



The Bible Has The Answer!

BY JARROD M. JACOBS



The Bible Has The Answer!

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Introduction To The Book

This book is the result of questions that were asked of me by young people just like you. I was to teach a high school Bible class, and before I began, I asked the young people what questions they had and/or what topics they might be interested in learning. Their answers gave rise to this material.

I hope that this book will be helpful to you and will answer some of the questions you have about the Bible. If you have questions that are not covered in this book, please feel free to ask me and we will talk about these as well.

Lesson I: Where Do You Go When You Die? What Will Happen When Jesus Returns?

Introduction

- I. In this book, we will answer questions that have been asked by young people.
 - A. Perhaps these questions we will study have been on your minds as well.
 - B. Each lesson will cover different questions that have been asked through the years by young people. I have included two questions in this study because I believe they are related to one another.
- II. While we are living on earth, we prepare ourselves for the Lord's return. Once we die, there are no more opportunities for preparation.
- III. There is much confusion concerning this subject. I believe this is for two basic reasons:
 - A. Folks do not read the Bible as they should. This contributes to the confusion.
 - B. No one has come back from the dead to tell us what it is like!
- IV. A section of Scripture that is helpful to our study is Luke 16:19-31. Make sure and read this section so we can discuss it together in this lesson.
- IV. As we begin our study of where the dead go and what will happen when Christ returns, let us begin at the end (of earth-life)!

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Discussion

I. DEATH COMES TO ALL:

- A. Hebrews 9:27 says it is appointed _____
for a man to die (**twice, multiple times, once**).
- B. In fact, Ecclesiastes 9:5 says the living “*know*” something.
What is it? _____
- C. Death defined:
 - 1. It is a separation, not annihilation.
 - 2. James 2:26 says when a body has no spirit, what is it?

- D. Please read Luke 16:19-21. Here, we get a glimpse of the earth-life of the rich man and Lazarus.
- E. One day, these men died, but this was not the end of their existence (Luke 16:22).

II. DEATH DOES NOT END OUR EXISTENCE:

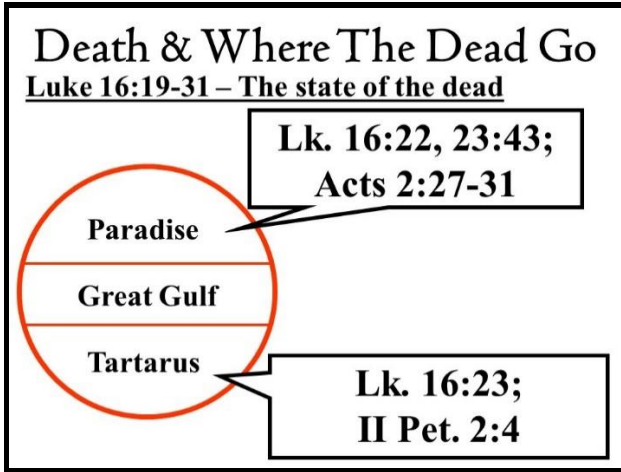
- A. Some people, like the Jehovah’s Witnesses, atheists, evolutionists, and others try to deny that man has a soul that continues on after physical death.
- B. Christ said that our souls exist. It is this eternal soul that is under consideration in Luke 16:23-31!
- C. This is not the only place that we read about our eternal soul.
 - 1. Read Genesis 25:8, 35:29, 49:33.
 - 2. Based on these passages:
 - a. What happened to these three men? _____
 - b. How were their deaths described? _____
 - c. What happened to their bodies? _____
 - 3. In the New Testament, we read where Jesus described these three as _____ (**living, dead, annihilated**) in Matthew 22:32.
- D. Yes, there was a *separation* which occurred when the soul left the body. However, the soul continues to live on.
 - 1. In Luke 16:23-31, we see that the rich man and Lazarus continued to live, speak, see, think, remember, feel, and hear after their life on earth ended.
 - 2. What verses in Luke 16 show us that these folks could

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do these things? _____

III. THE DEAD GO SOMEWHERE:

- A. Luke 16:22-23 -- This same thing will be true of you and me one day!
- B. This place in the Old Testament was referred to as “the grave” or “Sheol”. In the New Testament, it is referred to as “Hades”.
 - 1. Hades is the realm of the disembodied spirits.
 - a. This is the place where Jesus spent 3 days following His crucifixion. (Psalm 16:10; Luke 23:43; Acts 2:31).
 - b. This is the place where all dead people go.
 - 2. Hades is basically divided into two pieces.
 - a. The place within hades where Lazarus went was called “*Abraham’s bosom*,” a place of “*comfort*.” Jesus called it “*paradise*” (Luke 23:43).
 - b. The place where the rich man went was called “*torment*”. This is sometimes referred to by its original Greek name “Tartarus.” This is where certain angels have gone as well (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6).
 - c. The dead will stay within these respective places until the Lord returns. This is because though the dead have the ability to see one another, and evidently to converse, as the rich man did with Abraham, they do not have the ability to pass back and-forth between Paradise and Tartarus (Luke 16:26).



Generally, when people learn about the state of the dead, it leads to the question, “What happens next?” The Bible has the answer to this question as well.

I. THE JUDGMENT DAY IS COMING:

- A. This life is a time of preparation. While we are alive, we have the opportunity to repent of wicked actions and be saved from our sin (Acts 2:38).
- B. On the judgment day, we will not have any more opportunities for repentance.
 - 1. On the judgment day, there will be “a” (one) resurrection of the dead (John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15).
 - 2. All people will be judged at that time (Romans 2:1-16; II Corinthians 5:10).
 - 3. This world will be destroyed (II Peter 3:10).
- C. There will obviously still be people upon this earth when the Lord returns. What will happen to them? Do you know?

- 1. What will we look like then? Read I John 3:2 and I Corinthians 15:35-38, 51-54 for the answer.

2. Answer: _____

- D. On this day of judgment:
 - 1. What will be the standard of judgment? _____

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(John 12:48)

2. Who will be our Judge? _____

(John 5:22; Acts 17:31)

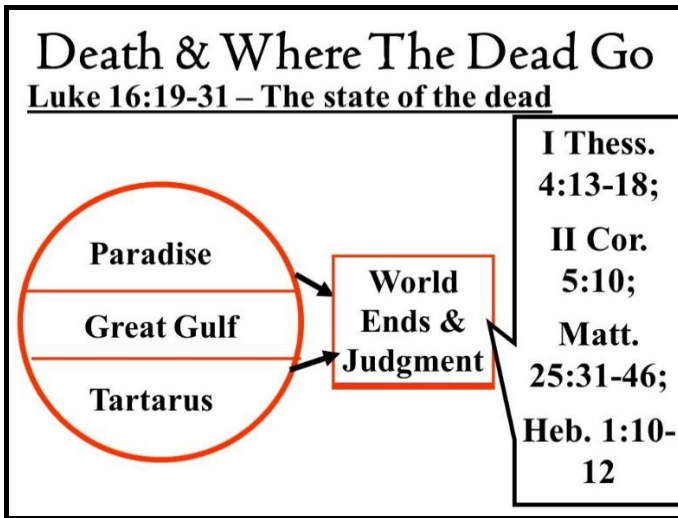
3. Everyone will _____

(Romans 14:11).

