

Paul and Luther

A Bible Information Course on the Book of Romans and Luther's Small Catechism

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Lesson 1**Romans 1:1-17**

In this section Paul greets the Romans, expresses his desire to minister to them, and states the heart of his message, the Gospel.

Verse 1 Paul

1. Paul was a Jew from the city of Tarsus, a Roman citizen from birth.
2. He was a scholar, a student of the famous Jewish teacher Gamaliel.
3. He was formerly a Pharisee (a sect of Jews devoted to a strict observance of the Law and their own traditions).
4. He had been a persecutor of the church, convinced that their teachings went against God's Law.
5. God stopped his persecution of the church and brought him to faith in the Gospel.
6. The Lord set him apart and taught him to serve as an apostle (the 13th), an eyewitness of Jesus' resurrection.
7. Paul was set apart to proclaim the Gospel especially to the Gentiles (non-Jews).

Verses 2-5 Paul's Commission

1. The Gospel message was nothing new. Paul was proclaiming what the Law and the Prophets in the Old Testament had foretold.
2. Paul was to preach about what Jesus, who was both divine and human, had done for the world.
3. Paul was to make disciples of all nations
 - a) on the authority of Jesus (Savior) Christ (the one "anointed" or set apart by God to redeem the world to himself) our Lord (the one who rules over all things and who someday will judge the world).
 - b) by bringing them to "the obedience of faith." Just what this phrase means will be explained by Paul throughout Romans.

Verses 6-15 Paul's love and concern for the Roman congregation

1. Paul rejoices when he thinks of the Romans because
 - a) they have been "called out" of the world to belong to Christ Jesus.
 - b) they are loved by God.
 - c) they are saints. ("those who have been made holy")
 - d) their faith is reported throughout the world.
2. He is concerned about their spiritual growth.
 - a) He prays for them.
 - b) He wants to be with them to strengthen them and to be encouraged by them.

Verses 16-17 Paul's Message: The Gospel

1. The Gospel reveals the truth that righteousness has been given to every person in the world.
2. This righteousness is ours. We enjoy the benefit of it simply by faith that it is ours.
3. Therefore it is only by preaching the message of this righteousness that God bestows salvation on us. Certainly this is nothing to be ashamed of!

Lesson 1**Review Questions**

Circle the letter of the correct answer.

1. Paul was
 - a. one of the disciples.
 - b. an Apostle.
 - c. a member of the Roman church.

2. Paul's commission was
 - a. to preach to the Jews.
 - b. to begin a church at Rome.
 - c. to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles.

3. An apostle was
 - a. one sent to witness to Christ's resurrection.
 - b. a disciple.
 - c. one whose duty it was to write the story of Jesus' life.

4. Rome was
 - a. located in Italy, the chief city of the Roman empire.
 - b. located in Asia Minor, where Paul began his missionary work.
 - c. a city in Greece, where Paul had not yet preached the Gospel.

5. The Gospel is
 - a. a new set of principles for Christian living.
 - b. "good news" referring to the revelation of God's gift of righteousness to us.
 - c. "good news" referring to the fact that God will accept all who are worthy of him.

6. Our word "church" comes from the Greek word meaning
 - a. assembly or congregation.
 - b. meeting place.
 - c. called out.

7. A saint is
 - a. one of the early Apostles.
 - b. an especially holy person.
 - c. a word to describe every Christian.

8. The righteousness of God of Romans 1:17 is
 - a. the righteousness God gives us as a gift.
 - b. the righteousness life God expect of each Christian.
 - c. the righteousness of God which he uses as his standard of judging us.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 4 - 6

Memorization: Hebrews 11:3

Books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy

Lesson 1**Home Study: God the Creator****A. Introduction**

1. A creed is a statement of belief.
2. The three main Christian Creeds:
 - Apostles—a brief summary of the Christian faith as believed and taught by the Apostles
 - Nicene —written to defend the Bible’s teaching that Jesus is true God
 - Athanasian —written to defend the Bible’s teaching that the true God is Triune, “three in one.”

Catechism Reference: The First Article and Explanation

B. The Creation

1. Read Genesis 1-3. God created all things
 - a) From _____ (his “material”)
 - b) By _____ (his “tool”)
 - c) In _____ (the time he took)
2. Genesis 1:31: So that everything was _____ (the quality of his work)

C. God gave human beings special blessings:

1. Genesis 1:27-28 We were created in the _____ of God. (holiness)
2. Genesis 1:28 We were given authority over _____.
3. Genesis 2:18-25 God gave the world the gifts of marriage, home, and family.
4. Genesis 2:15-17 God gave us the opportunity to _____.

D. God’s Word and Evolution

1. *Evolution* is the hypothesis that all things came into being by chance.
2. *Atheistic evolution* says that all things evolved independent of any help from God, if, indeed, God exists at all.
3. *Theistic evolution* says God used evolution to create the world.

E. Evolution undermines Christianity

Use the following topics to illustrate the incompatibility of Scripture and evolution. Look at each topic and think about it in terms of Scripture’s description of creation and then in terms of the theory of evolution. Think through these issues as best you can. We will discuss this chart more fully in class.

Topic	Scripture	Evolution
Adam and Eve		
Need, scarcity, the struggle to survive		
Death		
Jesus’ salvation		

Hebrews 11:3 gives the Christian his final answer to how the world came into being: _____

Lesson 2**Romans 1:18-2:5**

The Gospel reveals that God has given us the gift of righteousness. In Romans 1:18—3:30 Paul shows why this gift of righteousness is so important. He does this by showing the sinfulness of mankind.

Verses 18-23 The Reason for God's Anger

1. All people know there is a God who is all-powerful, eternal, and divine (that is, not a part of this creation), and eternal. We learn this by looking at his creation. We should conclude that someone created it.
2. All people suppress this truth.
3. Instead of worshipping God, they make their own gods, which are fashioned after the things God created.
4. Therefore God is not unjust when he condemns people. He condemns people not for what they do not know, but for not accepting what they do know about him, namely, what they see about him in nature and from their sense that he is holy and justly punishes the sins they commit (note verse 2:32).

Verses 24-32 The Result of God's Anger

God punishes the sin of idolatry by giving people over to sin, which introduces suffering into their lives.

Verse 2:1-5 No One Can Claim To Be Innocent and Free of These Charges

1. If we judge someone else for their sins (condemn them by virtue of our own goodness), we are judging ourselves because we have done the same things (or at least things equally as bad). (See Matthew 7:1ff.)
2. God is the only one who can judge justly, and he will.
3. If a person sees himself “unjudged” by God, it is not because he is good enough to not deserve punishment, but because God is patiently giving him time to repent.
4. He who does not use the time of God’s patience to repent is in fact using it to store up more of God’s wrath.

Some Definitions:

The natural knowledge of God: All people know God exists because of what he has made, because of they have a sense of right and wrong, and know that the one who created them does not approve of their sin.

Creation: God’s work of bringing into being this world and everything in it in six 24 hour days.

Conscience: The “voice” within us that tells us whether or not we are doing God’s will. Our conscience compares our actions with what we naturally know to be right and wrong. We feel good when he keep God’s law and bad when we don’t.

Atheist vs Agnostic: An Atheist says there is no God. An Agnostic says he doesn’t know if there is a God or not.

The Characteristics of God: God is a spirit; a personal being; invisible. He is eternal—Psalm 90:1,2; unchangeable—Malachi 3:6; all-powerful—Genesis 17:1; all-knowing—Psalm 139:1-4; present everywhere—Jeremiah 23:24; sinless—Leviticus 19:2; just—Deuteronomy 32:4; faithful—2 Timothy 2:13; kind—Psalm 145:9; merciful—Exodus 34:6,7; love—1 John 4:8.

Lesson 2**Review Questions**

1. God is ___ a force in nature.
___ a personal being.
2. Spend some time reflecting on God's creation and what it teaches us about him.
What in nature impresses you with God's power?

How does creation teach us that God is eternal?

How does creation put God's divine nature on display?

How does the creation teach us that God is wise? that he is loving?
3. How does the modern theory of evolution lead people to deny the existence of God?

