *Living Above Reproach*

Training Class

Instructor - Leon Allen

Ethics and Ministry - Living Above Reproach

Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: - 2 Corinthians 6:3

1) How do you define ethics?

Philippians 2:15

1 Corinthians 11:1

2 Corinthians 5:20

Integrity - Wholeness, completeness, upright

2) Is there really a need for a Code of Ethics?

Psalms 84:10

1 Peter 5:3 ***....ensamples to the flock.***

3) In today's society, how do we determine what is right?

Situational ethics teach that as long as it does not hurt anyone it is OK. Is it really OK?

Romans 14:16

4) To whom are Ministers accountable?

Accountable - to be held responsible.

Romans 14:12

We as ministers are held to the highest level.

5) When are ethical principles established within a person?

Ephesians 6:1-4

Proverbs 22:6

Everybody has not grown up in a Christian home. But when they come to know Jesus as Lord and Saviour, they can be taught Christian ethics as a babe in Christ.

1 Peter 2:2

1 Timothy 3:1-7

Galatians 2:2

As ministers we are to:

Pursue Integrity 1 Chronicles 29:17

- **in personal character** Romans 14:19
- **in personal care** 1 Corinthians 6:19
- **in preaching and teaching** Titus 2:7-8

As ministers we are to: (con't)

Be Trustworthy 1 Corinthians 4:2

- **in leadership** Luke 16:10-11
- **with information** Proverbs 11:13
- **with resources** Luke 16:12

Seek Purity 1 Timothy 4:12

- **in maintaining sexual purity** Ephesians 5:3
- **in spiritual information** 2 Corinthians 10:5-6
- **in theology** 2 Timothy 2:15, 1 Timothy 4:13

Embrace Accountability 1 Peter 5:2-3

- **in finances** Proverbs 22:1
- **in ministry responsibilities** Hebrews 13:16-17

We as ministers must live above reproach.

The following are a few examples of unethical behavior:

- Plagiarism - Using someone else's sermons or notes as your own. (Give honor to whom honor is due)
- Misuse of church funds
- Improper relationship with members
- Indifferences toward fellow Ministers
- Involvement in other church's affairs
- The "death trap" - Sex, Money, Pride
- Using the pulpit for a battleground
- Trying to take over another Minister's pulpit
- To preach for personal gain or profit
- To think that we are better than others

Avoid the “glad to see you” syndrome. Glad to see you come.
Glad to see you sit down.
Glad to see you go.

Always leave a church with them wanting to see you come back.

Resources used in this course are as follows:

Teachings of *The Church of God of the Union Assembly*

The Holy Bible- KJV

Enrichment Journal - www.enrichmentjournal.ag.org

Christian Ethics Today - Joe E. Trull, James A. Carter



2015

Ethics in Christian Ministry –

Doing the Right Thing Regardless the Cost

Training Class

Instructor – Dale Brewer

My Ministry Code of Ethics

1. Pursue Integrity
2. Seek Unity
3. Practice Charity
4. Acknowledge my Humanness
5. Work to Earn the Trust and Respect of My Church

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Since the beginning of time, man has transgressed the laws of God. Everything that God put on this earth is doing exactly what he put it here to do, accept the human family. Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned:. This shows us that sin entered the world by the Devil, and that brought death upon all men because all have sinned.

God has always had a plan for man to have a chance to turn back to him and receive salvation. This plan of salvation is **God's way** for us to be saved. God only has **one way**, or **one plan**, for us to follow. All that God has done throughout the ages, was leading to the time that he would send his son Jesus Christ, as stated in Galatians 4:4-5; (4) But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his son, made of a woman, made under the law, (5) To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

It is this Plan that we will cover in this course. It is of vital importance that we as ministers understand what our role, and the role of the church is in this plan. It is only when we understand our mission, that we can fulfill our part in this plan.

THE PLAN OF SALVATION:

Acts 4:10-12

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

11 This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner.

12 **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**

- The only way for anyone to be saved, is through JESUS CHRIST. When Jesus came, he prepared the way of salvation.

Genesis 2:2

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

- This shows plainly that God finished his work back in the beginning, and on the seventh day he rested. Since that time God has always had men on earth to do the work that he wanted done. When it was time, God sent a man by the name of John.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

John 1:6

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

- This is speaking of John the Baptist.

Luke 1:16-17

16 And many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God.

17 And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

- Notice in verse 17, it said “he shall go before **him**”. This was speaking of John going before Jesus. John was given the job to get people ready for Jesus’s first coming. (Our job as ministers today, is to get people ready for Jesus’s second coming.) In the third chapter of Matthew, we find John doing this work through preaching and baptizing. While John is baptizing, Jesus comes to him to be baptized.

Matthew 3:13-15

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.

- Jesus had a purpose for having John baptize him.

1 Peter 2:21

21 For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

- We know that Jesus was baptized for our example, that we should be baptized. But there are other examples here as well, such as how he was baptized, and by whom he was baptized. It’s who he was baptized by that we need to look at here. Jesus’s example was that he went down to the preacher that God had sent, to be baptized by him. No one can baptize themselves. It is widely believed that a person can receive salvation on their own. That is **not** God’s plan! The gospel must be preached so that a person can receive it. Once a person believes the gospel, they can then repent and be baptized. It takes the minister to preach them the gospel, and baptize

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

them. No one is saved by themselves. That is why Jesus sent the apostles in the sixteenth chapter of Mark.

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

- Jesus told them to go into all the world, meaning to both the Jews and the Gentiles. After Jesus was crucified, buried, and resurrected, the way of salvation was open to all. Jesus was telling them to preach the gospel, and to baptize the ones that believed.

John 12:32-33

32 **And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**

33 This he said, signifying what death he should die.

- Jesus's death on the cross was part of God's master plan to bring mankind back to him. You notice Jesus said if he was lifted up on the cross, he would **draw** all men unto him. (Not every man, but all men), simply meaning both Jews and Gentiles. As we know, everyone will not believe and receive the gospel. In order for us to understand how his death on the cross would draw men, we need to look at the sixth chapter of John.

John 6:44-45

44 **No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.**

45 **It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**

- You see, no one just comes to Jesus on their own. Jesus said that the Father had to **draw** them. The question is, how is it that God draws us to Christ. The answer is in the 45th verse. He said they shall all be **taught of God**, not by God, but of God. It is the preacher's job to preach the gospel and teach people what God's plan of salvation is. It did not say that they could just read and learn on their own. It said they would **hear** and **learn**, and then they would come to Jesus. God draws us to Jesus by the gospel. **If you cannot teach a person the word of God, you cannot lead them to Christ.**

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Romans 10:13-14

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?

- Verse 13 said whosoever **called** on the name of Jesus would be **saved**. Verse 14 makes it plain how this is to work. First it said you could **not call** on him **except you believe**. Second it said you could **not believe** until you've **heard**. Third it said you could not **hear** without the **preacher**.

1 Corinthians 1:21

21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.

- This verse shows us that we are saved by the preaching of the gospel. There are two questions that we must know the answer to. First, how does God save us, second, where does God save us. As we have shown so far, the how is by the preaching of the gospel. It is important to understand that **the church is where God saves us**.

Acts 2:47

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

- Now we start to see the role of the church. The Lord puts us in the church to be saved, not because we are already saved. **The church is where God saves us**. And he does this by the preacher.

1 Corinthians 12:18

18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

- It said God set the members in the body as it **pleased** him. Remember how it pleased God in 1 Corinthians 1:21, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Notice it said that he put the members in the **body**. We know that the church is the body of Christ.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the **church**,

23 **Which is his body**, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:24

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of **Christ** in my flesh for **his body's sake, which is the church**.

- So we see that the church is the body of Christ.

Acts 8:29-31

29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

- This passage is where the spirit sent Philip down to the Ethiopian eunuch. This eunuch was a man of great authority. He had charge of all the queens treasure. He was educated and could read. This was not an ignorant or unlearned man. He still knew that he had to have the preacher to teach him the word of God. In verse 35 Philip begins to preach to him.

Acts 8:35-38

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

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

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

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

GOD'S PLAN FOR SALVATION

- Verse 35 said he preached unto him Jesus. We know that he had to preach the church to him because as we have shown it is Jesus body. You cannot preach Jesus and not preach the church. It said only that he preached Jesus. But we know that he preached water baptism because the eunuch asked him if he could be baptized. Philip had to of preached to him this plan of salvation or else the eunuch would not have wanted to be baptized. Remember, Jesus told his disciples to preach the gospel, he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. This eunuch wanted to be saved. Therefore Philip baptized him and put him in the church.