4. Everyone will be parted as _____

(Matthew 25:32).

E. Following the Judgment, we enter either one of two realities.



II. HEAVEN OR HELL:

A. Upon hearing either “*Come ye blessed of my Father ...*” or “*Depart from me ...*”, all nations, tribes, and languages from the beginning of time will either enter into Heaven or Hell for an eternity (Matthew 25:46).

B. In Heaven, there will be no _____
_____ (Revelation 7:15-17).

C. Read the following passages and list some of the things we will see/experience in Heaven. (Matthew 25:23; Hebrews 4:9; Titus 1:2; I Peter 1:4; Revelation 21:7) _____

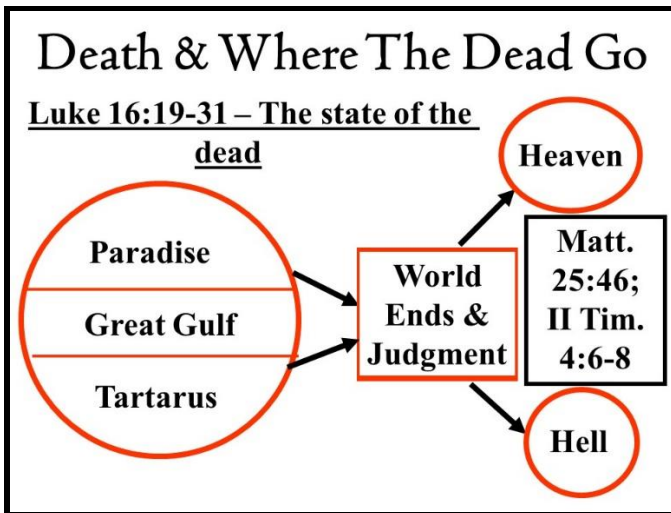
D. In Hell, we find it will be the opposite of the beauty of

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heaven.

1. Read Matthew 25:41 and Galatians 5:19-21. Who are described as inhabitants of Hell? _____

2. Read the following passages and list the things people will see/experience in Hell. (Matthew 25:30; Mark 9:46; II Thessalonians 1:9; Revelation 14:10-11, 21:8)



Applications:

1. How does the Bible teaching concerning where the dead go effectively destroy the false doctrine of “purgatory”?

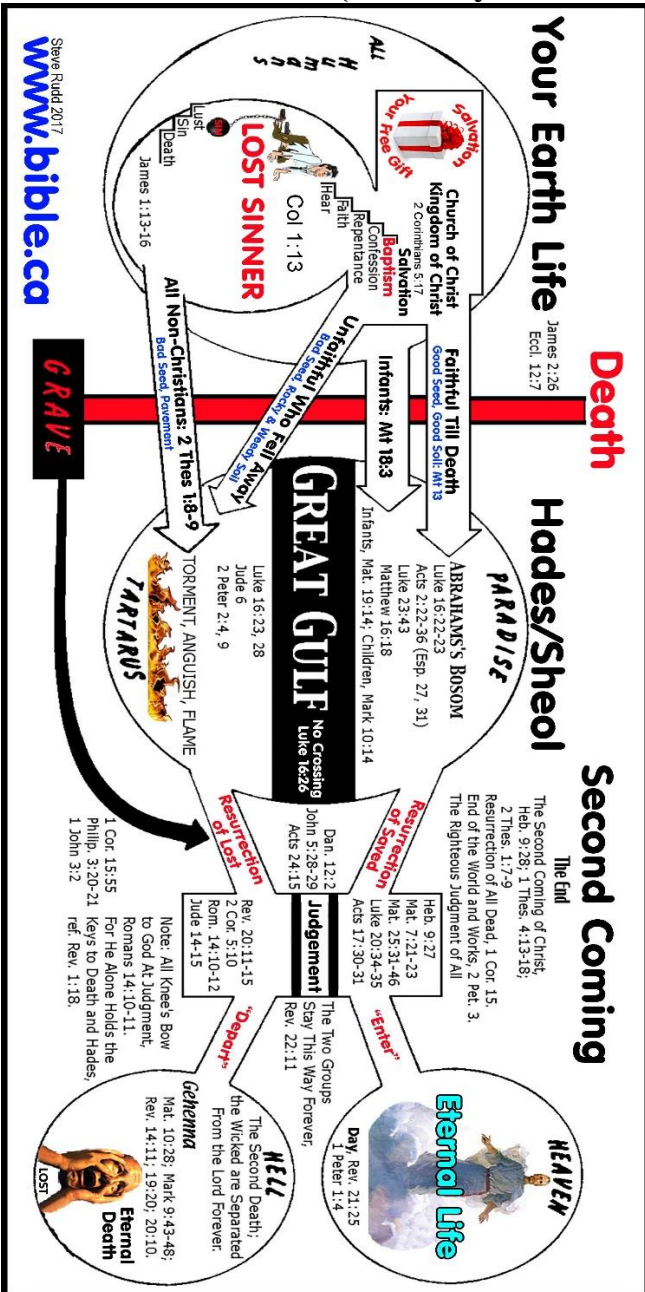
2. How does the Bible teaching concerning the end of time effectively destroy the false doctrine of the “1000 year reign of Christ on earth,” “Armageddon,” Etc.?

Conclusion

I. Knowing the state of the dead, and what shall one day be the outcome of humanity, what will you do?

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A larger and more detailed chart of:
 “Where the Dead Go?” (Chart by Steve Rudd)



Lesson 2: How Can A Loving God Allow Destruction, Starvation, Cruelty, Etc.?

Introduction

- I. This is a good question. It is asked by folks for different reasons:
 - A. Some ask questions like this in an attempt to deny God's reality.
 - B. Some ask questions like this during loss or sorrow.
 - C. Some ask questions like this because they are trying to make "sense" of this world.
- II. Whatever motivated this question, the answer to this question remains the same.

Let us approach this question by asking two questions:

1. As you grow older, your parents allow you more responsibilities and allow you to succeed or fail on your own. Would you say they didn't love you or didn't care for you if, after you are on your own, they allowed you to fail at something?

2. What if you were driving and had a car wreck and got injured. Would you blame the company that made your car for purposely making a "bad car" for you? If not, why not?

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The reason for asking the questions on the last page will be made apparent as we study the rest of this lesson.

Discussion

I. GOD IS LOVE:

- A. Let us understand this! It is always true that God is love.
(I John 4:8, 16)
- B. He loves every one of us!
- C. What evidence do you see that would prove God's love for us?