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 6 – 9

Memorization: Romans 1:20; Psalm 107:1

Books of the Bible: Joshua, Judges, Ruth

Lesson 2**Home Study: God Our Preserver**

Catechism Reference: The First Article and Explanation

A. God gave me life.

1. Although I was created in what might be termed a very “natural” way, God had as much to do with my coming into being as he did in the case of Adam and Eve.

2. How do these passages describe God’s activity when he created me?

Psalm 119:73 _____

Acts 17:25 _____

Psalm 139:14 _____

B. God provides for my needs.

God could provide for me using “miracles.” But he normally uses “natural” ways: giving me parents; money to purchase food and clothing; rain and sunshine to enable plants to grow, etc. The fact that God uses “natural” ways does not lessen his personal involvement in providing for me.

How do these passages describe God’s action in caring for his creatures?

Psalm 145:15,16 _____

Psalm 104:14 _____

C. God provides for believer in special ways.

What does God promise those who trust in him?

Psalm 121:7,8 _____

Psalm 91:10,11 _____

Note: Sometime during the week of creation, God made the angels, powerful spirits who serve him (See Psalm 103:20, 21 and Hebrews 1:14.). “Angel” means “messenger.” The angels frequently carried God’s Word to people. The Creator also sends them to watch over his people.” (Wonderful Works of God, p. 10)

Romans 8:28 _____

D. Our response:

Psalm 107:1—Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever.

Psalm 103:1,2—Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

1 Corinthians 10:31—So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God.

Lesson 3**Romans 2:6-29**

In this section Paul makes the point that God will judge all people impartially.

Verses 6-16 *God will judge all people on the basis of deeds, not nationality.*

1. God will give eternal life to those who do good.
2. Those who do evil will remain under God's wrath.
3. Note: Paul is not teaching works righteousness. He is only teaching the impartiality of God's judgment. Those who do good do so out of love for God because of his loving mercy and forgiveness.
4. Jews and Gentiles alike will be judged if they transgress the Law. Jews will be judged by the written Law. Gentiles will be judged even though they did not have the written Law. They have the Law written in their heart, verses 14,15.

Verses 17-29 *The Jews (like the Gentiles) stand condemned for sinning against the truth they know.*

1. The Jews know the Law and they teach it to others, yet they break it themselves.
2. External circumcision (on which the Jews placed their confidence) does no good unless accompanied with circumcision of the heart.

Background Information

Jews. The history of the Jews is the main theme of the Old Testament. Their history began with Abraham. God intended them to be the cradle of his truth and a light for the world. The promised Savior was to come from their nation. However, for the most part they rejected the Lord. The Savior was born from their nation, yet they crucified him.

Gentiles. In Jewish terminology, Gentiles were non-Jews. They were not a part of God's promised people. But with the abolishment of the Old Testament Laws, the Gentiles also became heirs of the promise eternal life through the forgiveness and life all people have in Christ.

How sin entered the world.

Genesis 3:1-15

A. The temptation, verses 1-5

1. "did God really say" A temptation to doubt God's Word.
2. "any tree" A temptation to doubt God's love.

B. Fruits of the fall into sin, verses 6-14

1. Lust, verse 7
2. Fear (terror) of God, verse 8
3. Irrational thoughts, verse 10
4. Self-centered behavior, verse 12

C. God's promise of a Savior, verse 15

God's promised that someday someone would come to destroy Satan's work and undo what Satan had done through his temptation.

Lesson 3**Review Questions****A. Match the correct definition to each word.**

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| ___ angel | 1. one who doesn't know if there is a god |
| ___ creed | 2. a "supernatural" act of God, going beyond natural laws |
| ___ Apostles Creed | 3. belief that everything came into existence by chance |
| ___ Nicene Creed | 4. a creed written to defend the Bible's teaching that Jesus is God |
| ___ Athanasian Creed | 5. a creed that gives a brief summary of the Christian faith |
| ___ miracle | 6. a creed written to defend the Bible's teaching of the Trinity |
| ___ evolution | 7. one who doesn't believe there is a god |
| ___ image of God | 8. a non-Jew |
| ___ atheist | 9. the "voice" God placed in all people |
| ___ agnostic | 10. a member of God's Old Testament chosen nation |
| ___ conscience | 11. a "messenger" of God, a spirit-being |
| ___ Jew | 12. a statement of what we believe |
| ___ Gentile | 13. the original state of righteousness and holiness |

B. True or False

1. () God knows all believers, but has no concern for unbelievers.
2. () It is our duty or responsibility to thank and obey God our Creator.
3. () We must provide for ourselves from day to day without help from God.
4. () God causes *all* things to work out for the good of those who love him.
5. () God knows each of us personally and loves each of us greatly.
6. () Since God provides for us, a Christian has no need to worry.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 10 – 13

Memorization: Psalm 146:15,16

Psalm 107:1

Books of the Bible: 1 & 2 Samuel

1 & 2 Kings

1 & 2 Chronicles

Lesson 3**Home Study: God's Will - I**

A Christian's life is one of continual repentance. To be repentant simply means that I look at myself as a sinner and know that I deserve God's anger and punishment. Being repentant is important, for it reminds me that I need my Savior.

To know my sin implies that I know God's Law, for his Law tells me what sin is. As we study God's will as outlined in the 10 commandments, practice scrutinizing your life in the light of God's definition of sin.

"You shall have no other gods."

Catechism Reference: The First Commandment and Explanation

In the First Commandment God tells us not to practice any form of idolatry.

1. How do the following passages help us understand this commandment?

Matthew 22:37 _____

Matthew 6:24 _____

John 5:23 _____

2. How did these men sin against the first commandment?

Matthew 19:16-22 _____

John 19:38 _____

"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God."

Catechism Reference: The Second Commandment and Explanation

In the Second Commandment God tells us not to do anything that reflects badly on his name.

God's Name is (a) his personal names: God, Lord, Jesus Christ, etc, and (b) his "reputation," that is, everything we know about him as he has revealed himself in his Word.

How do the following passages help us understand this commandment?

Leviticus 19:12 _____

Jeremiah 23:31 _____

Matthew 15:8 _____

Psalms 103:1 _____

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Catechism Reference: The Third Commandment and Explanation

In the Third Commandment God tells us to treasure the rest we have in Christ.

How do the following passages help us understand this commandment?

Exodus 35:2 _____

Colossians 2:16,17 _____

Matthew 11:28,29 _____

Hebrews 10:24-25 _____

“Honor your father and your mother.”

Catechism Reference: The Fourth Commandment and Explanation

In the Fourth Commandment God tells us to respect those whom he has put over us in positions of authority.

How do the following passages help us understand this commandment?

Colossians 3:20 _____

Romans 13:2 _____

1 Peter 2:18 _____

Hebrews 13:7,17 _____

Lesson 4**Notes: Romans 3:1-20**

In this section Paul answers some foolish Jewish objections to what he has just said. And he concludes with the statement that all have sinned.

Chapter 3***Verses 1-8 The Jews try to remove their guilt.***

1. Objection: If there is no difference between Jews and Gentiles regarding salvation, then there must be no benefit in being a Jew.

Answer: They have been blessed for centuries, because God gave them his Word.

2. Objection: If being a child of God means an inner change and not just outward circumcision, then many Jews are excluded from the family of God. If this is so, then God and his Word must have failed.

Answer: The failure lies not with God, but with those who rejected God's Word. And God will judge everyone who rejects the truth.

3. Objection: If my sinfulness provides the black background against which God's righteousness shines all the more brightly, then I am doing God a favor and God is unjust in punishing me.

Answer: If this were so, then God could not judge the world, which he indeed will do.

4. Objection: If my wickedness enhances God's truthfulness, then let's do evil that good may result.

Answer: People who speak this way are worthy of the condemnation they will receive.

Verses 9-20 Conclusion: All have sinned.

1. Quoting from the Psalms, Paul describes what all people are like.
2. Since people are so sinful, the Law cannot be God's instrument to make us righteous. The Law only serves as a "mirror" to show us how sinful we really are.

Supplement

1. God wants us to use his law in a number of ways. As a . . .

Curb to simply "wrestle" the sinful nature into a position where, even though it wants to, it does not sin in one particular area or another.

Mirror to show us how sinful we really are.

Guide to instruct Christians in how the Lord wants them to live. This instruction is welcomed by the Christian since he wants to serve the Lord who has made him one of his children.