Ephesians 4:4

4 There is one body, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

- It said that there is one body, (which we know is the church), and one spirit, that is to go in that one body. We know that Philip had that one right spirit, and so he baptized him into the church. You can find this in 1 Corinthians 12:13

1 Corinthians 12:13

13 For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit.

- **God's plan for salvation is for people to hear the gospel, to believe, and then repent and be baptized into the bible church.**

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION

As ministers our main objective is to lead people to Christ. Through repentance and water baptism is where a person starts their walk with The Lord. To become a member of the church, it is required that a person know enough to repent of their sins and be baptized. Acts 2:37-38; (37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? (38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

A minister could think of his learning as a mason building a brick wall. If he starts right, he can finish right. It must be done one course, or layer, at a time. Each course that is added not only adds to the wall, but it becomes a foundation for the next course. The same applies to your learning of the Word of God. As you start your ministry, it is of most importance that you start with the right foundation. You must understand and know how to lead a person to repentance and water baptism, because that is where they start their foundation for Christ. Hebrews 6:1; Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

This course will be taught in two phases, first repentance, and second water baptism, as this is the order in which it must be preached. As you will learn, a person is not eligible to be baptized until they have repented.

REPENTANCE:

- Repentance is when a person becomes convicted of their sins, and is sorry in their heart and asks forgiveness for those sins, and turns from their evil ways.

2 Corinthians 7:9-10

9 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing.

10 **For godly sorrow worketh repentance** to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

- Take note, that **godly sorrow is not repentance**, but it **works repentance**. When a person becomes sorry in their heart for their sins, it works repentance. The next verses show how it works repentance.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

Jonah 3:8-10

8 But let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and cry mightily unto God: yea, let them turn every one from his evil way, and from the violence that is in their hands.

9 Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

10 And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way; and God repented of the evil, that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

- Verse 8 said for them to cry mightily unto God and **let them turn from their evil way**. Verse 10 said that God saw their works, **that they did turn**. So you can see that repentance is when a person becomes sorry and Stops committing the sins they were convicted of. For them to receive conviction, they must hear the gospel preached, as shown in these next verses.

Matthew 3:1-2

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

Acts 2:36-41

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Luke 24:46-47

46 And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:**

47 **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

- John came preaching repentance. Then Jesus came preaching repentance. And after he arose from the dead, he commanded the apostles to do the same. You can see in Acts 2, we find Peter doing that very thing. He had preached such an awesome sermon to this crowd, that in verse 37, it said they were **pricked in their heart** and asked **“what shall we do?”** He preached conviction on them by the gospel, and they became sorry and repented and was baptized. **This is the process that every sinner must follow in order to be saved!** As you can see in the next verses, Jesus said “except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 13:2-5

2 And Jesus answering said unto them, **Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things?**

3 **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

4 **Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem?**

5 **I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.**

- It is the goodness of God that leadeth to repentance. Remember 2 Corinthians 7:10 said “For godly sorrow worketh repentance”. The goodness of God is what brings conviction on a person’s heart, and causes them to become sorry for the sin they have done.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

Romans 2:4

4 Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

- Repentance is what takes you **toward** God. It is how you **draw nigh** to God.

Acts 20:21

21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

James 4:6-10

6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness.

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

Acts 26:19-20

19 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision:

20 But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

- Notice in James 4:7, He said **“Submit yourselves therefore to God”**, simply meaning, repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Verse 8, He said **“Draw nigh to God”**, you do that by repentance, as Acts 20 said, “repentance **toward** God”. He said “cleans your hands, ye sinners”, God wants a sinner to lay down the things of sin. “purify your hearts, ye double minded”. A double minded person is someone who wants to do right, but thinks they cannot. They have a mind to do right, and a mind to sin. He is showing here how to get rid of the mind to sin, “Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you”. When a person becomes sorry for their sins, they move toward God and become a mourner. Then God will hear them pray because they are repenting of their sins. If they will do what verses 9 and 10 say, then God will lift them up.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

- Above in Acts 26:20, it said, “that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance”. Matthew 3:8; said, “Bring forth therefore **fruits meet for repentance**”. Fruits of repentance is what he said in Jonah 3:10; “And God saw **their works, that they turned from their evil way**”, that is fruits of repentance.

Luke 24:47

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

- As we stated on the start, a person must repent before they are baptized. They must become sorry, and repent before they can receive the remission, which is received at water baptism. When Peter was asked in Acts 2, “what shall we do”, he said, “repent, and be baptized” in that order.

WATER BAPTISM BY IMMERSION:

Water baptism follows repentance. Just as we are commanded to repent, we are also commanded to be baptized. **Water baptism is a commandment.** It is to be done by immersion, meaning to be buried, which is to be completely covered by water.

Through repentance and water baptism, we find the blood of Jesus. Jesus shed his blood so we could be cleansed from our sins. Hebrews 9:22; And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Water baptism washes away our sins and gives us the remission, which is the cleansing. Acts 22:16; And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

Acts 2:37-38

37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Luke 24:46-47

46 And said unto them, **Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:**

47 **And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

- Jesus did not have to repent, but **he was baptized for our example**. And we are to follow that example. Jesus did not do anything that was not essential to salvation.

1 Peter 2:21-22

21 For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, **leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:**

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

- His steps went down to the water, to the man of God, so he could baptize him. This is where we start our walk with Christ. We start following Christ footsteps at water baptism. This is the start of a beautiful relationship. Remember Jesus did no sin, so he did not have to repent. Therefore we do not find his footsteps at the altar of repentance, but we find them at water baptism.

Matthew 3:13-17

13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto a John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, **Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness.** Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased.

- In verse 15, Jesus told John "It becometh us to fulfill all righteousness". Righteousness in this instance is water baptism. 1 John 3:7 said "he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous". Verse 10 said "whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God". If a person refuses to be baptized, they refuse to do righteousness, and they are not of God. The last part of verse 15 said "Then he suffered him", That means he baptized him. Verse 17 said "This is my beloved son, in whom I am **well pleased**". If it pleased God for his son to be baptized, you know it will please him for us to be baptized.
- Verse 16 said when Jesus was baptized, he "went up straightway out of the water". This shows that Jesus had to be in the water to come out of the water. Therefore Jesus was buried, or immersed in the water. In order for a person to be baptized correctly, according to the bible, we must follow this example.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

- Baptism is typical of Jesus death, burial, and resurrection. When a person is buried, we close their eyes, fold their hands, and completely cover them with the earth. It is the same with water baptism.

Romans 6:3-5

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

Acts 8:35-39

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, see, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

39 And when they were come up out of the water, the spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.

- Baptism is not sprinkling water on a person's head. Philip could not baptize the eunuch from the bank. He had to take him out where it was deep enough to immerse, or bury, him in the water.
- You notice in verse 35 it said only that he "preached unto him Jesus". We know that he preached water baptism, or else the eunuch would not have known about it. When he preached Jesus, he taught him what he needed to know for salvation, which includes repentance and water baptism.

Hebrews 10:21-22

21 And having an high priest over the house of God;

22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

- **Our heart** is what is sprinkled, and not our head. It is sprinkled with **the blood of Christ**, and not water.

Hebrews 12:24

24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and the **blood of sprinkling**, that speaketh better things than that of Able.

- In order to become a child of God, we must be born again. Water baptism is the new birth. Without it we cannot enter the kingdom of God.

John 3:1-7

1 There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews:

2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of the water and of the spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.**

6 **That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the spirit is spirit.**

7 **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.**

1 Peter 3:20-21

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

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

- **We are saved by water baptism.** Verse 20 said they **"were saved by water"**. They were not saved by the ark, but the water. It was the water that caused them to get in the ark. Verse 21 said "The like figure whereunto even **baptism** doth also now **save us**".
- After Jesus arose from the dead, he sent the apostles into all the world to preach the Gospel of salvation. He said **"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;"**

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

Mark 16:15-16

15 And he said unto them, **Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 **He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.**

- It is also important to understand that water baptism puts us in the spiritual body of Christ.

Romans 6:3

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death.

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

- The ceremony to be used in water baptism is as follows: In obedience to the commandment of our great Lord and Master, I indeed baptize thee my brother, or sister, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. This is recorded in Matthew 28:19.

Matthew 28:19

19 **Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost.**

- Notice the word **baptizing**. This is in the **very act** of the water baptism ceremony. This **commandment** was given to the **preacher** to use.
- There is **another commandment given to the person who is being baptized**. A lot of people get this mixed up with the commandment to the preacher. In the next two places you can see the preacher giving the commandment to the convert.