- D. At the same time ...

II. AT THE SAME TIME, GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS:

- A. This truth is taught a number of times in the Scriptures
(Job 34:19; Acts 10:34-35; Ephesians 6:9; Romans 2:11; Colossians 3:25; I Peter 1:17).
- B. What does this phrase "*God is no respecter of persons*" mean?

- C. Someone may ask, "If these facts are true, then why is there suffering, cruelty, starvation, etc., on this earth?"
- D. In fact, **it is because these facts are true** that God allows man to suffer the consequences of his bad decisions!

III. MAN IS A FREE MORAL AGENT:

- A. Put simply, being a "free moral agent" means we are allowed by God to make our own decisions. From the beginning, God has allowed man to decide whether or not he will do as God says. Read the following verses and explain how man had his own choices to make.
 - 1. Genesis 2:16-17, 3:3 _____
 - 2. Deuteronomy 30:19 _____

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3. Psalm 119:30 _____

4. Luke 10:42 _____

5. Acts 26:19 _____

B. Allowing man to be a free moral agent also demands that God allow us to face the consequences of our decisions whether they are right or wrong, moral or immoral.

IV. MAN HAS SINNED (Romans 3:23):

- A. This may be an obvious statement to us, but this truth has many implications and consequences for man today. Man is allowed to make choices, and sometimes he chooses to give in to lust and sin (James 1:14-15).
- B. We know there are spiritual consequences to sin (Romans 3:23, 6:23), but we need to remember that there are physical consequences to sin as well!
 1. Name some of the physical consequences of sin. _____

 2. When people are allowed to suffer the consequences of their bad decisions (sin), is this evidence that God does not love us, or that He doesn't care for us? (Explain your answer) _____

V. MAN WILL SUFFER WHILE ON EARTH:

- A. At times, we will suffer, not because of what we have done, but we suffer the consequences of other peoples' sins!
Read the following verses and explain how it is that we today are suffering the consequences of others' sin:
- B. Genesis 3:16-19 _____

- C. Please read Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 carefully and note:
 1. Solomon saw that sometimes things don't go the way we

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think that they ought to go!

2. What does “*time and chance*” mean? _____

3. Explain Ecclesiastes 9:11-12 in your own words. _____

Conclusion

- I. Someone has said that if this world were Heaven right now, why would we want to go to Heaven?
- II. The suffering, hardship, etc., that we face is not because God hates us! Rather, we are suffering this because we brought it upon ourselves!
- III. The answer: I cannot change this world, nor the consequences of sin, but I can:
 - A. Try to help those who are suffering. Thus, we read the truth in Matthew 22:39 and James 2:8.
 - B. Determine to go to a place where there is no starvation, hurt, sin, sadness, torture, etc. (Revelation 7:14-17)!

Lesson 3: Is The Holy Spirit Still With Us Today?

Introduction

- A. A simple answer to the above question is yes, the Holy Spirit is still with us today; just as God and Christ are still with us today.
- B. Since the Holy Spirit is with us, how does the Holy Spirit do His work today?
- C. The question of the Holy Spirit's work with men today is usually the focus of our thoughts. What does the Bible say?

Discussion

I. DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT PERSONALLY INDWELL PEOPLE?

- A. There are folks today who think that the Holy Spirit dwells bodily in people (or "personal" indwelling).
 - 1. They think the Holy Spirit lives inside of them and personally guides them in decisions from salvation to where the nearest parking space is!
 - 2. As we study about whether or not the Holy Spirit "personally" indwells us, let us be reminded that the Bible says God the Father dwells in us (I John 4:12, 15-16).
 - 3. The Bible also says that Christ dwells in us (John 6:56; Galatians 2:20).
- B. Three Questions:
 - 1. If one maintains that God and Christ personally indwells us, then based on the above verses, do we personally indwell God and Christ? _____

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2. Does God and Christ live inside of a person? If so, how? Are they broken in pieces and distributed to all Christians, or do just three Christians at a time get God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit?
 3. Why the continued warnings against temptations and sin (James 1:14-15)? If God, Christ, or the Holy Spirit are actually inside of us, then it is impossible for us to sin! (James 1:17; I John 1:5)
- C. The teaching that says the Holy Spirit personally indwells Christians is wrong! The Holy Spirit does not dwell bodily inside anyone, any more than God and Christ do.

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT'S "INDWELLING" IS A RELATIONSHIP:

- A. The Holy Spirit does not dwell personally inside of people. Rather, His "indwelling", as well as God's and Christ's "indwelling", speak to a relationship Christians enjoy as a result of being a child of God. (Read: I John 1:6-7)
- B. The Holy Spirit is active today and the work that the Holy Spirit does is accomplished through the Word.
- C. Read and fill in the chart below, and be ready to discuss. The truth is that the work of the Holy Spirit is done through the agency of the Word:

Holy Spirit	Action/Work	Word Of God
John 3:5-6, 8	Born	I Peter 1:23-25
John 6:63		Psalms 119:50, 63
Titus 3:5		James 1:21
Romans 15:13	Power	Romans 1:16
I Corinthians 6:11	Sanctifies	John 17:_____
I Corinthians 6:11		Ephesians 5:26
Romans 8:14	Leads	Psalms 73:24, 32:8
Acts 9:31		I Thessalonians 4:18

(Hint: Answer key on p. 20)

III. "I THOUGHT THE HOLY SPIRIT TALKED WITH FOLKS DIRECTLY":

- A. In times past, He did! What does II Peter 1:20-21 teach us?

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- B. Hebrews 1:1-2 says God used (**many methods / few methods / one method**) for revealing His word until “*the last days*”. Now, who has spoken? _____
(This is key!)
- C. God has already “*given unto us _____ that pertain unto life and godliness*” (II Peter 1:3). What is the Holy Spirit going to add by speaking directly to someone? _____

Conclusion

- I. The Bible is now in its completed form (James 1:25; I Corinthians 13:8-10).
- II. Since this is true, what will the Holy Spirit say or do independently of the Word?

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Answer Key:

<i>Holy Spirit</i>	<i>Action/Work</i>	<i>Word Of God</i>
John 3:5-6, 8	Born	I Peter 1:23-25
John 6:63	Made Alive	Psalms 119:50, 93
Titus 3:5	Saves	James 1:21
Romans 15:13	Power	Romans 1:16
I Corinthians 6:11	Sanctifies	John 17:17
I Corinthians 6:11	Washed	Ephesians 5:26
Romans 8:14	Leads	Psalms 73:24, 32:8
Acts 9:31	Comforts	I Thessalonians 4:18

Lesson 4: Does The Bible Teach “Once-Saved-Always-Saved”?