2. God proclaimed his Law from Mount Sinai. Exodus 19:10-20:20

Note the terrifying nature of God when he gives his Law to sinful human beings. The Israelites were warned not to be presumptuous enough to think they could approach God in his holiness. Note also the reaction of the Israelites in 20:19 when they heard the Law.

Lesson 4**Review Questions**

1. True or False: “From the moment a person is born, he begins his search for God.”
Compare this statement with Romans 3:11.

2. Define the three uses of the Law.
Curb _____
Mirror _____
Guide _____

3. True or False
 1. () Every person has God’s Law written in his heart by nature.
 2. () The Commandments are important because they show us how to earn eternal life.
 3. () God gives us his Law because he wants us to live happy lives.
 4. () God is concerned with our thoughts and words as well as our actions.
 5. () A person who denies that Jesus is true God is an idolater.
 6. () Parents who love their children more than God break the First Commandment.
 7. () All swearing or taking of oaths is sinful.
 8. () Fortune telling and horoscopes are sinful and contrary to God’s will.
 9. () The word “Sabbath” means rest.
 10. () Worship and Bible study are God’s will for all of his people.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 14 – 17

Memorization: Romans 3:19,20

Books of the Bible: Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther

Lesson 4**Home Study: God's Will II**

Catechism Reference: *The Fifth through Tenth Commandments and Explanations*

“You shall not murder.”

In the Fifth Commandment God tells us to respect our neighbor's life and bodily welfare.

1. We should value human life because . . .

Genesis 9:6 _____

Hebrews 9:27 _____

2. Who has the right to take human life?

Job 1:21,22 _____

Romans 13:4 _____

3. How do these passages help us further understand this commandment?

1 John 3:15 _____

Galatians 6:10 _____

“You shall not commit adultery.”

In the sixth commandment, God tells us to respect God's gift of sex and marriage.

1. How do these passages help us understand this commandment?

1 Corinthians 6:18 _____

Matthew 5:28 _____

2. God's teaching about the permanence of marriage.

Matthew 19:5,6 And (Jesus) said, 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.

Matthew 19:9 I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery.

1 Corinthians 7:15 But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace.

“You shall not steal.”

Lesson 4**Home Study: God's Will II**

In the seventh Commandment, God tells us to respect our neighbor's possessions.

1. James 1:17 Our neighbor has received what he has from _____ .
2. Job 1:21 Only _____ has the right to take from someone.
3. List some common sins against this commandment.
4. A God pleasing attitude: Ephesians 4:28 He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need.

“You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.”

In the Eighth Commandment God tells us to respect our neighbor's reputation.

How do these passages help us understand this commandment?

Proverbs 19:5 _____

James 4:11 _____

“You shall not covet.”

In the Ninth and Tenth Commandments God tells us not to desire what God obviously does not intend for us to have.

1. What is coveting?

1 Timothy 6:9,10 _____

2. What kind of attitude does God require of us?

Psalm 37:4 _____

1 Timothy 6:6-8 _____

The sum of all the commandments:

Matthew 22:37-40 Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Lesson 5**Notes: Romans 3:21-31**

In this section Paul returns to the “righteousness of God” he began discussing in 1:17. He explains how God’s righteousness is a gift given freely on the basis of Jesus’ sacrifice for us.

Verses 21-26 God gives righteousness to sinful human beings.

1. We cannot become righteousness through the Law. We are righteous through faith (belief) in the fact that Christ has won righteousness for the world.
2. God sacrificed his son Jesus for us. Herein lies our hope of receiving a “not guilty” (justified) verdict.
3. God can be just in forgiving us only because the punishment for our sins was paid in full by Christ.

Verse 27-31 Faith cancels, faith fulfills.

1. Faith cancels boasting, since it cancels our having to observe the Law to be justified.
2. Faith cancels the distinction between Jew and Gentile (based on the Law) since both are justified by faith alone.
3. Faith fulfills the Law. The one who says he can keep the Law and be saved is himself nullifying the Law, for in the process he must “water down” the Law to make it correspond to his ability to keep it. Faith, on the other hand, upholds the Law, for it lays claim to the righteousness that comes through Christ’s perfect keeping of the Law.
4. Faith also fulfills the Law in the sense that it gives us a relationship with God in which we can and want to serve him gladly and willingly, and so for the first time we begin to really keep the Law as it was intended to be kept.

A study on Atonement

For an understanding of Jesus’ atonement, study the instructions for the “Great Day of Atonement” in Leviticus 16.

Verses 1-10 Preparation for the offering.

1. A ram was chosen to be sacrificed for the priest.
2. Two goats were chosen as sacrifices for the people.

Verses 11-14 The sacrificing of the ram.***Verses 15-19 The first goat sacrificed.***

The blood of the innocent goat was shed rather than the blood of the guilty Israelite. The blood was sprinkled in various places before God, acting as a “covering” for sin, blotting those sins from God’s view.

Verses 20-22 The other goat was sacrificed too.

He was not killed, but sent away from God so that the sinful Israelite could remain with God.

Lesson 5**Review Questions**

Multiple Choice

1. God protects our own and our neighbor's life because
 - a. our life and health on earth is the most important thing anyone can have.
 - b. our life is our opportunity to come to know and trust Jesus.
 - c. everyone has the right to live as long as he wants to.
2. When God says, "You shall not murder," he is stressing the truth that
 - a. murder is the worst of all sins.
 - b. It is always wrong to go to war or have capital punishment.
 - c. He is the giver of life and only he or his representatives can take it away.
3. Capital punishment is
 - a. always wrong since man has no right to take life.
 - b. unwise since the wrong person may be executed.
 - c. permitted to the government as God's representatives.
4. Abortion, which is very common today, is
 - a. not the taking of a life, since the child isn't born yet.
 - b. a real killing or taking of a life in the eyes of God.
 - c. a minor sin, since no one is really hurt that much.
5. The sixth commandment serves to
 - a. teach us about the sinfulness of sex.
 - b. protect the proper use of sex and marriage as God intended.
 - c. remind us that adultery is the second worst sin after murder.
6. Believers know that God designed marriage to last until
 - a. the husband and wife no longer love each other.
 - b. God himself ends the marriage through the death of one spouse.
 - c. the legal divorce papers are signed and filed.
7. Scriptural reasons for divorce are (check all correct answers):

a. incompatibility	e. malicious desertion
b. adultery	f. habitual drunkenness
c. incurable sickness	g. life sentence in prison
d. insanity	h. cruelty
8. When there is a proper relationship in marriage
 - a. the husband and wife will be equal partners
 - b. the husband will love his wife as Christ loved the church and the wife will submit to her husband.
 - c. each will live his or her life without regard for the other.

Lesson 5**Review Questions**

Bible Words

Use the words below and fill in the blanks.

_____ holiness, perfection, being without sin

_____ being declared “not guilty” or “righteous”

_____ to buy or purchase something for oneself that originally was held by someone else

_____ Jesus’ sacrifice made us “at one” with God.

_____ something or someone offered for punishment or death in the place of the one who really deserved it

_____ to bring one or both of two hostile parties into a relation of friendship and peace.

Justification, Righteousness, Sacrifice, Atonement, Redemption, Reconciliation.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 18-21

Books of the Bible: Review Genesis – Esther

Memorization: Matthew 19:9, Job 1:21, Matthew 22:37-40

Lesson 5**Home Study: Our Savior: God and Man**

Catechism Reference: The Second Article and Explanation “. . . is my Lord.”

A. The Bible calls Jesus _____. (John 1:1; 1 John 5:20; John 20:28)

How is Jesus described as true God in these verses?

Matthew 28:18-20 _____

Mark 2:5-12 _____

John 5:23 _____

Hebrews 13:8 _____

B. The Bible also calls Jesus _____. (1 Timothy 2:5)

How is Jesus described as true man in these verses?

Matthew 4:2 _____

Luke 24:39 _____

John 11:35 _____

In what respect was Jesus different from other human beings?

Hebrews 4:15 _____

C. Our Savior was both God and man.

1. 1 Timothy 2:5,6 He gave his life as ransom for _____.
2. Galatians 4:4,5 He was born under the _____, that is, in a position where the Law applied to him so he could keep it perfectly.
3. Hebrews 2:14 As a man he could destroy death for sinners by means of his own sinless _____.