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said unto them, repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

- Peter is telling them to repent in the name of Jesus and be baptized in the name of Jesus. This is not the ceremony for baptism.

Acts 10:48

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

REPENTANCE AND WATER BAPTISM

- Again the convert is being commanded to be baptized in the name the Lord, but this is still not the baptism ceremony.
- The reason they are to be baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus is in Colossians 3:17

Colossians 3:17

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

- These next two verses shows where they followed this commandment.

Acts 8:16

16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Acts 19:4-5

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER IS BEING JOINED TO THE CHURCH

In order for a person to become a member of The Church of God of The Union Assembly, they need to have come to the knowledge that they need to repent and be baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. It is not required that a person understand every point of doctrine, however they must know enough to repent of their sins and be baptized by faith in Jesus Christ.

The Word of God teaches us that being **baptized** (by immersion) puts you in the **spiritual body** of Christ; being **added** to the **church**, **joins** you to the **natural body** of Christ. We will explain the difference as we cover this subject.

JOINED TO THE NATURAL BODY

Ephesians 1:22-23

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head of all things to the **church**,

23 **Which is his body**, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

Colossians 1:24

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for **his body's sake, which is the church**.

- These three verses show us plainly that the **church** is the **body of Christ**. We must know this in order to know what we are being joined, or added to.

John 4:1-2

1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,

2 (though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,).

- In this passage, Jesus is gathering together disciples and baptizing them. This is the early stages of the church, as we will show, **the disciples are the church**.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Acts 9:1

1 And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against **the disciples** of the Lord, went unto the high priest,

Acts 8:1

1 And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against **the church** which was at Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles.

- Acts 9:1 said the threatenings and slaughter was against **the disciples**. Acts 8:1 said that the persecution was against **the church**. This shows us that **the disciples** and **the church** are the same thing.

Luke 6:12-13

12 And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.

13 And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he **chose twelve**, whom also he **named apostles**;

Ephesians 2:19-22

19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the **foundation** of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the spirit.

- After Jesus had gathered many disciples, he chose twelve men, whom he named apostles, to be the foundation of the church he was setting in order, (with Jesus himself being the chief corner stone). Now that everything was in order, Jesus then died for and purchased the church.

Acts 20:28

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- Jesus purchased the church with his own blood.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

Acts 2:41, 44, 47

41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were **added** unto **them** about three thousand souls.

44 And all that believed were **together**, and had all things common;

47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord **added** to the **church** daily such as should be saved.

- After Peter had preached to this great multitude of people, three thousand believed and were baptized. Verse 41 said these three thousand were “**added** unto **them**”. Verse 47 tells us who, **them** are. They were **added** to the **church**. Verse 44 said all that believed were **together**. They came together by being joined to the church, as we find in 1 Corinthians 1:10.

1 Corinthians 1:10

10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly **joined together** in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Acts 5:11-14

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these sayings.

12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were with one accord in Solomon’s porch.

13 And the rest durst no man **join** himself to them: but the people magnified them.

14 And believers were the more **added** to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)

- You can see by verses 13 and 14, that join and added are the same thing. So when a person **joins the church**, they are **added** to the **natural body**.

Ephesians 5:30-32

30 For **we are members** of his **body**, of his **flesh**, and of his **bones**.

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall **be joined** unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning **Christ** and the **church**.

- In verse 31, notice the words “**be joined**”. This is the natural church, (and it consist of **body**, **flesh**, and **bones**) and you join it just like a man joins his wife.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

- It takes a third party to join a man and his wife. It takes a third party (a preacher) to join you to Christ. In these next verses, we see that Paul is the third party, and he is joining them to Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:2

2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for **I have espoused** you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

1 Corinthians 6:15-16

15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? **Shall I then** take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid.

16 What? Know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? For two, saith he, shall be one flesh.

BAPTIZED INTO THE SPIRITUAL BODY

1 Corinthians 12:13

13 For by **one spirit** are we all **baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one spirit.

- We know that the body is the church. A preacher of God who has the spirit of the church, when he baptizes a person, he baptizes them into the spiritual body.

Ephesians 4:4

4 There is **one body**, and **one spirit**, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

- It said that there is one body, (which we know is the church), and one spirit, that is to go in that one body. Some believe that it is the spirit that puts a person in the church, and that the preacher has nothing to do with it. But as you can see, this is not correct.

Acts 8:29-31 and 35-38

29 Then the spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

HOW TO BECOME A MEMBER

30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, understand thou what thou readest?

31 And he said, how can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

36 And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, see, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

- In verse 29, it said that the spirit sent Philip. So we know that Philip had the one spirit. Verse 38 said, they both went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. Philip preached to this eunuch with this one spirit, and he baptized him with this one spirit. Therefore Philip put him in the spiritual body of Christ.

Acts 2:41

41 Then they that gladly received his word were **baptized**: and the same day there were **added** unto them about three thousand souls.

- Notice here, that after Peter had preached to these people, they were baptized, and then they were added to the church. When they were baptized, they were put into the spiritual body. Then they joined the natural body.

Acts 9:18 and 26

18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was **baptized**.

26 And when Saul was come to Jerusalem, he assayed to **join** himself to the **disciples**: but they were all afraid of him, and believed not that he was a disciple.

- After Saul's conversion, he arose and was baptized. That put him in the spiritual body of Christ. It was after this that he went up to Jerusalem to join the disciples, which, as you have learned, is the church. So we can definitely see the difference in the spiritual body and the natural body.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

We refer to The First Resurrection as “THE KEY TO THE BIBLE.” If you do not understand and know the truth about this subject, you will never be able to understand much about the Bible. Jesus told Martha in John 11: 25 “I am the resurrection.” For you to truly know Jesus, and be able to introduce him to others, you must understand the resurrection.

The subject of the resurrection will be taught in two parts, The First Resurrection, and The Last and General Resurrection. As Apostle Paul told Timothy in 2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

The focus of this subject is to know who was in the first resurrection and when it took place. At Jesus first coming, he brought about the first resurrection. At Jesus second coming, he will bring about the last resurrection.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION:

The first thing you must know is what constitutes a resurrection. To bring a person back to natural life is not a resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15: shows a resurrection in detail.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44

42 So also is the **resurrection of the dead**. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is **sown a natural body**; it is **raised a spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

- **A natural body is not eternal.** When we die we bury the natural body. For there to be a resurrection, it must be raised a spiritual body. **The spiritual body is an eternal body.**
- Now that we know what a resurrection is according to the Bible, we can understand that until God raised Jesus from the dead there had never been a resurrection. Therefore, he was the first. But he was not the only one who was resurrected that day.
- The Old Testament foretold of the first resurrection.

Isaiah 26:19

19 Thy dead **men** shall live, **together with my dead body** shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: for thy dew is as the dew of herbs, and the earth shall cast out the dead.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

- This verse shows plainly that there were more people who were going to **rise with Jesus's dead body**. He said "Thy dead **men** shall live". Men is plural, which means more than one. "**together** with my dead body" (Jesus's dead body) "shall **they** arise". **Together** shows when Jesus's dead body arose, they arose.

Hosea 6:2

2 After two days will he **revive** us; in the **third day** he will raise us up, and we shall live **together** in his sight.

- Again we see that they would live **together** with Jesus. In order for them to live, they had to be **revived** because they were dead. We know that this is talking about the resurrection of Jesus because it said the **third day** he (Jesus) would raise them up. Jesus was resurrected on the third day.

Luke 24:7

7 Saying, **The son of man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.**

1 Corinthians 15:4

4 And that he was buried, and that **he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures:

- Matthew 27 shows where this prophecy was fulfilled.

Matthew 27:51-53

51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;

52 And the **graves** were opened; and many bodies of the saints which **slept** arose,

53 And came out of the graves **after his resurrection**, and **went into the holy city**, and appeared unto many.

- The prophets Isaiah and Hosea said **they would rise**, Matthew said **they did rise**.
- Notice in verse 52 it said "the **graves** were opened". That is plural, meaning more than one. It said that "the saints which **slept** arose". That is past tense. They were dead, but they were resurrected on the third day.
- They did not simply roll out of their graves and then roll back in. Verse 53 said they "**went into the holy city**". The holy city was Jerusalem.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

Nehemiah 11:1

1 And the rulers of the people dwelt at Jerusalem: the rest of the people also cast lots, to bring one of ten to dwell in **Jerusalem the holy city**, and nine parts to dwell in other cities.

- Above in verse 53, it said they “came out of the graves **after his resurrection**”. They had to come out of their graves after Jesus because it was prophesied that he would be the **first to rise from the dead**. They arose after Jesus, but it was on the same “**Third day**” that he arose.