Introduction

- I. This false doctrine is a part of a larger false doctrine known as “Calvinism”. This was a doctrine that was named after its main promoter, John Calvin.
 - A. Incidentally, the doctrine itself was not original with him. He got it from Augustine of Hippo ().
 - B. Not only this, there have been folks believing aspects of this doctrine since Old Testament days!
 - C. Put simply, Calvinism can be broken into five pieces using the acronym, TULIP.
 1. Total hereditary depravity (Everyone is born in sin.)
 2. Unconditional Election (God chooses who is saved/lost.)
 3. Limited Atonement (Christ only died for those chosen by God to be saved.)
 4. Irresistible Grace (One chosen by God to be saved cannot resist and be lost, nor can a lost person be saved if he was not chosen by God.)
 5. Perseverance of the saints (The saved person cannot do anything to be lost. I.E., “Once-saved-Always-Saved.”)
 - D. Generally, we find people who will believe and teach the “T” and “P” aspects of this doctrine. Few people today believe every aspect of the “TULIP” doctrine.
- II. Sadly, the “once saved always saved” doctrine is very popular today. Can you imagine why it would be popular?

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Discussion

I. SOME PASSAGES USED TO “PROVE” ONCE-**SAVED-ALWAYS-**SAVED:****

A. John 10:27-29 – Please read this passage. Then:

1. Can you see the statement made that folks twist to say a saved person cannot be lost? _____
2. What answer might you give to someone who misused this verse to say man cannot be lost? _____

B. Sometimes, people cite passages which say that someone was “saved” and imply that this means that they can never be lost. Examples:

1. Mark 16:16
2. II Timothy 1:8-9
3. How would we respond if someone passages like these and said, “See, they say saved, so if you’re saved, you can’t be lost.”? _____

C. Another way people try to teach this is to say that that one might have sinned in the flesh, but this will not affect the soul. Such passages as these are used:

1. I Corinthians 3:15
2. I Corinthians 5:5
3. This is a more common belief than we might think, and it has led to people saying some outlandish things!

“If I killed my wife and mother and debauched a thousand women I couldn’t go to hell—in fact, I couldn’t go to hell if I wanted to.”

(Bill Foster, Baptist preacher, Louisville, KY)

“We take the position that a Christian’s sins do not damn his soul. The way a Christian lives, what he says, his character, his conduct, or his attitude towards other people have nothing whatever to do with the salvation of his soul....All the prayers a man may pray, all the Bibles he may read, all the churches he may belong to, all the services he may attend, all the sermons he may practice, all the debts he may pay, all the ordinances he may observe, all the laws he may keep, all the benevolent acts he may perform will not make his soul one whit safer; and all the sins he may commit from idolatry to murder will not make his soul in any more danger...The way a man lives has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of his soul...The way I live has nothing whatsoever to do with the salvation of my soul.”

(Sam Morris, “Do A Christians Sins Damn His Soul?” Stamford, TX)

4. *One Point:* These two men were exaggerating to make a point. They did not condone, or teach people to act this sinfully. In fact, most who believe “once-saved-always saved” will be quick to say that if someone is really saved, then he won’t want to engage in sinful activities.
 - a. This leads us to another argument often made. Some will say, “Those who go back into sin weren’t saved in the first place.”
 - b. What Scriptural argument could you make to show that one can be saved but can go back into sin? _____

4. What would you say to someone who claimed that sins only affected the flesh, but not the soul? _____

5. Hint: A good place to start – (I Peter 2:11)

II. THE TRUTH CONCERNING THE “ONCE-SAVED ALWAYS-SAVED” DOCTRINE:

- A. First, God never has taught such a doctrine in the Bible.
- B. The key to understanding this false doctrine lies not in the

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word “saved,” or in the study of sins affecting the soul, etc. *The key to this study is:* Man has free-moral agency! (This means the ability to make choices)

1. If man can make choices independently of God, then the “once-saved-always-saved” doctrine is destroyed. It is based on the fact that man could never make a choice which results in his being lost.
2. If man cannot make choices independently of God, then why do we have the numerous warnings in the New Testament, warning Christians of what happens if we go back to that life of sin?
 - a. Why this warning? (I Corinthians 10:12-13) _____

 - b. Why this warning? (Hebrews 3:12) _____

 - c. Why this warning? (II Peter 3:17) _____

3. A proper understanding of man’s free moral agency is what helps us to correctly interpret John 10:27-29.
 - a. Yes, when we are in Christ, no one can take us away from Him. (see also: Romans 8:35-39)
 - b. But, can we leave Him? Can we stop hearing, or stop following Him? _____

 - c. Demas left (II Timothy 4:10). Was he saved, anyway? _____

- C. The “once-saved-always-saved” doctrine contradicts a plain passage like I Timothy 4:1. What does it say? _____

- D. Read Acts 8:13-24. Those who believe in “once-saved always-saved” say Simon never was saved since he confronted by Peter about his sin. Do you agree or disagree? Why? _____

Conclusion

- I. Are the blessings of salvation conditional or unconditional?

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After this study, you know the answer!

- II. Let us not fall for the lie that says once one is saved, he/she is beyond the possibility of falling from grace! (Galatians 5:1-4)
- III, Let us make the correct choice not only to be saved, but also to stay saved!

Lesson 5:

Does The Existence Of Dinosaurs Contradict The Bible?

Introduction

- I. While men have found dinosaur fossils for thousands of years (There are references to the Chinese finding “dragon” bones over 2000 years ago), it has only been since the 1800’s that men have described and categorized the fossils as belonging to dinosaurs.
- II. With this discovery and categorization, some have suggested that the existence of dinosaurs somehow disproves the Bible, or at least the Bible account of creation.
- III. Those who believe the theory of evolution to be true believe dinosaurs had come and gone millions of years before man walked the earth.
- IV. This theory and the discovered dinosaur fossils has at times shaken the faith of God’s people because they did not know how to handle the arguments.
- III. Did dinosaurs exist in Bible days? Did Adam and Eve and dinosaurs coexist? Does the Bible even speak about dinosaurs? These and other questions will be answered in our study.