Summary: Only as true God could Jesus offer his life for all, and keep the Law perfectly for us. Only as human being could Jesus be in a position under the Law such as we are in, and then suffer and die for our sins.

Matthew 28:19-20 says “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . . “ The Church, upon examining what the Bible says about the deity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, came to describe God as “Triune”, three “persons” yet one God.

Lesson 6**Notes: Romans 4**

In this section Paul holds up Abraham as an example of one who received righteousness by faith.

Verses 1-3 Abraham, a good example.

Abraham (the one in whom the Jews boasted, see John 8:33 and following) was declared righteous by God through faith.

Verses 4-8 Faith versus the Law

1. We deserve payment for what we do.
2. Blessed is the one who does not get what is owed, but whose faith lays hold on the righteousness of God, and his forgiveness.

Verses 9-12 Abraham, the father of Jew and Gentile

Abraham was the father of Jews and Gentiles alike, since he came under the law of circumcision only after he came to faith. Hence, circumcision is not a law that merits something for the Jew, but the seal (something that confirms and strengthens) of his faith.

Verses 13-17 Certainty of salvation comes only if salvation is by grace.

1. The Law makes us uncertain of God's love and promises.
2. Faith lays hold on the gifts God gives to us. Hence, we can be certain that we will receive them, for our certainty rests not in us, but in God who does not lie. (Note: Faith is a hand that receives the promise, the gift. If it becomes something more, it becomes a work, and it nullifies the principle of God's grace and any certainty we might have of receiving God's gifts.)

Verses 18-25 Against all hope we believe.

1. Abraham believed in God's promise that he would have a son. This was a belief contrary to human reason. Yet God's "unreasonable" promise, instead of causing Abraham to doubt, only strengthened him in his faith.
2. We have been given an "unreasonable" promise also. God has promised us salvation through one who died for sins and was raised from the dead. Yet faith in that promise is how we, like Abraham, are "credited as being righteous" before God.

Our Savior's Names

Jesus (Matthew 1:21) "Savior"

Immanuel (Matthew 1:23) "God with us"

Lord (Jehovah) (Luke 2:11) "I Am" cf. Ex. 3

Christ (John 1:41) "Anointed One" (Greek)

Messiah (John 1:41) "Anointed One" (Hebrew)

Lesson 6**Review Questions**Word Study

Put the letter of the meaning in front of one of Jesus' names.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| ___ Jesus | 1. Anointed One (Greek) |
| ___ Immanuel | 2. I Am |
| ___ Lord | 3. Anointed One (Hebrew) |
| ___ Christ | 4. Savior |
| ___ Messiah | 5. God with us |

True or False

1. () Jesus is called the Son of God because of his excellent character.
2. () Jesus is called the Son of God because he is God's Son from eternity.
3. () Christ ceased to be God and became man.
4. () Christ became man but remained God.
5. () Christ came to bear the punishment we deserve for our sins.
6. () Christ came to show us that God is love and has nothing against us.
7. () The Son of God has always been in existence, even before Creation.
8. () Jesus Christ was never tempted to sin against God the Father.
9. () While on earth Jesus from time to time displayed characteristics only God has and did works only God can do.
10. () While on earth Jesus was God pretending to be man.
11. () All Christians believe that Jesus was both true God and true man.
12. () Jesus still works and serves us while in heaven.
13. () The Bible never really calls Jesus true God.
14. () Only the blood of God's son was precious enough to be used in exchange for the sins of the world.
15. () Since Jesus was God, he was not under the Law while living on earth

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 22 – 25

Memorization: 1 Timothy 2:5,6
Galatians 4:4,5

Books of the Bible: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon

Lesson 6**Home Study: Our Savior—The Servant of God**

Catechism Reference: The Second Article and Explanation

A. Jesus redeemed me by living as my substitute.

1. Hebrews 4:15 He resisted every _____ sinful humans fall into.
2. Romans 5:19 I am righteous because Jesus _____ the Law perfectly.
3. 2 Corinthians 5:21 God credits Jesus' _____ to my account.

B. Jesus redeemed me by dying as my substitute.

1. Isaiah 53:3-6 God placed all my _____ on Jesus.
2. Mark 10:45 Jesus gave his life as a _____ for all.
3. Hebrews 7:26,27 Jesus offered himself as our _____.

C. Trace the life of Jesus, the humble servant of the Lord, as outlined in the Apostolic Creed.

D. Jesus gave me freedom.

1. So that I could avoid: _____ (Romans 6:18);
 _____ (Romans 6:23);
 and _____ (1 John 3:8)
2. So that I could: _____ (2 Corinthians 5:15);
 _____ (John 3:16)

In this section Paul speaks about the blessing of being declared “not guilty” by God, and then explains the depth of God’s love and how in Christ he completely negated Adam’s sin.

Verses 1-5 The blessings of justification.

1. We look forward to receiving the glory of God.
2. We rejoice in all things, even suffering, because we have the knowledge of God’s love in Christ.

Verses 6-11 Our hope is grounded in the depth of God’s love.

1. God displayed his totally “unreasonable” love by sending his son to die for sinners.
2. Paul’s argument goes like this: If God sent his son to die for the world when the world was without hope, how much more, now that Christ has reconciled the world to God and given hope to all people, will we enjoy the blessings of his love and escape his wrath?
3. We also rejoice in God who has enabled us to believe that in Christ we have been justified and reconciled to God.

Verses 12-14 All sinned when Adam sinned.

The entire world is guilty, not because of its own sin (although sin against the Law does bring guilt), but because of Adam’s sin, which has been credited against the world.

Verses 15-19 Christ and Adam had a universal effect on the status of mankind.

1. Adam brought sin to all men; Jesus brought righteousness to all men.
2. The effects of Jesus’ work are better and more certain than those of Adam.

Verses 20-21 The role of the Law.

1. The Law did not first condemn mankind—Adam’s sin did that. The Law simply fanned sin into flame, thus making it more sinful.
2. But the more sinful men became, the more God’s grace covered their sin.

Objective (Universal) Justification

The Gospel message is that each individual in the world, from Adam until the last person born prior to judgment day, has been declared not guilty and completely forgiven. This verdict came on the world when Christ died on the cross and rose again. This verdict does not depend on my faith, for it was pronounced on the world before I was even born. This is the gospel message, the good news. By faith in what the Gospel tells me, I receive the benefit of what Christ did on the cross. But even if I would reject this good news and die in my sin, still, my sins were forgiven in Christ 2000 years ago.

Illustration: A rich benefactor places a million dollars in my checking account. This money is mine. I am a millionaire. If I never find out about it, I will die a pauper. If I find out about it, but don’t believe it and so don’t begin writing checks on my account, I will die a pauper. But if I hear about it and believe it, the benefit of that money becomes mine to enjoy. But in each case the money actually belongs to me.

Lesson 7**Review Questions**Bible Study

List below the seven sentences Jesus spoke from the cross. If possible, list them in order. The history of Jesus' last hours on the cross is recorded in Matthew 26:14-27:66; Mark 14:12-15:47; Luke 22:1-23:56; John 18:1-19:42. (Note: each reference crosses over into two chapters. For example, the Matthew reference is chapter 26:14 through chapter 27:66.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Which is correct?

1. a. Jesus died for the sins of the whole world.
b. Jesus died only for the sins of believers.
2. a. The whole world has been redeemed.
b. Only believers have been redeemed.
3. a. Some people will not get to heaven because Jesus has not redeemed them.
b. Some people will not get to heaven because they reject Jesus and what he did for them.
4. a. Everyone gets the personal benefit of Jesus' saving work.
b. Only believers get the personal benefit of Jesus' saving work, and spend eternity with him in heaven.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 26 – 29

Memorization: Romans 5:19; Romans 6:23

Books of the Bible: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Lamentations, Ezekiel, Daniel

Lesson 7**Home Study: Our Savior—The Servant of God**

Catechism Reference: The Second Article and Explanation

1. God “exalted” Jesus (He lifted Jesus up from his humble position.)
2. Read Philippians 2:5-11 and then outline Jesus’ exaltation using the steps listed in the Apostles’ Creed.