Acts 26:23

23 That Christ should suffer, and that he should be the **first that should rise from the dead**, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

- If he was going to be the only one to be resurrected, there would not have been any reason to say he would be the first. There had to be others in order for him to be the first. Romans said he was the “**first born among many brethren**”. Among means “in the presence of”, showing there were many brethren born from the dead when Jesus was, but he was the first.

Romans 8:29

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the **first born among many brethren**.

- Notice it said he was “**the first born**”. This means he was the **first born from the dead**. He was the first one to be resurrected.

Colossians 1:18

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the **first born from the dead**; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

- Paul said that Jesus had to be the first born from the dead because, in all things, he had to have the preeminence. Preeminence means superiority.
- God is who raised Jesus from the dead, and Jesus is the only one that God raised. That makes Christ superior.

Acts 2:22-24

22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

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23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:

24 **Whom God hath raised up**, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 2:29-32

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before **spake of the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 **This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.**

Acts 13:33

33 God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that **he hath raised up Jesus** again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, **this day have I begotten thee.**

Revelation 1:5

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and **the first begotten of the dead**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

When Jesus was resurrected, he then resurrected the hundred and forty and four thousand. Remember what Hosea 6:2 said "After two days will **he** (**Jesus**) "revive us; in the third day **he** (**Jesus**) "will raise us up, and we shall live together in his sight". Romans 14:9 shows when he did this.

Romans 14:9

9 For to this end Christ both **died**, and **rose**, and **revived**, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

- **Died:** When they hung him on the cross.
- **Rose:** When God raised him from the dead.
- **Revived:** When Christ raised the hundred and forty and four thousand.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

The first resurrection is not in the future, it has already happened. Those many bodies of the saints have already arose. Matthew said only, that there were **many** bodies, but Revelation gives the **number**, and **who they were**.

Revelation 7:3-8

3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have **sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads**.

4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were **sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel**.

5 Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand.

6 Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nepthali were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve thousand.

7 Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand.

8 Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

- Verse 4 shows the number was “**an hundred and forty and four thousand**”, and that they all came from “**all the tribes of the children of Israel**”. There were no Gentiles in this group, **they were all Jews**.
- Verses 5-8 shows how God took twelve thousand from each of the twelve tribes which makes an hundred and forty and four thousand.
- Verse 3 said they would have **the seal of God in their foreheads**. In Revelation 14:1, it shows that this seal is the Fathers name.

Revelation 14:1-5

1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him **an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads**.

2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

3 And **they sung as it were a new song** before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

THE FIRST RESURRECTION

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. **These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.** These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

5 And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

- Remember Isaiah 26:19 prophesied they would “awake and sing.”
Verse 3 says “they sung as it were a new song.” **That prophecy was fulfilled here.**
 - In verses 4 and 5 we can see five reasons why we cannot be in the first resurrection.
1. **They were not defiled with women.** Matthew 5:28 says “that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” Before we got right with God, we have all been guilty.
 2. **They followed the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.** When Jesus left this earth he went back to Heaven. If they followed him, they went to Heaven also. When he comes back they will come back with him. The hundred and forty and four thousand is the cloud that received him in Acts 1:9 “And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.” Hebrews 12:1 shows us what the cloud was, it was a cloud of witnesses. Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses”. And we know these witnesses were the first resurrection because of Revelation 20:4-5. Verse 4 “And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.” Verse 5 “But the rest of the dead lived not until the thousand years were finished. *This is the first resurrection.*”
 3. **They are the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.** The Gentiles are not the firstfruits. Christ and the hundred and forty and four thousand are the first fruits. 1 Corinthians 15:23 “But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits”. Revelation 14:4 “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb”.
 4. **In their mouth was found no guile.** That leaves us out because we all, at one time or another, have had guile in our mouth.
 5. **They were without fault before the throne of God.** That could not be us because he told us in Galatians 6:1 “Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness”.

It is important to understand that God brought this entire group of a hundred and forty and four thousand men into the world, born Holy from the womb, for the specific purpose of being in the first resurrection. Before Jesus Christ shed his blood to make men holy, God sanctified them holy from the womb. Refer back to Romans 8:29-30.

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Romans 8:29-30

29 For whom he did **foreknow**, he also did **predestinate** to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

- Verse 29 said he foreknew these men. To understand the foreknowledge of God look at Jeremiah 1:4-5.

Jeremiah 1:4-5

4 Then the word of the LORD came unto me, saying,

5 **Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee;** and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

- God said before he formed them in the belly he knew them, that is the foreknowledge of God. God sanctified the hundred and forty and four thousand and made them holy from the womb.
- Also in Romans 8:29, says God **predestinated** these men “to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.” They were the predestinated brethren that Christ would be born from the dead among.
- Romans 8:30 says, Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called (before Jesus Christ, God did not call anyone except the predestinated) them he also justified: and whom he justified (he justified all he called before Christ) them he also glorified. So we can see that the hundred and forty and four thousand (the predestinated) have already been glorified. We cannot be in this group because we have not been glorified yet.

We now see there has been one resurrection, **the first resurrection**. Jesus Christ chose twelve apostles to be witnesses of his resurrection. One of them fell by transgression, and another had to be appointed to take his place.

Acts 1:20-22

20 For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishoprick let another take.

21 Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

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22 Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be **a witness with us of his resurrection.**

- It took twelve men to be witnesses of the resurrection, eleven was not enough.

Acts 4:33

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

- They could not have witnessed a resurrection that did not occur.

1 Corinthians 15:12-21

12 Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead?

- Apostle Paul is asking how can you say Christ rose from the dead, but say that the hundred and forty and four thousand didn't rise.

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

- If the many bodies in Matthew 27:52 didn't rise, then Christ didn't rise either.

14 And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

15 Yea, and **we are found false witnesses of God**; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not.

16 For if the dead rise not, **(the hundred and forty and four thousand)** then is not Christ raised:

- Apostle Paul is saying that if the hundred and forty and four thousand didn't rise, then Jesus didn't rise, and the Apostles were all false witnesses.

17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 **But now is Christ risen from the dead**, and become the firstfruits of **them that slept.**

- Christ did rise, and the hundred and forty and four thousand rose also.

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- He became the firstfruits of **them that slept**, past tense, not still sleeping. Just as Matthew 27:52-53 says, “many bodies of the saints **which slept** arose, and came out of the graves.”

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

- As sure as death came upon all men, it is just as sure the resurrection came.
- Now look again at verse 19. Our hope **is in the last resurrection**, but it **came through the first resurrection**.

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead**,

- If the first resurrection has not already happened, then we do not have any hope. If we do not have hope, then we are lost because Romans 8:24 says “for we are saved by hope.” That is what Apostle Paul is saying in 1 Corinthians 15:32.

1 Corinthians 15:32

32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, **if the dead rise not?** let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die.

If there has not been a resurrection, then Jesus Christ is not the son of God. That is how he proved he was the son of God.

Romans 1:3-4

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And **declared to be the Son of God** with power, according to the spirit of holiness, **by the resurrection from the dead**:

- The resurrection is what declared him to be the son of God.

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We will conclude this subject in Revelation 20:4-6. Notice that when the writer says we or us, he includes himself. When he says they or them, he excludes himself.

Revelation 20:4-6

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.**

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection.**

6 **Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection:** on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

- The first resurrection has already taken place. He said **“they** lived and reigned with Christ. It didn’t say Christ lived and reigned with them. They had to go where Christ went to be with him, and he went to Heaven. Heaven is where they were going to live and reign with Christ for a thousand years. Remember Revelation 14:4, “These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth”.
- Verse 5 shows plainly who **“They”** were. **“This is the first resurrection.”**
- Then in verse 6 he said **they** (the first resurrection) shall be priest of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
- Verse 6 said **“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection”**. In John 11:25, Jesus told Martha, “I am the resurrection, and the life.” When we receive a part in Jesus, we receive a part in the first resurrection. The question is, what part do we receive? It has to be the **life**, because we know we haven’t received the resurrection yet. He is the resurrection, **and the life**. When we receive Jesus, we receive that life. When he said blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection, he was talking about those who have the life part in Jesus, because he is the resurrection.

Acts 8:36-37

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

37 And Philip said, **If thou believest** with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, **I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.**

- The Eunuch wanted to know what would hinder him from being baptized, and being saved. Philip told him he had to believe with all his heart. The Eunuch said **“I believe**

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that Jesus Christ is the son of God". In order for him to believe that, he had to believe in the resurrection. Remember Romans 1:4 said he was declared to be the son of God by the resurrection from the dead.