Discussion

I. DINOSAURS ARE IN THE BIBLE!

- A. Does this statement surprise you? It ought not.
- B. Read Genesis 1:20-25. What does the Bible say God created, and upon what days? _____

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1. In connection with this, read John 1:3. What does this verse say about creation? _____
 2. Colossians 1:16 is another passage worthy of study. What does it say about creation? _____

 3. The point: “*All things*” were created through _____. Therefore, if we are finding bones/fossils of these dinosaurs, then they were created by _____!
- C. Did Adam see dinosaurs? Read Genesis 2:19-20 to get the answer. _____ Explain why you answered as you did. _____
- D. A description of some dinosaurs: Job 40:15-24; 41:1-34
1. Note some descriptions of Behemoth (Job 40):
 - a. Herbivore (v. 15)
 - b. Great strength (v. 16)
 - c. Tail that moves like a cedar tree (v. 17)
 - d. Bones like brass/iron (v. 18)
 - e. Drinks up a river (v. 23)
 - f. What does this description sound like to you? _____
 2. Note some descriptions of Leviathan (Job 41):
 - a. Cannot be caught by a hook or spear (v. 1-2).
 - b. No one is brave enough to stir him up (v. 10).
 - c. Any hope of overcoming him is vain (v. 9).
 - d. Teeth are scary/frightful (v. 14).
 - e. Scales seal tight so nothing can penetrate them, not even air (v. 15-17).
 - f. Fire (v. 18-20).
 - g. When he raises up, he scares people greatly (v. 25).
 - h. None of the “conventional weapons” of the time could harm him (v. 26-29).
 - i. Leaves a white wake in the water (v. 32).
 - j. What does this description sound like to you? _____
- E. Some wonder why the word “dinosaur” is not used in the Bible. A key point to remember is that the English word “dinosaur” was not even in the English vocabulary until after August 2, 1841, when a man named Sir Richard Owen described the fossil bones he had researched at Royal College in London as “dinosauria”,

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i.e., “terrible lizards”, which became “dinosaurs”!

1. From about 1822 to 1841, a common name was “Iguanadons”, or “Iguana tooth.” Gideon Mantell had named his find this in 1822.
2. Before this, these creatures were known as “dragons,” and other such names. God simply called them “creeping things”, “beasts of the earth,” and similar terms.
3. A simple question, “Was the Bible written before or after 1842?”
 - a. The term was not used in Bible days. Terms like “microwave,” “pencil,” “rocket,” and “internet” are not in the Bible for the same reason!
 - b. Just as “dinosaur” is not found in the Bible, the Bible does not refer to koalas, raccoons, bass, canaries, or cardinals, either!
 - c. It is not because these animals did not exist, but that they might have been referred to by other names, or simply referred to under a general term like “beasts of the earth”, or “fowl”, etc.

II. WHAT ABOUT DINOSAUR FOSSILS?

- A. “Don’t dinosaur fossils suggest that dinosaurs had to be here for millions of years?”
 1. Here lies a very important issue. Uniformitarianism vs. Catastrophism
 - a. Uniformitarianism: The world we see is a result of unhurried change by nature over billions of years.
 - b. Catastrophism: The world we see has suffered many violent, sudden changes, which took place in mere moments from time to time.
 2. Which position do you think is described in the Bible?

 - a. In Genesis 1:6-9, God called the dry land to appear and demanded the waters to be gathered together. In what time frame did the Bible describe this happening? _____
 - b. In Genesis 6-9, when God brought about _____,

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how many days this take? _____

3. A modern-day example: In 1980, Mt. St. Helens erupted. It spread about 25 feet of new sediment all over the area! (If this happened in one afternoon, imagine what could happen when other such disasters happen over the earth!)

B. The process of fossilization also suggests that catastrophism is true.

1. Many fossils (not those in amber, etc.) were not formed over many years, but are formed as a sudden event, like a flood, where the item is buried suddenly in sedimentary soil (Ex: tree, animal, leaf, etc.).



Rapid fossilization - a fish with another fish in its mouth

a. The Karoo Valley of Desolation, in South Africa contains around 800 billion rapidly-buried fossils.

b. The Miocene shales in California is a four square mile area where a billion fish were rapidly buried.

C. As recently as 2005, dinosaur bones have been found with red blood cells and “soft tissue” present. This speaks to a “recent” death and fossilization, rather than not a fossilization taking millions and millions of years!

D. Some other things that have been fossilized through the years include a Pot, hat, pick-ax, and someone’s leg. These facts give us further proof that fossilization occurs in a short time rather than millions of years.

III. WHAT ABOUT THE ARK?

A. Some have suggested that if there were really dinosaurs living contemporary with man, then there should have been some dinosaurs on the Ark (Genesis 6:20). Folks then deny the Ark was big enough to hold them.

B. Read Genesis 6:15. What were the dimensions of the Ark?

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1. Width = _____; Length = _____
Height = _____
 2. Assuming that a cubit is 18 inches long, convert the dimensions of the Ark into feet and inches.
 3. Width = _____; Length = _____
Height = _____
 4. By the numbers:
 - a. Volume is determined by multiplying the length times the width times the height of a box or cube. Since the Ark was essentially a large box, then we can use this formula to determine the volume of the ark.
 - b. Thus, the sheer volume of this Ark would have been 1,400,000 cubic feet of space! It could carry an estimated 14,000 gross tons of volume!
 - c. In other words, there was PLENTY of space to house the animals and people God had required of Noah (Genesis 6:19-21, 7:2-4).
 - d. Some estimates say that nearly 26% of the Ark was empty! In other words, there was plenty of room for more people had more people believed and obeyed the Lord (I Peter 3:20)!
- C. Remember, the purpose of keeping the people and animals on the Ark was _____
1. What animals would need to have this kind of safety?

 2. For this reason, we see that the Ark was not housing every species of every animal on earth. Rather, only land animals/insects and people would need to be onboard.
 3. Also, think about what age animals might be better to take on board. Would you choose young animals, or full grown?
 4. Seeing that even the average size dinosaur was about the size of a sheep, there would have been plenty of room for dinosaurs, and every other person, animal, and insect!
- D. There is no question that dinosaurs and man existed at the same time.

Lesson 6: Can People Perform Miracles Today?

Introduction

- I. Among many “religious” people, we hear the teaching that when one is a Christian, he/she has the ability to perform miracles.
 - A. Among these abilities include: something called “tongue speaking”, the ability to miraculously heal people, the spiritual gift of prophecy, and the like.
 - B. Some claim that these gifts are a sign that you are saved (ex: “tongue-speaking”).
- II. We read numerous examples of people in Bible days with the ability to perform miracles. Name some: _____

- III. What is the purpose of these miraculous gifts? Can people still possess these gifts today?
- IV. I believe when we answer the first question, the second question will be answered as well.

Discussion

I. A DESCRIPTION OF MIRACULOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT:

- A. Please read I Corinthians 12:8-10 and list the various spiritual gifts that Christians had in the first century.

- B. How were these gifts imparted to people? (Acts 8:14-18,

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19:4-6; II Timothy 1:6) _____

- C. Based on your answer above, what do we know about people's ability to possess miraculous spiritual gifts today?
- _____

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MIRACULOUS SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

- A. We could also ask the question this way: "What is the purpose of miracles?" (Hint: Exodus 4:1-9; John 2:11, 23)
- _____
- B. What are people supposed to believe when they see these kinds of miracles? _____
- C. Therefore, the miraculous gifts folks received from the Holy Spirit would serve the same purpose.
- D. To use these gifts for other purposes (See: Acts 8:18-20) or for selfish interests was to violate God's will and sin!