A. Jesus descended into Hell.

1. 1 Peter 3:18-19 says that Jesus _____ to the spirits in prison (Hell).
2. Colossians 2:15 The content of Jesus’ sermon revolved around the fact that

B. Jesus rose from the dead.

1. Romans 1:4 The resurrection proves that Jesus is _____.
2. John 2:19 It proves that his _____ are true.
3. Romans 4:25 Christ rose because we have been _____.
4. John 14:19 Christ’s resurrection assures us _____.

C. Jesus ascended into heaven.

1. John 14:2-3 One of Jesus’ reasons for ascending was to _____.

2. Acts 1:9-11 tells us that Jesus will come again _____.

Lesson 7**Home Study: Our Savior—The Servant of God**

D. Jesus is now sitting at God's right hand. (position of power and glory)

1. Romans 8:34 As our High Priest, Jesus _____.

2. John 16:12-15 As our Prophet, Jesus (through the words of the Apostles) _____

_____ .

3. Romans 8:28-29 As our King, Jesus _____

_____ .

Lesson 8**Notes: Romans 6**

The forgiveness we have in Christ frees us from the guilt and power of sin.

Verses 1-11 The Christian is united with Christ.

1. When Christ died on the cross with the burden of our sins, we died with him too.
2. When Christ arose free from sin, we also arose free from sin.
3. Christ's present life is lived in a sinless state, devoted to serving God. So Christians should look at their life and consider themselves free from sin and alive to serve God.

Verses 12-14 What being united with Christ means for us.

Because we are free from the guilt and rule of sin, we serve God and not the desires of our sinful flesh.

Verses 15-23 The Christian has become "a slave to righteousness."

1. We, who used to be slaves to sin, are now slaves to God by faith in Christ's work for us.
2. Slavery to sin leads to death.
3. Slavery to righteousness results in eternal life, not because it earns it, but because it is the way of life of the one who is receiving eternal life as a gift.

Lesson 8**Review Questions**Multiple Choice

1. Jesus descended into hell after he died
 - a. to make the final payment for the sins of the world.
 - b. to win the victory over the devil.
 - c. to tell the devil that he was alive and had won the victory over him.
2. The resurrection of Jesus Christ from death assures us that
 - a. we also can rise from the dead if we try to live as perfectly as he did.
 - b. he is true God, that our sins are paid for, and that we also will rise.
 - c. no one will ever forget about him or ignore what he teaches in the Bible.
3. One of the main reasons for Christ's ascension into heaven was to
 - a. prepare the place for believers where they will live forever.
 - b. find rest after his many sufferings.
 - c. show us that all who live decent lives will also go to heaven.
4. That Jesus now sits at God's right hand means that
 - a. he has a throne right next to his Father's throne.
 - b. he shares equal honor and power with the Father.
 - c. he is second only to God the Father in honor and glory.
5. The fact that Jesus now sits in the position of power and majesty in the universe
 - a. means that he has retired and is enjoying a wonderful rest.
 - b. assures us that all who trust in him as Lord are safe and secure.
 - c. does not change the fact that the devil still controls as much as Jesus does.
6. Christ has done and still does so much for us because
 - a. we deserve it.
 - b. He knows we will pay for it later on when we have the chance.
 - c. of His undeserved love and mercy for us sinners.

Word Study

___ exaltation	1. A going up, as Jesus did to heaven again
___ ascension	2. Position of power and majesty in the universe
___ descent	3. Being lifted up, entering into glory
___ justify	4. A going down, as Jesus did to hell after His death
___ right hand of God	5. To declare not guilty

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 30 – 33

Memorization: John 14:19; Romans 8:34

Books of the Bible: Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah

Lesson 8**Home Study: The Office of Keys and Confession**

Catechism Reference: The Office of the Keys and Confession

- A. Jesus' work on the cross has given his church the right to tell all people that their sins are forgiven.

Mark 16:15 What does Christ tell us to preach to all people? _____

- B. Jesus has given his Church the responsibility to tell a person that his sins are forgiven (that he has received the benefit of Christ's work for himself through faith) or that his sins are not forgiven to him (that his unbelief has kept him from receiving this benefit of Christ's work).

Matthew 16:19 The keys lock heaven to _____.

John 20:21-23 The keys unlock heaven to _____.

Read Luke 18:9-14 To whom was heaven opened? _____

Why? _____

To whom was heaven closed? _____

Why? _____

- C. Jesus has given this power to his Church.

1 Corinthians 4:1 God has given the minister of the congregation the responsibility to use the keys in a public way.

Matthew 18:15-18 The church as a whole has the responsibility to use the keys.

Note: In the case of a member of the congregation who has shown himself to be unrepentant after repeated attempts to bring him to confess his sin, the congregation has the duty to proclaim him to be an unbeliever (excommunication).

2 Samuel 12:1-7 What did Nathan say to David when David was unrepentant? _____

2 Samuel 12:13 What did Nathan say to repentant David? _____

Each individual Christian has the right and responsibility to use the keys in this way.

- D. Jesus wants us to confess our sins and receive forgiveness.

1. We should confess our sins to God, to the pastor, or to a fellow believer.
2. We should believe that we receive forgiveness from the one to whom we confess our sins.

Lesson 9**Notes: Romans 7**

In this section Paul says that we are free from the Law and bound to Christ. He says that the Law is good and speaks about the real source of evil, the sinful flesh.

Verses 1-6 We are free from the Law.

1. An illustration from life shows the principle of being released from a law and becoming free to give oneself to another.
2. Paul, using the language introduced in the first part of chapter 6, describes how the Christian is free from the Law and sin by dying with Christ.
3. The Christian then is “married” to another, to Christ, whose spirit impels the Christian to serve out of love (the new way) and not out of compulsion.

Verses 7-13 The Law and sin.

1. The Law is good.
 - a) The Law describes what sin is.
 - b) The Law makes sin show its true colors.
2. The problem lies with sin.
 - a) Sin uses God’s Law as its springboard for rebellion.
 - b) Sin uses God’s Law to bring death.
 - c) Sin shows how wicked it is by using something as good as the Law to effect its evil.

Verses 14-25 The struggle of the Christian against his sinful flesh.

1. The “I” of the Christian is his new man who serves God by the Spirit.
2. The Christian also has a sinful flesh, the old man, that struggles against the new man.
3. God’s forgiveness in Christ removes the guilt of the sins of the flesh even though the sinful flesh remains with us.

Lesson 9**Review Questions**

1. _____ locks the door of heaven against us.

2. The sins of _____ sinners are to be forgiven; the sins of _____ sinners are to be retained.

3. We can confess our sins to (check the correct answers):
_____ God
_____ the pastor
_____ a fellow Christian

4. We can receive forgiveness of sins from:
_____ God
_____ the pastor
_____ a fellow Christian

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 34 – 37

Memorization: John 20:21-23

Books of the Bible: Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi

Lesson 9**Home Study: Our Returning Lord**

List the information each passage gives us about the last times and Jesus' return.

A. Signs

Long Term Signs

1. Matthew 24:4,5,24 _____

2. Matthew 24:6,7a _____

3. Matthew 24:7b, 8 _____

4. Matthew 24:9 _____

5. Mark 13:12-13 _____

6. Matthew 24:10 _____

7. Matthew 24:14 _____

Signs that will come right before Jesus returns

Matthew 24:29 _____

B. Jesus' Second Coming

What do each of these verses tell us about Jesus' second coming?

Jesus' Appearance

1. Matthew 24:30 _____
2. Matthew 24:27 _____
3. Matthew 24:36-39 _____

Lesson 9**Home Study: Our Returning Lord***The Resurrection of the Believers*

1. Matthew 24:31 _____
2. Matthew 24:40-41 _____
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 _____
4. 1 Corinthians 15:50-53 _____
5. Job 19:25-27 _____
6. Daniel 12:13 _____

The Resurrection of Unbelievers

John 5:28-29 _____

The Destruction of the World

2 Peter 3:10-13 _____

The Judgment

1. Matthew 25:31ff _____
2. Revelation 20:11-15 _____

Lesson 10**Notes: Romans 8:1-17**

In this section Paul begins to describe the blessings of being “in the Spirit.”

Verses 1-4 There is no condemnation for the Christian.

God condemned sin in Christ, a human being. Through faith we receive the benefit of Christ’s work and live in a state of righteousness.

Verses 5-11 Because of the Spirit, our bodies will live.