Romans 10:8-9

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt **confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus**, and shalt **believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead**, thou shalt be saved.

- In order for the Eunuch to be saved, he had to confess with his mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in his heart that God had raised him from the dead.

No one can be saved that does not believe that there has been a resurrection, because that is where the life is.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

The reason it is called the last resurrection is because the first resurrection has already happened, and there is only going to be one more. Therefore, it is the last. The reason it is called the general resurrection is because both the just and the unjust will rise in it.

The focus of this subject is to know who will be in this resurrection, when it will take place, and in what order it will happen.

Who will be in this resurrection:

As you learned, in the first resurrection only saints arose. In the last resurrection both saints and sinners will rise.

Revelation 7:9

9 **After this** I beheld, and, lo, a **great multitude**, which **no man could number**, of **all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues**, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

- After this (after the first resurrection.) In the verses above in this chapter, it is telling about the hundred and forty and four thousand.
- The first resurrection crowd was numbered. The last resurrection crowd, no man can number.
- The first resurrection consisted of Jews only. The last resurrection will have all nations, kindreds, and people, and tongues.

Daniel 12:2

2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, **some to everlasting life**, and **some to shame and everlasting contempt**.

- Both saints and sinners alike will rise in the last resurrection.

John 5:28-29

28 **Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,**

29 **And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

- He said **all** that are in the grave. Both saints and sinners alike are buried in the grave. At this resurrection, the saints will rise to eternal life, and the sinner will rise to damnation.
- There is no time period between the two. It all happens at the same hour. In fact, **it is the same resurrection, not two different resurrections**. It is only one resurrection, of both the just and the unjust.

Acts 24:14-15

14 But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

15 And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a **resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust**.

- Apostle Paul said there would be **A** resurrection (singular) of the dead, that would consist of both the just and the unjust.

2 Corinthians 5:10

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

- At the last resurrection everyone will receive their just reward. The good receive eternal life, the bad receive eternal damnation.
- All of this judgement happens when Christ returns.

2 Timothy 4:1

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the **quick** and the **dead at his appearing** and his kingdom;

- **At his appearing** is when he comes, and not any time period after.
- Apostle Paul called them the **quick** and the **dead**. The quick is the saint, and the dead is the sinner.

Ephesians 2:1

1 And you hath he **quickened**, who were **dead in trespasses and sins**;

- To be quickened, is to be made spiritually alive in Christ. To be in sin, is to be spiritually dead.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

Acts 24:15

15 And have **hope** toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

- Apostle Paul is saying have hope in the last resurrection, because that **is the only resurrection we can have hope in.**
- Our hope is in the last resurrection, but it came through the first resurrection.

1 Peter 1:3

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

- Since we know for sure that the first resurrection happened, we can have hope that the last resurrection will happen also.

When this resurrection takes place:

No one has hope of being resurrected until the last day.

John 6:39

39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day.

- We know that God gave the Apostles to Jesus. None of them will rise until the last day.

John 17:6

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

John 6:40

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up **at the last day.**

- All that believe on Christ will receive eternal life **at the last day**, and not until then.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

John 6:44

44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up **at the last day**.

- Not before the last day, but at the last day.

John 6:54

54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up **at the last day**.

- No one will rise until the **last day**. Since the time of the first resurrection, nowhere in the Bible can we find where anyone will be resurrected until the last day. This is what Jesus taught, and what he had the apostles to teach.

John 11:23-24

23 Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again**.

24 Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection **at the last day**.

- Martha knew her brother could not be resurrected until the last day because that is what Jesus had taught them.

2 Timothy 4:7-8

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me **at that day**: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing**.

- What day? The last day.
- Apostle Paul knew that he would receive his crown of life at the last day, and that all the saints would as well.

The order this resurrection takes place:

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

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14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are **alive and remain** unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

- Here Apostle Paul is talking to the living saints about the dead saints. He is telling them what will take place at the last resurrection.
- Verse 15 said we which are **alive and remain**. Proverbs tells us who it is that will remain.

Proverbs 2:21-22

21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the **perfect shall remain** in it.

22 But the **wicked shall be cut off from the earth**, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

- When Jesus returns, it will be the **saints that remain**. The wicked are going to be cut off from the earth.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and **the dead in Christ shall rise first**:

17 **Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- Jesus is coming back with a shout. His voice is going to raise the dead.
- First, the dead saints will rise with their eternal bodies.
- Then the saints that are alive and remain will be caught up with them **(in that order)**.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be **raised incorruptible**, and we shall be **changed**.

- Notice this is the same man, Apostle Paul, writing here as in 1 Thessalonians 4. He is writing about the same subject, the last resurrection.
- **He shows the same order of how the resurrection will take place.** In 1 Thessalonians, he says **the dead in Christ would rise first**. Then, **we which are alive and remain** would be **caught up**. Here in verse 52, the first thing is that the dead shall be **raised incorruptible**, and then, we (we that are alive and remain) shall be **changed**. It is in the same order.

We need to look at three specific phrases in 1 Thessalonians 4:17.

1. *Caught up*
2. *In the clouds*
3. *In the air*

1. *Caught up*

1 Thessalonians 4:17

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- It is important to understand what this catching up is. When the dead saints rise with their **eternal bodies**, the saints that are alive (we that are alive and remain) are still in a **natural body**. In order for them to catch up with the resurrected saints, they must be changed from a mortal (natural) body, to an immortal (eternal) body.

1 Corinthians 15:51-54

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep**, but we shall all be changed,

- Showing that there will be some that are alive and remain.

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and **the dead shall be raised incorruptible**, and we shall **be changed**.

53 For this **corruptible** must put on **incorruption**, and this **mortal** must put on **immortality**.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

- In 1 Thessalonians 4:17, Paul calls it **caught up**. In 1 Corinthians 15:51, he calls it **changed**. So the catching up and the change are the same thing, simply meaning changed from **mortal** (natural), to **immortal** (eternal).

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

2. In the clouds

1 Thessalonians 4:17

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them **in the clouds**, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- We need to know, according to the bible, what these clouds are. These are not natural clouds, but people. In fact, it is the saints who rose in the first resurrection.

Hebrews 12:1

1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a **cloud of witnesses**, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

- He called this a cloud of witnesses. Only a human can be a witness, **therefore the clouds are people.**

Acts 1:11

11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

- Here he is showing, the way that Jesus left the earth to go back to heaven, is the same way he will come back from heaven when he returns at the last day. Revelation 1:7 shows us just how that will be.

Revelation 1:7

Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- John said that when Jesus returns, **he was coming with clouds**. In Acts 1:11 Luke said Jesus would **come the way he left. Therefore, he had to leave with those clouds.**
- Jude verse 14 will show what this cloud is that Jesus will come with.

Jude 14

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,**

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

- John said Jesus was **coming with clouds**. Jude said he was **coming with ten thousands of his saints**. This shows **the clouds and the saints are the same**.
- These saints, which are the cloud of **witnesses**, are the hundred and forty and four thousand that were in the first resurrection.

Revelation 20:4-5

4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the **witness** of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and **they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years**.

5 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. **This is the first resurrection**.

Revelation 14:4

4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. **These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth**. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

- This cloud of saints followed Jesus when he went back to heaven, and they will follow him when he returns.

3. In the air

1 Thessalonians 4:17

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord **in the air**: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

- Ezekiel 37 will show what this air is.

Ezekiel 37:5-6

5 Thus saith the Lord GOD unto these bones; Behold, I will cause **breath to enter into you**, and **ye shall live**:

6 And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and **put breath in you**, and **ye shall live**; and ye shall know that I am the LORD.

- This shows that it was the **breath** that was going to make them **live**.
- What is **breath**? It is **the air that we breath**.
- We live our **natural lives** on this **natural air**.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

- We will live our **eternal lives** on the **spiritual air**. Verses 13 & 14 will show you what the spiritual air is.

Ezekiel 37:13-14

13 And ye shall know that I am the LORD, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

- He brought them out of their graves because they were dead. They were not living on the natural air any longer, their natural life had ended.

14 And shall **put my spirit in you**, and **ye shall live**, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the LORD have spoken it, and performed it, saith the LORD.

- Verses 5 & 6 said the **breath** would make them **live**, verse 14 called it **his spirit**. This breath and the spirit are the same.
- In the resurrection at the last day, all the saints will be together. We will all have our eternal bodies, and all living on the eternal spirit of God.

In the resurrection at the last day, everyone, living or dead, will receive their reward. It is called the last day because when Christ returns, it is the end of time.

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give **every man** according as his work shall be.

- Every man includes saints and sinners, living or dead.