III. CAN PEOPLE STILL HAVE MIRACULOUS GIFTS TODAY?

- A. Just as we have done in previous studies, let us go to the Bible for the answer.
- B. We have already discovered the answer to this question earlier in our lesson. If you remember two things, you can know the answer.
1. How were miraculous gifts imparted to people in the New Testament? _____
 2. What were the qualifications for being an apostle? _____
 3. Therefore, can one still possess miraculous spiritual gifts today? Why or why not? _____
- _____
- C. Let us also remember that there was a plain statement made by the apostle Paul that the miraculous gifts were temporary in nature. (Read: I Corinthians 13:8-10)
1. What did the apostle say would "*fail*," "*cease*," and "*vanish away*"? _____
 2. The gifts given allowed people to understand "*in part*"

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- (v. 9), but when “*that which is perfect is come*”, what was going to happen? _____
3. What is “*that which is perfect*”? _____
(Hint: Read James 1:25).
4. Some will try to tell you that the “perfect” is Jesus’ return the 2nd time. This is not true. Why? Let’s find out.
- a. Remember, that which is “perfect” (whole, complete) must refer to the same thing that the “in part” does. It is not right to say that what was “in part” was one thing and the “perfect” is something else.
- b. Therefore, if the “in part” is not about Christ, the “whole” (“perfect”) cannot be about Christ, either!
5. The truth: The apostle says that while they at present had a partial revelation of God’s will through the miraculous gifts like prophecies and such, when it was in its completed form, those gifts would be “*done away*” (v. 10).
6. Therefore, I Corinthians 13:8-10 tells us that the spiritual gifts had an end, and had served their purpose. He then tells us what things remain: _____

Conclusion

- I. By the beginning of the second century, miraculous spiritual gifts were no more.
- II. These miraculous spiritual gifts served an important purpose in their time, but we have something even better – the **completed** Word!! What we possess is what those folks longed for in their day.

Lesson 7:

Why Are There So Many Churches Today?

Introduction

- I. We are taught in the New Testament that there is one body (Ephesians 4:4), and that one body is the church (Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18).
- II. We also see that when Jesus built His church (Matthew 16:18), it was just that – His **church**, not churches, that He established so long ago.
- III. If we see the one church spoken about so clearly in the New Testament, then why is it that today we have so many churches, all claiming to belong to Christ?
 - A. This is a good question that comes up from time to time.
 - B. While I cannot explain the existence of every church today, I do think there are some key principles that have been ignored by people when they start “their” church.
 - C. That is worthy of our study so we know how to avoid man’s errors.

Discussion

I. THE FIRST CENTURY CHRISTIANS WERE WARNED THAT APOSTASY WAS COMING:

- A. In the New Testament, folks were warned that a “*falling away*” (apostasy) was coming.
 1. Read Acts 20:28-31. The Apostle Paul reminded the Ephesian elders that he had warned them about what event(s). _____
 2. Read I Timothy 4:1-3. Timothy was told that some folks

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were going to “*depart from the faith*” and were going to speak what kind of things? _____

3. Did folks do these things? Are they doing them today? _____

4. Read II Timothy 4:2-4. What was Timothy expected to do? What warning was he given? _____

B. Not long after the first century ended, the circumstances were right for the beginning of what would become the Catholic church.

1. This church did not begin with Christ but was an apostasy away from the Lord’s church we read about in the New Testament.

a. It began within the eldership of the Lord’s church.

During this time, there were those who preached a message that “tickled people’s ears” instead of taught them the truth.

b. Through time, those elders who wanted power began to take over and “oversee” more than one congregation (violating I Peter 5:2).

c. This led to certain elders being over other elders, etc., until it was determined that one “elder” or “bishop” ought to be over all the other “elders” and the churches. (What was once a pure plan had become a way for men to gain power over others!)

2. By 606 A.D., the Roman Catholic church had its first head/pontiff over it (Boniface III).

a. Not all Catholic folks accepted Boniface, though, and named other men as their leaders.

b. To this day, there are splits among Catholics, and they have named different men to head their churches.

The Roman Catholics, though, are the most popular, and this is why we hear about them more than the others.

3. Catholics also demand folks abstain from certain foods at times (i.e., “Lent”). They demand certain ones remain unmarried for life (Their “priests” and “nuns”).

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- C. All the things prophesied in the New Testament concerning this apostasy (falling away) came true.
- D. Now, instead of just having the church, or church of Christ as is found in the Bible, man gave the world an “option” – Christ’s church, or man’s.
- E. “Why” was this done in the first place? I do not know. However, the reason “why” there are so many churches on earth is because men were not satisfied with what the Lord had built. That was evident with the Catholics and continues to this day.

II. CHURCHES CONTINUE TO SPLIT:

- A. After the Catholics had been around for several hundred years, men like Martin Luther (1483-1546) saw the corruption of this man-made monstrosity. He was one called a “reformer,” who set out to “reform” the Catholics into being what they were in the beginning.
 - 1. He failed in this effort to “reform” them but after his death, there were folks who so loved his message that they left the Catholics and followed him. They became known as Lutherans (1520).
 - 2. Some folks were following him before his death and calling themselves Lutherans then. In 1522, he said he didn’t want people calling themselves after him, but they ultimately did not listen to him.
 - 3. Thus, we have the Lutheran church today.
- B. The chart below shows other churches continued to crop up through the years; many of them calling themselves after a certain man/practice, and taking the glory away from Christ:

<u>Time</u>	<u>Founder</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Church</u>
606 A.D.	Boniface III (assumed title of “universal bishop”)	Rome	Roman Catholic
1520 A.D.	Martin Luther	Germany	Lutheran
1534 A.D.	Henry VIII	England	Episcopalian

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1536 A. D.	John Calvin	Switzerland	Presbyterian
1550 A. D.	Robert Browne	England	Congregational
1607 A.D.	John Smythe	Holland	Baptist
1739 A.D.	John Wesley	England	Methodist
1830 A.D.	Joseph Smith	America	Latter Day Saints (Mormons)
1830 A.D.	William Miller	America	Adventists
1886 A.D.	Mary Baker Eddy	America	Christian Scientist
1872 A.D.	Charles Taze Russell	America	Jehovah's Witnesses

III. WHY DO WE HAVE SO MANY CHURCHES TODAY?

- A. Ultimately, it comes down to this: People are not satisfied with what God has revealed in the Scriptures, and so they invent their own way of doing things.
- B. This is not a new thing. Read I Kings 12:25-33 (The account of Jeroboam and his bad decision.)
1. What did Jeroboam fear (v. 27)? _____
 2. His fear motivated him to sin. How? _____
3. He did not believe God who had promised him ...
(He would lose his kingdom if he obeyed / He would continue to keep his kingdom if he obeyed)
 Hint: I Kings 11:38
- C. In like manner, when people today are not satisfied with God's revealed plan for the worship and work of the church, they will change things.
1. I Corinthians 1:12-13 says the people were taking the names of _____ instead of _____.
 2. Are people today any different when they take the names of men instead of Christ?