1. The flesh (our natural, sinful self) desires to sin, and by nature is hostile to God. The result of this is death. There is nothing the flesh can do to find peace and life with God.
2. The spirit (our new person in Christ, which has been created by the Holy Spirit) desires to do the good. It is alive in Christ’s righteousness. The result of this is life.
3. If the Spirit lives in us, it will also give life to our mortal bodies, which are now being used by sin.

Verses 12-16 The Christian is a child of God.

1. Serving sin will lead to death.
2. Serving the Lord will lead to life. Why? The one who serves the Lord is living in the Spirit who has made us members of God’s family.

Verse 17 The Christian is a fellow heir Christ.

Lesson 10**Review Questions**Multiple Choice

1. When a person dies
 - a. the whole person, body and soul, waits in the grave for Jesus to return.
 - b. the body dies but the soul lives on either with or apart from God.
 - c. both body and soul die and that's the end of a person forever.
1. The time of Jesus' final coming
 - a. can be predicted quite accurately by Bible scholars.
 - b. has already occurred, but only a few people know about it.
 - c. is known only to God and will come unexpectedly to us.
2. The various "signs of the times" in the Bible tell us that
 - a. the world will become more ungodly as the last day approaches
 - b. the world will become better as judgment day approaches.
 - c. all people will turn to Christ and create a utopian society.
3. When Jesus comes back again
 - a. only believers will see Him.
 - b. only unbelievers will see Him.
 - c. everyone will see Him.
4. When Jesus returns he will raise up from the grave
 - a. all believers, and only believers.
 - b. all the unbelievers, and them only.
 - c. all believers and unbelievers.
5. When Jesus comes again, he will take all believers to himself in heaven.
 - a. but will remain on earth 1000 years to give unbelievers a second chance.
 - b. will reign on earth for 1000 years along with the believers.
 - c. but the unbelievers will be separated from him in hell.
6. The teaching that there is a hell is
 - a. obviously false, since a loving God wouldn't send anyone to hell.
 - b. a happy thought, since believers will be getting revenge.
 - c. true but tragic, and we pray that God's word might lead all to faith and forgiveness.
7. God wants us to look forward to the Last Day
 - a. with fear, since we do not know how Jesus will judge us.
 - b. with joy, since as believers we will receive eternal life.
 - c. with doubt, since we cannot be absolutely sure that it will happen.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 38 – 41

Memorization: Acts 17:31
 2 Peter 3:10
 Philippians 3:21

Books of the Bible: Review all Old Testament Books

Lesson 10**Home Study: Prayer**

Catechism Reference: The Lord's Prayer

1. What is prayer?

Psalm 19:14 Prayer is communication with God. It can be _____ or _____ communication.

Psalm 10:17 Prayer need not even be put into words. God even hears our _____ .

2. How can we pray more confidently?

Isaiah 59:2 Only one thing separates us from God and blocks our prayers from his ears. What is that? _____

Galatians 3:26 Christ has torn down that barrier. Through faith in his forgiveness we are God's _____ .

John 15:7,16 Hence, our prayer will be answered because of what _____ has done for us. Therefore we need to pray _____ .

Psalm 50:15 An additional reason why the Christian can pray is that God invites and commands him to _____ .

Luke 18:1-5 What characteristic does God want us to have in our prayer life?

3. What should we pray for?

1 John 5:14 Our prayers should be made with a desire that _____ will be done. (Note It is not necessary to request this if we know from God's word that God wills us to have something, such as forgiveness, grace, growth in faith. We pray for these things knowing that God will give them to us.)

Matthew 6:9-13 How many petitions (requests) in the Lord's prayer center on temporal goods, and how many in spiritual matters?

_____ temporal goods _____ spiritual matters

Passage to note well: "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33

Romans 8:26-27 What special comfort is there for believers in these words?

Lesson 11**Notes: Romans 8:18-39**

In this section Paul continues his description of the blessings God gives to the person who is “in Christ.”

Verses 18-27 The fallen world is waiting for the glory in store for God’s children.

1. The creation, subjected to decay because of the sin of Adam and Eve, awaits its liberation in the new heaven and new earth.
2. Believers have this same hope, which we patiently wait for.
3. During our time of sinful weakness, the Spirit within us prays for us, asking God to bless us. God, who searches our hearts, answers the Spirit’s pleadings within us.

Verses 28-39 Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

1. All things work for the good of those whom God has predestined and called from all eternity to be his own.
2. God gave his son for us, who has freed us from sin, and therefore from any accusation because of our sin. Along with his Son, God will give us all things that are good for us.
3. Even hardships and death must be viewed as circumstances in which God causes us to be victorious over our enemies.
4. Nothing in all creation, whether visible creatures or invisible ones, will separate us from God’s love.

Supplement**Predestination**

1. A false way of understanding predestination is that God from all eternity predestined some to be saved and some to be damned. (This is the false teaching of “double predestination.”)
2. Another false way of understanding predestination is to say that God only foreknew who would come to faith and who would not. In this view man’s free will is the deciding factor.
3. Scripture says that God wants all to be saved, and if some are not saved it is because they chose against God’s offer of grace. However, the Christian can look back and say that from all eternity God predestined and caused him to come to faith in his message of grace. The first and second statements cannot logically stand side by side, yet that is the way Scripture speaks. And, only by accepting both of these statements at the same time will we be able both to rely on God’s grace alone and be completely certain of our salvation.

Lesson 11**Review Questions****Multiple Choice**

1. Our faith in the Lord Jesus
 - a. gives us confidence that we can overcome troubles by ourselves.
 - b. leads us to call on him in confidence.
 - c. lets us pray to God as long as we live good enough lives.
2. When God answers our prayers
 - a. we can always be sure that the answer will be “yes.”
 - b. in exactly the way we have prayed.
 - c. in love for us, in his chosen time and way.
3. In our prayers we will include
 - a. ourselves most of all, and occasionally other Christians.
 - b. all people, including ourselves, except for our enemies.
 - c. personal requests and also intercessions for other people, even our enemies.
4. Prayer for a Christian will always be closely tied together with
 - a. Bible study, to seek and grow in faith and knowledge.
 - b. good works to give us the right to speak with God.
 - c. fasting and bodily pain to bring us closer to God.
5. To “pray in Jesus’ name,” a person must
 - a. mention the name “Jesus” at the end of the prayer.
 - b. be trusting in Jesus as Savior and thinking of his work of redemption.
 - c. have earned the right to pray to God just as Jesus did.
6. Christian prayer is
 - a. a command of God that we must obey to be saved.
 - b. a command of God and a privilege that believers rejoice in.
 - c. a request of God that would make him happy, but not necessary.
7. The person who doesn’t pray much
 - a. shows that his or her relationship to God is weak and needs help.
 - b. may be strong enough not to need God very often.
 - c. cannot have eternal life, since prayer helps to earn heaven.

True or False

1. ___ It doesn’t matter to whom we pray as long as we are sincere.
2. ___ Unbelievers can pray to God with the same confidence as Christians.
3. ___ It isn’t important if we want to pray as long as we do so anyway.
4. ___ The privilege to pray to God was earned for us by Jesus.
5. ___ Prayer is one sign or reflection of a person’s faith in the Lord.
6. ___ It is dangerous to make up our own prayers without using a book.
7. ___ Bible reading and study should always accompany our prayer life.
8. ___ Our prayers, like the Lord’s Prayer, should stress spiritual blessings.
9. ___ God from all eternity chose some to salvation and some to damnation.
10. ___ Our salvation depends on our power of free choice.

11. ___ If we are saved it is because of God's grace; if not, it is because we chose to reject the truth.
12. ___ Prayer results from the forgiveness we have received in Christ.

Additional

Bible Reading: Genesis 42 - 45

Memorization: Galatians 3:26; Psalm 50:15

Books of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, Romans

Lesson 11**Home Study: God's Grace**

Catechism Reference: The Third Article and Explanation

1. The Fall into Sin

Genesis 3:1-15 List signs that sin had entered Adam and Eve immediately after the fall.

Verse 7 _____

Verse 8 _____

Verse 10 _____

Verse 12 _____

Adam and Eve ran from God, yet God ran after them to take hold of them in his love. In verse 15 we hear how God promised Adam and Eve that someone would undo what Satan had done through them and that the power of sin would be destroyed.

2. Man's sinful condition since the Fall.

How is mankind's condition since the fall described in these verses?