Revelation 20:12-15

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

- Whether we are alive or dead, when Jesus comes, we will receive our reward.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

1 Corinthians 15:23-24

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming**.

24 **Then cometh the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

- Jesus coming and the end are simultaneous.
- When Jesus comes, it is the end of time.

Revelation 10:5-6

5 And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven,

6 And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, **that there should be time no longer**:

1 Corinthians 15:54

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, **Death is swallowed up in victory**.

- Death is the last enemy.

1 Corinthians 15:23-26

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put **all enemies under his feet**.

26 The **last enemy** that shall be destroyed is **death**.

- When the last resurrection is complete, God is going to bring heaven here on earth.

Revelation 21:1-5

1 And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.

THE LAST AND GENERAL RESURRECTION

2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

THE THRONE OF DAVID

The throne of David is a very important subject. We must know and understand that Jesus is already King upon his throne. He is not going to return to this earth to reign as a natural king, he is reigning now at the right hand of his father until death is destroyed.

The focus of this subject is to know what the throne of David is, where and when it was to be established, and when Jesus took the throne.

What the throne of David is:

The throne of David is **the throne of The Lord**. Before the days of Christ, it was a natural throne here on earth, but it was still the throne of The Lord.

1 Chronicles 29:23

23 Then Solomon sat on **the throne of the LORD** as king instead of David his father, and prospered; and all Israel obeyed him.

- Solomon sat on this throne after David had died.
- But notice that it was still the throne of The Lord.

Where the throne was to be established:

The throne could never be established forever on the earth, therefore God had to move it to heaven. When the throne was on earth, it was a natural throne. God moved it to heaven and made it eternal.

Psalms 11:4

4 The LORD is in his holy temple, **the LORD's throne is in heaven**: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

- The Lord's throne is no longer on earth. God has moved it to heaven.

THE THRONE OF DAVID

Psalm 89:35-37

35 Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David.

36 **His seed** shall **endure forever**, and **his throne** as the sun before me.

- God promised David that his seed (which is Christ), and his throne, would endure forever with him in heaven.

37 It shall be **established for ever** as the moon, and as a faithful witness **in heaven**. Selah.

- This shows plainly that the throne was to be **established forever in heaven**.

David reigned as a natural king in natural Jerusalem. Jesus Christ is reigning a spiritual king in spiritual Jerusalem, which is above.

Galatians 4:26

26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.

They tried to make Jesus a king when he was here on the earth as a natural man, but he wouldn't have it.

John 6:15

15 When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone.

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.**

- Jesus Christ made it plain that he was not going to reign here on earth as a natural king.

When the throne was to be established:

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, **upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom**, to order it, and **to establish it** with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

- Remember the throne was to be established in heaven.
- Jesus could not establish the throne until he was on it.
- Jesus could not take the throne until he went back to heaven where it was to be established, and he could not go to heaven until God raised him from the dead to sit on the throne of David.

Luke 1:31-33

31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

- God did not only promise that Jesus would be born, he promised to give him the throne of his father David.
- God fulfilled both promises.

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob **for ever**; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

- He said he would reign for ever, not just a thousand years.

Acts 2:29-36

29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne**;

- God swore an oath to David that he would raise up Christ (raise him from the dead) to sit on his throne.

THE THRONE OF DAVID

31 He seeing this before **spake of the resurrection of Christ**, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

- Showing he was talking of raising him from the dead.

32 This Jesus **hath God raised up**, whereof **we all are witnesses**.

- God said he would raise Christ from the dead to sit on the throne.
- This verse said that God has already raised him up, and all the apostles had witnessed it.
- Therefore, we know that God has put him on that throne, because that is what he said he would do when he raised him up.

33 **Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted**, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

- Jesus went back to heaven to sit on and establish the throne.
- This verse shows that he is already there.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God **hath made** that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, **both Lord and Christ**.

- **Hath made**, he has already done it.
- He was already Christ, but God made him Lord and Christ.
- A Lord is a King.
- God made him King when he sat him on his throne.

When Jesus took the throne:

Where did God sit Jesus when he raised him from the dead?

Ephesians 1:18-20

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, **when he raised him from the dead**, and **set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places**,

- God set him at his own right hand **in heaven**.
- That is when he took the throne.

THE THRONE OF DAVID

Revelation 3:21

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

- Jesus said he was already on his throne.
- God's throne and Jesus's throne are in heaven together.

Jesus is not coming back to this earth to reign as a natural king. He is already on his eternal throne, and he is already the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. In fact, Jesus will not leave heaven until the last enemy has been destroyed.

Hebrews 10:12-13

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

1 Corinthians 15:23-26

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming**.

24 **Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God**, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

- When Jesus returns from heaven, it is the end.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

- Jesus will not leave his throne until this happens.
- That means he will not leave heaven until then.

Acts 7:49

49 Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Jesus said that God would give the kingdom to the church in Luke 12:32 “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” This kingdom must be of great significance and value to the church for God to give it to us for a possession. In this course we will show the importance of this gift, and what it means to the church.

The focus of this subject is to know what The Kingdom of God is, when it was to be set up, how it was to be set up, and where it would be set up.

What the Kingdom is:

Before the days of Christ, the kingdom of God was a **natural kingdom** that belonged to the Jews and could be taken by force.

Matthew 11:12

12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.

- This shows it was a natural kingdom, because it suffered violence.

When Jesus came, he told the Jews that the kingdom would be taken from them and given to the Gentiles.

Matthew 21:42-43

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.

- Jesus was taking away their right to the kingdom and giving it to the Gentiles.

Acts 1:6

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

- The Jews knew that they had lost the kingdom, and wanted to know if he was about to give it back to them. But God was going to make it a spiritual kingdom, and make Christ the spiritual king over it.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

John 18:36

36 Jesus answered, **My kingdom is not of this world**: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: **but now** is my kingdom not from hence.

- His kingdom was not a natural kingdom, as it was before, because he said his kingdom was not of this world.
- If his kingdom were a natural kingdom, then his servants would have fought.
- Notice he said **but now** is my kingdom not from hence – meaning it used to be of this world, but not anymore.

Luke 17:20-21

20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, **The kingdom of God cometh not with observation**:

21 **Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there!** for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

- The Kingdom of God cometh not with observation – means you cannot see it with your natural eyes. It is a spiritual kingdom now.
- If it were a natural kingdom, someone would surely be able to say lo here it is, or lo there it is. You must be born again of the spiritual birth in order to see the spiritual kingdom of God.

John 3:3-5

3 Jesus answered and said unto him, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.**

4 Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

5 Jesus answered, **Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.**

- The kingdom of God is a spiritual kingdom now, and you must be born again **of the water and of the spirit** in order to see it.
- If it were a natural Kingdom, anyone could see it whether they were born again or not.
- You do not see it with your natural eyes, but with your spiritual eyes.

Ephesians 1:18

18 The **eyes of your understanding** being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Matthew 13:15

15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should **understand with their heart**, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

- The eyes of your understanding are in your heart.
- Only when your eyes of understanding are opened, can you understand what the kingdom of God is.

Romans 14, plainly tells us what the kingdom is, and is not.

Romans 14:17-18

17 For the kingdom of God is **not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.**

- **Not meat and drink**, means it is not a natural kingdom.
- This is as plain as the word of God can make it. The kingdom of God is **righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost**. If we have righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, then we have the spiritual kingdom of God.

18 For he that **in these things** serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men.

- **What things?** Righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.
- We are not acceptable to God unless we are serving him in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, and that is what the Kingdom is.

Matthew 21:43

43 Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation **bringing forth the fruits thereof.**

Galatians 5 shows us what the fruit of the kingdom is.

Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

- The fruit of the kingdom and the fruit of the spirit are the same.
- If you are in the spirit, you are in the kingdom. Remember what the kingdom is: it is righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost**.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Romans 8:9

9 But ye are not **in the flesh**, but **in the Spirit**, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

- There are only two places you can be. You are either **in the flesh**, which is sin, or **in the spirit**, which is the kingdom.

Colossians 1:13

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

- You are either in darkness (in sin), or in the kingdom (in the spirit).

Revelation 1:9-10

9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and **in the kingdom** and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 **I was in the Spirit** on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

- John said he was in the kingdom. Verse 10 shows how he was in the kingdom, he was in the **spirit**.

When The Kingdom was to be set up:

In the days of Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, he had a vision of what was to be **in the latter days**. But the dream went from him and he could not remember it. And because the wise men could not tell him the vision he was going to kill them all. He told the wise men if they could tell him the dream, he would know the interpretation was sure.

God used Daniel to show what this dream was, and the interpretation of it concerning what was to happen **in the latter days**.