IV. HOW DO WE TREAT FOLKS IN DENOMINATIONS:

A. Lovingly:

1. We love their souls and want them to be saved, too.
2. How can we show them this love?
 - Leave them alone.
 - Teach them the truth.

B. Gently:

1. We too have been guilty of sin of one kind or another.
(II Timothy 2:24-26; Jude 21-22)
2. Kindness can open a door to lead someone to the Lord.

C. Firmly:

1. Their souls are in danger, and they could be lost in their sin if they do not repent (II Corinthians 6:2; Jude 23).
2. Therefore, we must be firm and not waver on the truth!

D. By the truth you speak, and the example you show, you could lead many souls to Christ. You have the ability; it is up to you to act!

Lesson 8: Who Are The “Great Cloud Of Witnesses”?

Introduction

I. In the New Testament, we read a very interesting phrase. When the writer of the Hebrew letter was trying to encourage Jewish Christians to continue in their faithfulness to God, he wrote the following:

“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.” (Hebrews 12:1)

II. What does this mean? Who are the “great cloud of witnesses”? What is their purpose? Are they still around today?

Discussion

I. THE “GREAT CLOUD OF WITNESSES”:

- A. As in any Bible study, we need to determine the CONTEXT in order to learn the truth.
- B. What section of Scripture might you read to determine the context of Hebrews 12:1? _____
- C. Based on what you have read, what/who was discussed in the context of Hebrews 12:1? _____

II. LOOKING INTO THIS “CLOUD”:

- A. Just as an actual cloud is composed of billions of water

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molecules, so also, the word “cloud” used in Hebrews 12:1 is a descriptive way to describe a large multitude of people.

B. Just who composes this “cloud”? Let us read Hebrews 11. Some of the people in this “cloud” include:

1. Abel (v. 4):

a. What did Abel do that shows us his faithfulness? _____

b. His faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

2. _____ (v. 5):

a. What was the “testimony” this man received?

b. God thought so much of him that He did not allow him to _____

c. His faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

3. Noah (v. _____):

a. What did Noah do that made God decide to include his name in this chapter? _____

b. What circumstances made his work unique? _____

c. His faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

4. Abraham (v. 8-10, 17-19):

a. Abraham was not a sinless man, but he was a very faithful man. What two events in his life were cited as evidence of his faithfulness? _____

b. Name some things Abraham endured in order to be faithful to God. _____

c. His faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

5. _____ (v. 11-12):

a. How does this person fit into God’s plan of salvation?

c. Her faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

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6. Isaac, Jacob, Joseph (v. _____):
- a. These three men played an important part in God's plan of salvation. What did they do? _____

 - b. Joseph's faith was so strong, he gave a commandment concerning _____.
What does this mean? _____

 - c. Their faithfulness teaches us what lessons? _____

7. Moses' Parents (v. 23):
- a. Who were Moses' parents and why would they be given special mention? _____

 - b. Their faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

8. _____ (v. 24-28):
- a. He is perhaps the most well-known leader of the Jewish people. What kind of choices did he make in his life which show us his faith in God? _____

 - b. His faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

9. The Israelite Nation (v. _____):
- a. The nation of Jews as a whole showed their faithfulness to God in times when it seemed the "odds" were against them!
 - b. Their faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

10. Rahab (v. 31):
- a. In this case, we have an example of a woman who was of what nation? _____
 - b. She was not a Jew, yet, her faithfulness was apparent at this time. What did she do? _____
 - c. Her faithfulness teaches us what lesson? _____

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11. Numerous others (v. 32-40):
 - a. Notice here that the writer names several people. Their names ought to be significant to us.
 - b. At the same time, he names many acts of faith that occurred in the history of the world.
 - c. When we see what folks like this have done, then what excuse do we have for not being faithful to God when we are citizens of the United States and enjoy religious freedom?
12. One more major figure in this “cloud”:
 - a. Who is this figure that would also be standing in the “cloud” encouraging us to be faithful and strong?

 - b. After learning about those figures in the Old Testament, this one is the ultimate example of faith, truth, love, living for God, etc. (I Peter 2:21).

Conclusion

- I. Here stands the “*great cloud of witnesses*” encouraging us to do what is right and be faithful to the point of death (Revelation 2:10).
- II. Their examples stand the test of time, as ours will one day if we follow the Lord through our lives (I Timothy 5:24-25).

Lesson 9: Three Short Questions

Introduction

- I. Instead of taking an entire class period to answer one question, I thought it would be good to try and answer a three separate questions for our class.
- II. I hope this study will be profitable to you.

Discussion

I. WHY DOES NOT GOD SPEAK DIRECTLY TO MAN ANYMORE?

- A. This is a good question. When we read the Bible, folks are impressed with the fact that God often spoke directly to certain people.
 1. However, please do not think that this was God's only means of communication with man.
 2. I find the following an interesting statement made by God concerning His communication to man in Old Testament days. Read Numbers 12:6-8.
 - a. God said when He spoke to a prophet, how did He do it? _____
 - b. Moses was an exception, though. Why? _____
- B. At other times, God chose to speak to the people by sending (**angels / birds / snow**). Name some people to whom God spoke through this agency. _____

- C. A good summary of God's revealing work is found in Hebrews 1:1-2. What does this passage teach us? _____

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- D. Jude 3 says “*the faith*” has been _____
“*delivered to the saints.*”
- E. What is left for God to tell us? If God was going to speak directly to someone, what would He say that is not found in the Bible already? Read: II Peter 1:1-3 and see how we already have all we need for “*life and godliness.*”

II. WHAT HAPPENED TO DEMONS?

- A. To listen to some people talk, you might think that demons are behind every bush and in every dark alley waiting to strike. This is not the case.
- B. Demons had a place in God’s work for a time, but now, those days are over. This is because the days of miracle are over (I Corinthians 13:10).
- C. A very pointed passage that explains what happened to demons is Zechariah 13:1-3. Let us look at this together.
1. A fountain opened (v. 1). What was its purpose? _____

 - a. When was this fountain opened? _____
 - b. Jesus described it _____ (John 4:10, 14).
 - c. Others describe the “washing” that takes place:
I Corinthians 6:11; Ephesians 5:26-27; Revelation 1:5 2. This is a key point! Once the fountain is opened (v. 1)...
 - a. What will happen to the idols? _____
 - b. What will happen to prophets? _____

 - * More about prophets in verses 4-5.
 - c. What will happen to unclean spirits (i.e., DEMONS)?

 - d. If anyone attempted to do what folks had tried in the past, what was the response of their parents supposed to be? _____
- D. Therefore, the demons served a purpose, and their purpose is fulfilled. Much like miraculous powers, these things were necessary for a time. One who could perform miracles, and cast out demons, could show his power came

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from God and he had the truth.