Genesis 6:5 _____

Psalm 51:5 _____

Matthew 15:19 _____

Romans 3:10-12 _____

Romans 7:18 _____

Romans 8:7 _____

3. Our salvation depends entirely on God's grace.

How do these passages lead us to know that our salvation and our faith depend entirely on God's grace?

Matthew 11:27 _____

John 15:16 _____

Romans 9:15,16 _____

1 Corinthians 2:14 _____

1 Corinthians 12:3 _____

Ephesians 1:4-6 _____

Ephesians 2:8,9 _____

Lesson 12**Notes: Romans 9:1-29**

In this section Paul speaks about how God in his grace called to faith his elect from among Jews and Gentiles.

Verses 1-5 Paul expresses his love for his fellow Jews.

Verses 6-23 God never fails. Those he elects come to faith.

1. God chose Isaac as the one through whom his people would come.
2. God chose Jacob as the one through whom his people would come. He did not choose Esau.
(Note: These verses do not say that Ishmael and Esau necessarily died as unbelievers. But they certainly were unbelievers when they committed their sinful actions.)
3. God has compassion on whom he wants to have compassion.
4. God hardens those who have rejected his forgiveness and mercy.
(Note: this is not a hardening from eternity, but a hardening that comes to those, like Pharaoh, who reject God's word.)
5. God deals with those who reject him so as to benefit his elect.
6. God bore with Israel even after they hardened themselves so that the Savior might come from them and so that the message of forgiveness might come to the elect (both from the Jewish nation and from the Gentiles).

Lesson 12**Review Questions**True or False

1. ___ God's grace is his undeserved love for sinners.
2. ___ When Adam and Eve fell into sin, they lost the holiness in which they were created.
3. ___ We are sinful, but can still perform good works for God by ourselves.
4. ___ Our will has been damaged, but we can still choose the good with some effort.
5. ___ If left to ourselves, we can only reject God's truth.
6. ___ When we are born, we begin a lifelong search for God.
7. ___ Sin is not taken into account until a child reaches the age of accountability.
8. ___ We are not only ignorant of the truth, but hostile to it also.
9. ___ We do not choose God. God chooses us.
10. ___ God does everything for us, but it is up to us to believe.
11. ___ Forgiveness is a gift, and so is the faith we have to receive it.
12. ___ God predestined us because he saw that we would come to faith in the Gospel.
13. ___ God saw nothing in us that made us worthy of his love, that's why his love in Christ is called grace.

Additional

Bible reading: Genesis 46-50

Memorization: Romans 7:18, Ephesians 2:8,9

Books of the Bible: 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Lesson 12**Home Study: The Holy Spirit**

Catechism Reference: The Third Article and Explanation

What do each of the passages below tell us about the Holy Spirit and his work?

Matthew 28:19 The Holy Spirit is equal with the _____ and the _____.

Luke 11:13 The Spirit is a gift, given to those who _____.

John 3:5 Through the Spirit we are _____.

John 14:16-17 Although Jesus could not be with his disciples any longer, he promised them another _____ who would give them the _____.

John 14:26 The Spirit would remind the disciples of _____. This knowledge would be recorded in the Bible.

John 16:13-15 The Spirit testifies to the truth he receives from _____.

Acts 5:3-4 The Holy Spirit is _____.

Romans 8:11 The Spirit living within us will _____ to our bodies.

Romans 8:16 The Spirit leads us to know that in Christ we are _____.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 A person can understand God's truth only through _____.

1 Corinthians 3:16 The Christian is called God's _____ since the Spirit lives within him.

1 Corinthians 6:11 The Spirit creates faith in our hearts in the work that Jesus has done for us. Through him we are _____, _____ and _____.

1 Corinthians 12:3 Unless the Spirit is working faith in us, we are not able to confess _____.

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 The Spirit gives Christians gifts which serve _____.

Ephesians 1:13-14 The Spirit is a _____ guaranteeing the glory that will be ours.

Ephesians 3:16-19 The Spirit continues to _____ us and give us more and more insight into God's _____.

Ephesians 4:30 Believers are warned not to _____ the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 5:18 We are to be continually _____ with the Spirit.

Ephesians 6:17 The Spirit's tool and weapon is _____.

Galatians 5:22 The fruit of the Spirit is _____, _____, _____,
 _____, _____, _____, _____,
 _____.

Summary

1. The Holy Spirit is God.
2. Through the preaching of the Gospel, the Spirit leads us to receive the benefit of Christ' work.
3. Hence, through him we are born again, made holy, and declared not guilty through faith in Christ's atonement.
4. God gives his Spirit to those who believe as a seal of the inheritance we will someday receive.
5. The Spirit, working through the Word, guides us into all truth, and strengthens our understanding of the depth of God's love for us, and enables us to withstand the attacks of Satan.
6. The Spirit comforts us with the knowledge of Christ's life and death.
7. The Spirit tells us that we are God's sons and daughters in Christ.
8. The result of this knowledge is love, joy, peace, in our hearts and lives.
9. The Spirit gives us gifts to use in building up our brother and sisters in Christ.
10. The Spirit prays to God on our behalf.
11. God's Spirit is a gift, given to those who ask. We are to be filled with the Spirit through the message of pardon in Christ.
12. The Spirit can be grieved or driven from us. This is done through despising the Gospel, either through unrepentant sin or by neglecting to hear the message of forgiveness.
13. The Spirit will raise up our mortal bodies.

Lesson 13**Notes: Romans 9:30-10:21**

In this section Paul describes the sin Israel committed, which ultimately caused their rejection and hardening by God.

Verses 9:30-10:4 The Gentiles obtained righteousness. Israel did not.

The fact that righteousness comes by faith was the important truth that Israel had rejected. They wanted to become righteous by the Law. The Gentiles, however, rejoiced in righteousness by faith and obtained that righteousness.

Verse 5-13 Righteousness by faith vs. righteousness by the Law

1. Righteousness comes by the Law only if the Law is kept.
2. Righteousness by faith comes simply to the one who believes.
Note: Paul describes faith using the words of Moses, who encourages the Israelites to obey the Word of God which he has given them. Deuteronomy 30:11-14, "Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' Nor is it beyond the sea, so that you have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to so we may obey it?' No, the work is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it."
3. Righteousness by faith is not something we have to work for, as if we were helping Christ in his work of redemption.
4. Rather, it is something that is revealed to us in God's Word, hence it is in our mouths and on our hearts.
5. The Word of the Gospel which we believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths saves us.
6. Salvation comes by trusting in God who saves us.
7. Salvation comes by calling on the name of God, the God whose name means mercy and compassions.

Verses 14-21 The Word of Faith

1. Faith comes only if someone preaches the word.
2. The word is that which produces faith because it tells us about all that Christ has done for us.
3. Israel heard this word. They cannot claim ignorance of it. And they rejected it.
4. The Gentiles, on the other hand, by God's grace found and believed what Israel rejected.

Please note: There are no review questions for this lesson. Continue with the "home study".

Lesson 13**Home Study: God's Word I**

Catechism Reference: The Third Article and Explanation

1. The Main Purpose of the Bible

John 20:31 The Bible gives us _____ in the name of _____.

2 Timothy 3:16-17 The Bible enables the believer to be thoroughly _____ for every good work.

2. The Characteristics of the Word.

Write a phrase from each passage that describes the following characteristic of the Word:

“Inspired” (Written by God. He “breathed into” the writers.)

2 Peter 1:21 _____

2 Timothy 3:16 _____

Note: Scripture teaches “verbal inspiration.” This means that God inspired not only the ideas, but the very words we find in our Bible.

”True”

John 17:17 _____

John 10:35 _____

“Sufficient” (Contains everything we need to know for salvation.)

2 Timothy 3:17 _____

“Clear”

2 Timothy 3:16 _____

2 Peter 3:15, 16 In this section Peter says that some of what Paul has written is difficult to understand. However, the blame for not understanding even a difficult passage is not because God's Word is unclear, but because _____.

3. The two main teachings of the Bible:

LAW Romans 3:20 Therefore no one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin.