Daniel 2:16

16 Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would shew the king the interpretation.

Daniel 2:27-28

27 Daniel answered in the presence of the king, and said, The secret which the king hath demanded cannot the wise men, the astrologers, the magicians, the soothsayers, shew unto the king;

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28 But there is a God in heaven that revealeth secrets, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar what shall be **in the latter days**. Thy dream, and the visions of thy head upon thy bed, are these;

- Notice this phrase “**in the latter days**”. God was going to reveal all that was going to take place, leading up to the time when the Kingdom of God would come.

Daniel 2:31-35

31 Thou, O king, sawest, and behold a great image. This great image, whose brightness was excellent, stood before thee; and the form thereof was terrible.

32 This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass,

33 His legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay.

34 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces.

35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth.

- This image was divided into four parts.
 1. The head – made of gold.
 2. The breast and arms – made of silver
 3. The belly and thighs – made of brass
 4. The legs and feet – made of iron and clay

Starting at verse 36, Daniel begins to show what each of these represent.

The first kingdom was the Chaldean kingdom.

This is the head of gold.

Daniel 2:36-44

36 This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king.

37 Thou, O king, art a king of kings: for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory.

38 And wheresoever the children of men dwell, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the heaven hath he given into thine hand, and hath made thee ruler over them all. **Thou art this head of gold.**

39 And after thee shall arise another kingdom inferior to thee, and another third kingdom of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

40 And the fourth kingdom shall be strong as iron: forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things: and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise.

41 And whereas thou sawest the feet and toes, part of potters' clay, and part of iron, the kingdom shall be divided; but there shall be in it of the strength of the iron, forasmuch as thou sawest the iron mixed with miry clay.

42 And as the toes of the feet were part of iron, and part of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong, and partly broken.

43 And whereas thou sawest iron mixed with miry clay, they shall mingle themselves with the seed of men: but they shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay.

44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

- In verse 38, it shows that King Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. He was King of the Chaldean kingdom.
- Verse 38 also shows that the Chaldean kingdom had the rule over the entire world.
- When Nebuchadnezzar died, his son Belshazzar took his place as King of the Chaldean kingdom.
- There were three other kingdoms that were to follow after the Chaldean kingdom, and each one would have that same rule over all the earth. That made four worldwide kingdoms that each of the four parts of this image represented.

The second kingdom was the Medes and Persians.

This is the breast and arms of silver.

Daniel 5:28

28 PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians.

Daniel 5:30-31

30 In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain.

31 And Darius the Median took the kingdom, being about threescore and two years old.

- The Medes and Persians took over the rule of the world. This represented the breast and arms of silver as it was second in line from the head of gold.

The third kingdom was the Grecian kingdom.

This is the belly and thighs of brass.

Daniel 8:3-7

3 Then I lifted up mine eyes, and saw, and, behold, there stood before the river a ram which had two horns: and the two horns were high; but one was higher than the other, and the higher came up last.

4 I saw the ram pushing westward, and northward, and southward; so that no beasts might stand before him, neither was there any that could deliver out of his hand; but he did according to his will, and became great.

5 And as I was considering, behold, an he goat came from the west on the face of the whole earth, and touched not the ground: and the goat had a notable horn between his eyes.

6 And he came to the ram that had two horns, which I had there seen standing before the river, and ran unto him in the fury of his power.

7 And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.

- The Ram with the two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.
- The he goat was the king of Grecia.

Daniel 8:20-21

20 The ram which thou sawest having two horns are the kings of Media and Persia.

21 And the rough goat is the king of Grecia: and the great horn that is between his eyes is the first king.

- The rough goat is Alexander the Great, the first king of Grecia.
- He overthrew the kingdom of the Medes and Persians.
- The Grecian kingdom then took over the rule of the entire world. This represents the belly and thighs of brass as it was third in line from the head of gold.

The fourth kingdom was the Roman kingdom.

This is the legs of iron, and the feet part of iron and part of clay.

Daniel 7:23

23 Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces.

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- Notice he said the fourth beast was the fourth kingdom.
- This kingdom was the Roman kingdom, and it was different from all the others.
- The Roman kingdom overthrew the Grecian kingdom.
- The Roman kingdom then took over the rule of the entire world. This represents the legs of iron, and the feet that were part of iron and part of clay as it was fourth in line from the head of gold.

This Roman kingdom was broken up by the kingdom of God.

Daniel 2:44

44 And **in the days of these kings** shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, **but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms**, and it shall stand for ever.

- In the days of these kings, is the four worldwide kingdoms he was showing in Daniel 2:36-43.
- It was in the days of these four kingdoms that God said he would set up his kingdom. **All four of these kingdoms have already been here and gone**: therefore the kingdom of God has to be here because it was the instrument that God used to break in pieces all these kingdoms, and it was to stand forever.

This Roman kingdom was ruling when Jesus was born into the world.

Luke 2:1

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that **all the world should be taxed**.

- Caesar Augustus was the emperor of Rome at that time.
- He had the rule of the entire world through the Roman kingdom. That is why he could tax all the world.
- No one man is taxing all of the world anymore because the kingdom of God broke up that one head power and divided the spoil.

Luke 11:21-22

21 **When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace:**

22 **But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils.**

- The stronger man is Jesus Christ. Remember **he is the spiritual king of the spiritual Kingdom of God**.
- There is no **natural** worldwide kingdom in existence today because the spoils have been divided.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

- The kingdom of God is the only worldwide kingdom that exists today. It will remain the only worldwide kingdom to ever exist again because he said it would stand forever.

How and where The Kingdom was to be set up:

Matthew 3:1-2

1 In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

2 And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is **at hand**.

- This shows that the kingdom was **at hand** when John came preaching.
- That meant it was almost there.

Mark 1:14-15

14 Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

15 And saying, **The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.**

- Jesus said that the time was fulfilled for the kingdom to come.
- It had not come yet, but John and Jesus were getting a people ready for when it did come.

He promised to give the kingdom to the church of God, which he called the flock.

Acts 20:28

28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all **the flock**, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church of God**, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

- The flock is the church of God.

Luke 12:32

32 **Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.**

- It was the father's good pleasure to give the kingdom to the flock, which was the church. But first, he had to purchase a church with his own blood to give it to. The kingdom could not come until Jesus died and shed his blood.
- Jesus was getting everything ready for the kingdom to come.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Mark 9:1

1 And he said unto them, **Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.**

- Jesus was showing them that it was almost time for the kingdom to come, because he said they would not die until they had seen the kingdom come. Either the kingdom has come, or those people are still alive.
- Jesus also showed them **how the kingdom was going to come**. It was going to come with **Power**.

Luke 24:49

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

- After Jesus rose from the dead, just before he ascended back into heaven, he instructed them to wait in the city of Jerusalem until the power came. Notice that the power was going to come when he sent the promise.

Acts 1:1-8

1 The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:

3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

- The promise they were waiting on was the promise of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father **the promise of the Holy Ghost**, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost **not many days hence**.

- It was almost time for it to come. Jesus was about to ascend back to his Father and then send the Holy Ghost back.

6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?

7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

8 But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

- This shows **when the kingdom came.**
- Verse 8 shows that the Holy Ghost and the power came at the same time. Mark 9:1 said that the kingdom and the power would come at the same time. So **when the Holy Ghost came, the power and the kingdom came.**
- And the church was there to receive it because he said ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.
- So when they received the Holy Ghost they received the power, and when they received the power they received the kingdom.

1 Corinthians 4:20

20 For the kingdom of God is not in word, **but in power.**

Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the **day of Pentecost was fully come**, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there **appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire**, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- This is the day that the kingdom came.
- Remember Mark 9:1 Jesus told them they would **see the kingdom come**. This shows where they **saw the kingdom in the spirit**. It **appeared** unto them.

Romans 14:17

17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy **in the Holy Ghost.**

- **When they received the Holy Ghost, they received the Kingdom!**

John 17:4

4 **I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.**

- Jesus said he has finished his work. He does not need to come in the future to set up his kingdom, because it is already here.
- In fact, he is only coming one more time, and that will be the end of the world.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD

John 14:3

3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come **again**, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

- Jesus said he would come **again**. That is **only once more**.

1 Corinthians 15:23-24

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's **at his coming**.

24 **Then cometh the end**, when he shall have **delivered up the kingdom** to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

- When Jesus comes, it is the end of the world.
- He will then **deliver** up the kingdom. Not **set** up the kingdom.
- **The kingdom was set up when Jesus came into the world, went back to his Father, and sent the Holy Ghost back.**

Matthew 16:19

19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

- There would have been no need to give Peter the keys of the kingdom if the kingdom wasn't here while Peter was on the earth. That would be like giving a man the keys to a house that you were going to build for him over two thousand years after he was dead.