- E. However, today we have the completed word and have no need for such things. (As we already noted, we can look at the promise of Zechariah 13 and see that God didn't intend for demons to continue to this present time.)

III. WHAT MAKES JOSEPH SMITH DIFFERENT FROM THE WRITERS OF THE BIBLE?

- A. There are many things we might say in answer to this question. However, let's deal with one key difference between Smith and the writers of the Bible.
- B. The writers of the Bible consistently say that God's word was given to them:
1. "*Thus saith the Lord*" is a phrase found 413 times in the Bible.
 2. "*The word of the Lord came to ...*" is found 18 times in the Bible.
 3. Jeremiah said God told him, "*Behold, I have put my _____ in thy _____*" (Jeremiah 1:9).
 4. How did "*holy men of God*" speak (II Peter 1:20-21)?

 5. God spoke to these men in their language, and then they spoke it or wrote it down for the benefit of future generations of people.
 6. It was later translated into other languages found all over the world.
 7. They spoke of events, people, and cultures that could be found on earth in their day.
- C. Joseph Smith claimed an angel, Moroni, awoke him from sleep and spoke to him and told him to go find golden tablets buried in the earth.
1. These tablets were said to be written in "Reformed Egyptian". (This language does not and has not existed on earth.)
 2. He needed the "Urim and Thummim" (2 "seer" stones attached to a breastplate) to translate it.
 3. He wrote about a tribe of people who are never mentioned in the Bible.

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4. His writings are found to be Scripturally incorrect. (See attachment about the contradictions between the book of Mormon and the Bible.)
- D. Joseph Smith was not divinely inspired of God. His words are not true, and his doctrine is false.

Lesson 10: How Can We Condemn Others' Religious Behavior When They Seem Genuine?

Introduction

“The denominational folks seem more genuine or have deeper devotion than us at times. How can we condemn them for their error when we lack genuineness or devotion?”

- I. I see this as basically two subjects combined into one question.
The subjects:
 - A. Sincerity and Devotion vs. Insincerity
 - B. True and False Actions
- II. How do we go about answering such a question as this?
 - A. We ought to always want to continue to grow and improve, spiritually (II Peter 3:18). Do not deny that there are areas where we need strengthening or improvement. They exist!
 - B. Yet, comparing ourselves to other people is not wise (II Corinthians 10:12).

Discussion

- I. UNDERSTAND THAT SIN IS SIN, REGARDLESS OF ONE’S MENTAL ATTITUDE:**
 - A. Some may look to others and say, “They seem sincere” or, “They seem genuine”, and from this try to justify their sinful practices. May this not be the case with us! We need to learn better.
 - B. Genuine and sincere people (in error) are found in the Bible. What did God say about them?

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1. The prophets of Baal (I Kings 18:22-40). What do you see in this chapter that would cause you to think that they were sincere people? _____

a. What did they do to show they really believed in Baal? _____
b. Were they correct/pleasing to God? Why/Why not? _____
 2. The woman of Samaria (John 4:7-30). What do you see in this chapter that would cause you to think that she was a sincere person? _____

a. Was she worshipping correctly? Why/Why not? _____

b. From what we read in John 4, did she seem to have a bad attitude? _____
 3. Read John 16:1-2. What Christ said folks would do to the apostles under the pretense of “*doing God service*”? _____

a. Would you think these folks were “sincere” or “genuine” in their beliefs? _____
b. Were they correct/pleasing to God? Why/Why not? _____

c. Can you think of a New Testament person who might have fit this description, sincere but not correct? _____
- C. The point: Sincerity is a necessary thing, but sincerity without truth means one is in error. Read Romans 10:1-3 and see that this was the case with the Jews.

II. UNDERSTAND THAT TRUTH IS TRUTH REGARDLESS OF MENTAL ATTITUDE:

- A. John 17:17 says God’s word is _____.
Therefore, when we present God’s word to folks, and are living it, we are following _____.
- B. Sometimes, folks may have a bad attitude, but still speak the truth. Examples:
 1. Jonah: What was his attitude toward the Ninevites? _____

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- a. Yet, what did he tell the people when he got to Nineveh (Jonah 3)? _____
 - b. Did the people obey or disobey? _____
 - c. Had those people disobeyed, they would have been held accountable by God because of:
(their sin / Jonah's bad attitude)
2. Peter: For a while, Peter played the hypocrite by showing preference toward _____ over the _____ (Galatians 2:9-21).
- a. Though Peter's attitude was wrong, the truth had not changed.
 - b. Both Jews and Gentiles who follow the Lord's plan for salvation became Christians, regardless of Peter's attitude toward them!
 - c. Please understand, I am not saying Peter was correct. He needed to repent of his attitude (Galatians 2:14-21). But, his attitude did not change the truth Christ had revealed.

III. GOD DEMANDS WE HAVE THE RIGHT ATTITUDE AND HAVE THE TRUTH:

- A. John 4:24 records Christ's words that explain what God wants from us. _____

- B. John 4:24 describes three basic things necessary for acceptable worship. The right:
 1. Object – _____
 2. Attitude – _____
 3. Standard – _____
- C. Worshipping:
 1. The wrong **object** results in idolatry.
 2. Without the **spirit** results in vain repetition or an empty ritual.
 3. Without the **truth** results in vain worship, or "will-worship", because we are not submitting to God's standard!
- D. Therefore, when we worship, let us be found worshipping

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God *“in spirit”* and *“in truth”*.

- E. Those in denominations are not following the pattern of John 4:24. How do we know this? _____
-

IV. HOW DO WE KNOW PEOPLE’S HEARTS?

- A. Look again at our original question. It discusses people who seem to be more sincere or more devoted than we even though they are in religious error. This problem is that this question assumes we can know people’s hearts.
- B. How do we know the state of someone’s heart to say he/she is not sincere, or lacks devotion? _____
-
- C. Yes, *“by their fruits ye shall know them”* (_____).
1. Therefore, when I see someone who is worshipping the Lord as stated in Acts 2:42, 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2; etc., then who am I to cast doubts on their practices because of a perceived “bad” attitude?
 2. When I see someone pervert the work and worship of God’s church through: Yard sales to raise money, using instrumental music, false doctrines being taught, etc., who am I to justify their practices because of a perceived “good” attitude?
- D. Yes, the proper attitude is important. However, WHAT attitude can I truly know for sure? WHAT attitude can I truly control? _____
- E. Let’s be careful we do not try to read hearts. We may “read” them wrong! Leave heart-reading to God (John 2:24-25, 6:64; Psalm 139:2-4; Hebrews 4:13). Let us be active in controlling the one thing we can control: SELF!

Conclusion

- I. Thank you for your participation in this class. I hope these lessons have been helpful to you.