Jesus Christ's first coming, his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension brought about the kingdom of God. It is the only worldwide kingdom that is in existence, and the only one that will ever be in existence again.

Daniel 2:44 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

To be prepared for Jesus second coming, we must understand what will take place when he comes. Jesus said in Revelation 22:12 **And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.** This lesson will take a detailed look at what the Bible says will happen at the return of Jesus.

The focus of this subject is to know when Jesus will come, how he will come, and what will happen when he comes.

When Jesus will come:

Jesus is not going to return to the earth multiple times from heaven. Jesus promised only to come one more time.

John 14:3

3 **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

- Jesus said he would come **again**, that is singular, meaning only once more.

Acts 3:20-21

20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you:

- Jesus cannot return until God the Father sends him.

21 Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets **since the world began.**

- Verse 21 shows that Jesus will not leave heaven until all things have been restored.
- All of God's men have said this **since the world began**. It has never changed. This has been God's plan from the beginning.

Acts 17:31

31 Because **he hath appointed a day**, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

- God has the day set already when he will send Jesus back.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Mark 13:31-32

31 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

32 But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

- God the Father is the only one who knows when that day is.
- That is why we must be prepared at all times.

How Jesus will come:

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh **as a thief in the night**.

- Jesus is coming **as** a thief, not **like** a thief.
- If he comes **as** a thief, he will come in an hour that you are not aware.
- If he came **like** a thief, he would come to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.

John 10:10

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- Jesus is not a thief.

Revelation 3:3

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, **and repent**. If therefore thou shalt **not watch**, I will come on thee **as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee**.

- This shows, to be watching for Jesus, you must repent of your sins.
- If you do not repent, Jesus will come on you **as a thief**.
- Jesus is coming on the **wicked** when they least expect him.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-5

1 But of the times and the seasons, brethren, ye have no need that I write unto you.

2 For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.

- Notice he is talking to the brethren. They knew perfectly how Jesus was coming because he told them while he was here.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

3 For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then **sudden destruction** cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

- The sudden destruction is coming on the wicked, not the saints.
- When the writer says they or them, he excludes himself. When he says we or us, he includes himself.
- They and them, in this instance, is the wicked. They are the people that have not repented.

4 But ye, **brethren**, are not in **darkness**, that that day should overtake you as a thief.

- The brethren are the saints. They are not in darkness, which is sin.
- They have repented of their sins and are watching for Jesus return.
- They are prepared so that day will not come on them as a thief.

5 Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.

- We are the children of the light because we have obeyed the Gospel.

1 John 1:5-7

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

When Jesus returns, it will not be in secret. It will be a time of rejoicing for the saints, and a time for destruction for the wicked.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-16

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto **the coming of the Lord** shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a **shout**, with the **voice of the archangel**, and with the **trump of God**: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

- When Jesus returns, he will not be coming quietly. He is coming with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God.
- In fact, as you learned in the subject The Last and General Resurrection, he is not coming back alone.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Jude 14-15

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,**

- The cloud of saints that left with Jesus is coming back with him.

15 **To execute judgment upon all,** and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

- When Jesus comes, it is judgment day.

Revelation 22:12

12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give **every man** according as his work shall be.

- Every man means both the saints and the sinners.
- The saints (those who have repented of their sins) will be watching. They will be prepared.
- The sinners will not be watching (they will be caught unprepared). Jesus will come on them as a thief.

What will happen when Jesus comes:

When Jesus comes, it will be the end of the world. Simply meaning the end of the wicked.

Matthew 24:3

3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and **what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?**

- Jesus had taught them that when he returned it would be the end of the world, and that is what they were asking him about.
- They did not ask him about any period of time after his coming because he had never taught that to them.

Matthew 24:14

14 **And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.**

- Jesus taught the end of the world.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Matthew 24:23-27

23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; **believe it not.**

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

25 Behold, I have told you before.

26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not.**

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; **so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

- Jesus is not going to secretly return in the future.
- Jesus said not to believe it if someone did say he was coming secretly.
- It is not only the saints that see the lightning. Both the saints and the sinners see it when it comes. Jesus said that is the way it will be when he comes.

Revelation 1:7

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and **every eye shall see him**, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

- John said every eye would see Jesus.
- That is both the saints and the sinners. We know the man that pierced Jesus is not a saint.

Jude 14-15

14 And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, **the Lord cometh** with ten thousands of his saints,

15 **To execute judgment upon all**, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.

- Again, verse 14 shows he is talking about the coming of the Lord.
- Verse 15 tells why he is coming. He is coming **to execute judgment upon all**.
- We know that **all**, includes the saints and the sinners.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

7 And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be **revealed from heaven** with his mighty angels,

- Paul said he would be **revealed** when he comes from heaven. He is not going to return secretly.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

8 **In flaming fire taking vengeance** on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:

- He is coming to take vengeance on the wicked.

9 Who shall be punished with **everlasting destruction** from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

- This everlasting destruction will be on the sinners **when Jesus comes**.
- This is the **sudden destruction** that Paul said would come in 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

10 **When he shall come** to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.

- The saints will receive eternal life.
- Verse 10 shows this all happens **when he comes**.

Luke 17:28-30

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and **destroyed them all**.

- Just as God destroyed **all** of the wicked in Sodom, he will destroy **all** of the wicked when Jesus comes.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is **revealed**.

- This is what is going to happen when Jesus is revealed from heaven. He is coming in flaming fire.
- The first time God destroyed the wicked, it was with the flood.
- This time it will be with fire.

2 Timothy 4:1

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the **quick** and the **dead at his appearing** and his kingdom;

- The judgment happens **at** (not after) his appearing.
- The judgment is for both the saints and the sinners.
- The quick are the saints and the dead are the sinners.

Ephesians 2:5-6

5 Even when we were **dead in sins**, hath **quickened us together with Christ**, (by grace ye are saved;)

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

- Quickened is to be made spiritually alive in Christ. That is the saints.
- To be in sin is to be spiritually dead.

When Jesus comes, the saints will remain here on the earth and the wicked will be leaving. Nowhere in the Word of God does it ever say that the saints leave and the sinner stays.

Acts 3:22-24

22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

- Moses was speaking of Jesus.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be **destroyed from among the people.**

- The wicked are leaving when Jesus comes, because he said they would be destroyed **from among** the people.

24 Yea, and **all the prophets** from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, **have likewise foretold of these days.**

- Every man that God has ever sent has taught the destruction of the wicked when Jesus returns.
- They all have taught that the wicked will leave the earth.

Proverbs 2:21-22

21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

- The saints are going to remain on the earth.

22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

- The wicked are the ones who are going to leave the earth.
- They will never be back because God said he would root them out of it.

Psalms 37:9-11

9 For **evildoers shall be cut off**: but those that wait upon the LORD, they **shall inherit the earth.**

- The evildoers will be cut off the earth, and the saints are going to inherit it.

10 For yet a little while, and **the wicked shall not be**: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be.

11 But **the meek shall inherit the earth**; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.

- There will be abundant peace because the wicked are gone.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Psalm 37:27-29

27 Depart from evil, and do good; and **dwelt for evermore**.

- Dwell where? Here on the earth.

28 For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but **the seed of the wicked shall be cut off**.

- Cut off the earth.

29 The righteous shall inherit the **land**, and dwell therein for ever.

- This proves it is the earth, he said inherit the **land**.

Matthew 24:40-42

40 **Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

- There never has been but two, the good and the bad, the saint and the sinner.
- The sinner will be taken, and the saints will be left.

41 **Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.**

42 **Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.**

- Remember watch means to repent so you are ready when the Lord comes.
- In verse 41, the word taken means destroyed.

2 Peter 2:12

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be **taken and destroyed**, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

Isaiah 13:6-9

6 Howl ye; for the day of the LORD is at hand; it shall **come as a destruction from the Almighty**.

7 Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

8 And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

9 Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, **to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.**

- He is going to lay the **land** desolate of the sinners by destroying them out of it.

THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS

Matthew 24:35-39

35 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

36 But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

- When it started raining and the flood came, everyone knew it, not just the saints. That is the way it will be when Jesus comes, everyone will know it.

38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

39 And knew not until the flood came, and **took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

- It was the wicked that God took and destroyed in the days of Noe.
- It will be the wicked that is taken and destroyed at Jesus second coming. **So shall also the coming of the Son of man be.**

2 Peter 2:5

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, **bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;**