GOSPEL Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Additional

Bible reading: Luke 1 – 4

Memorization: John 3:5

1 Corinthians 12:3

Books of the Bible: 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews

Lesson 14**Notes: Romans 11**

In this section Paul tells us that the “objects prepared for destruction” rejected the word of forgiveness even as God, in grace, brought “the objects of his mercy” to faith. He also tells us that God’s dealings with those who reject and with those who believe enable the greatest number of people to come to faith.

Verses 1-10 God did not reject his people, Israel

1. God’s gracious purpose toward all of his elect has been accomplished.
2. In the past and in the present, God’s elect have been brought to faith and kept in faith.
3. Those who rejected were hardened as a judgement by God.

Verses 11-24 Paul discusses the unbelief of the Jews and the faith of the Gentiles.

1. Israel’s fall was not God’s final purpose for Israel. Because of their unbelief God caused them to become hardened so that the Gospel might be taken from them and given to the Gentiles. This, in turn, was to benefit, not only the Gentiles, but the elect among the Jews as well. They would see the faith of the Gentiles, become “jealous” over what they had lost, and turn to faith themselves.
2. If a Jew returned to faith, what a blessing that would be, both for the Jew himself and for the Gentile, who would witness this conversion.
3. The Gentiles, therefore, should not become proud. They are but recipients of the blessings which God first gave to the Jews
4. It was the unbelief of the Jews that caused God to break them off so as to “make room” for the Gentiles. This same unbelief could also be the downfall of the Gentiles if they lost sight of God’s kindness and mercy and began to harbor the same kind of self-righteous thoughts that led to the Jews’ downfall.
5. The Gentiles should not worry about the unworthiness of the Jews. They should keep their eyes on and rejoice in the mercy of God that made them members of God’s people. They should realize that if Jews would turn to faith, they would also receive God’s mercy, which, in fact, had been promised to them before it was ever promised to the Gentiles.

Verses 25-36 The wisdom of God.

1. Israel, in part, had the promise taken from them so that God’s elect from among the Gentiles might come to faith.
2. All “Israel”, that is, all of God’s elect from the Jews and Gentiles will in this way be saved.
3. The nation of Israel is an enemy of the Gospel so that the Gentiles might hear it. But they are still the chosen people whom God wants to come to faith and so enjoy what God had promised to them. God is using the conversion of the Gentiles to bring his mercy to the Jews.
4. Through all of this, God has shown that all people, if left to themselves, would continue in disobedience. In this way God has humbled all people so that he could show his mercy to all.
5. All this shows God’s wisdom, a wisdom that we cannot understand. All things are from him and through him and to him. How wonderful it is that we have a God of mercy.

Lesson 14**Review Questions**Multiple Choice

1. When we say the Bible was “inspired by God” we mean that it
 - is totally God’s word because god chose each word in it.
 - inspires in us lofty thought and new ideas.
 - god inspired special men to new heights of human understanding
2. The Bible
 - contains the Word of God.
 - is the Word of God.
 - becomes the Word of God when you read it and believe what it says.
3. The main purpose of the Bible is to
 - teach us how to live according to God’s will.
 - serve to help us live fruitful lives as we obey the commandments
 - make us wise unto salvation by faith in Jesus Christ.
4. The two main doctrines of the Bible are
 - the Old Testament and the New Testament
 - the writings of the prophets and the writings of the apostles
 - the Law and the Gospel

Law and Gospel

Place a G before passage that speak about the Gospel and an L before those that are Law.

- 1 John 1:17 The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanses us from all sin.
- Matthew 5:48 Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly father is perfect.
- 1 Timothy 5:22 Keep yourself pure.
- Matthew 18:11 The Son of Man came to save what was lost.
- 1 Timothy 6:8 But if we have food and clothing, let us be content with that.
- Habakkuk 2:4 But the righteous will live by his faith.
- Isaiah 58:7 Share your food with the hungry.
- Mark 16:16a Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved...
- Mark 16:16b ...but whoever does not believe will be condemned.
- Isaiah 43:1 Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.
- James 4:11 Brothers, do not slander one another.
- Matthew 11:28 Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.
- Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Additional

Bible readings: Luke 5 – 8

Memorization: 2 Timothy 3:16, 17

Books of the Bible: James, 1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, 3 John, Jude, Revelation

Lesson 14**Home Study: God's Word II**

Catechism reference: The Third Article and Explanation

1. Diagram of the Means of Grace

2. The Gospel is a means of grace.

Romans 1:16 I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

In the Gospel God comes to us and tells us of his forgiveness. It is the announcement of forgiveness that conveys God's grace and love to us.

3. The Christian and Bible Study

Christian need to expose themselves continually to the grace God proclaimed to him in the Word.

What are the results of studying the Word of God that Christians will want for themselves as described in the following passages?

John 17:17 _____

1 Peter 2:2 _____

2 Peter 3:17-18 _____

Psalm 19:7-11 _____

John 6: 63 _____

Acts 20:32 _____

Romans 15:4 _____

Psalm 119:105 _____

2 Timothy 3:16-17 _____

Lesson 15**Baptism**

Catechism Reference: Baptism

The Sacraments

1. Definition: A Sacrament is a sacred act,
 Instituted by _____.
 With certain _____.
 Connected with _____.
 Through which God gives us _____.
2. There are two Sacraments:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

A. What is Baptism?

1. The sacrament of Baptism was given to the Church by Christ. Matthew 28:18-20
2. Acts 22:16 Baptism is a sacrament in which a person becomes a child of God. In Baptism a person's sins are _____.
3. Baptism is a sacrament using water. Matthew 3:11a
4. The word "baptize" in old Greek used to mean simply to submerge. But by the time of the New Testament it had come to mean: Mark 7:4 _____, _____ or _____.

B. The Power of Baptism

1. The Bible is clear that Baptism has the power to do certain things:
 - a. Galatians 3:27 _____
 - b. Acts 2: 38 _____
 - c. Acts 22:16 _____
 - d. Ephesians 5:25-26 _____
 - e. John 3:5 _____
 - f. Titus 3:5 _____
 - g. 1 Peter 3:21 _____
2. Baptism receives its power from (See. Ephesians 5:25-26) _____
3. Mark 16:16 The blessings of Baptism are received by _____

C. Who should be baptized?

1. Acts 2:38 Adults after they have been instructed in the Word.
2. Children, as soon as possible after they have been born.

Reasons:

- a. John 3:5-6
Genesis 5:3
Psalm 51:5 _____
- b. Acts 16:15a
Acts 16:33
1 Corinthians 1: 16 _____
- c. Luke 18:15-16
Matthew 18:6 _____

3. Age of Accountability?? There is no such teaching in the Bible. Note Genesis 17:14.

D. The daily benefit of Baptism.

1. Galatians 3:26-27 Through Baptism we have been _____ with Christ.
2. Romans 6:1-4, 11-13a Through Baptism we have been _____ with Christ.

Related Questions:

1. What about sponsors?
2. Who may baptize?

Lesson 15**Review Questions**

Multiple Choice

1. The two sacraments are
 - a. Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
 - b. Prayer and God's word.
 - c. Baptism and God's word.
2. We should remember that baptism is
 - a. Using water to symbolize the washing away of sins.
 - b. Special "holy water" blessed in a church ceremony.
 - c. Water plus the Word of God, used according to God's command.
3. The Lord Jesus commanded us to baptize
 - a. By applying water in any manner, as long as we do so with God's word.
 - b. By sprinkling or pouring water on the person 3 times.
 - c. By immersing people so that the whole body is cleansed.
4. One thing we should remember about infants who are baptized is that they
 - a. Cannot really believe in Jesus, since they are not old enough.
 - b. Are not sinful yet, but will need baptism later on in life.
 - c. Are included in Christ's command, are sinful, and can believe in Jesus.
5. The idea that small children can truly trust in Jesus as their Savior is
 - a. Something we cannot be sure about.
 - b. Clearly taught in the Bible, a result of God's power in the heart.
 - c. Impossible, since people must be able to understand before they can believe.
6. Baptism is
 - a. Only a sign or symbol that a person is not a believer.
 - b. A means by which God forgives sins and works faith in the heart.
 - c. A ceremony showing obedience and making a person a church member.
7. If one rejects baptism
 - a. This is a sign of unbelief and results in condemnation.
 - b. It doesn't make that much difference as long as you believe in Jesus.
 - c. We don't know what will happen to that person.
8. A baptism may be performed
 - a. Only by the pastor and only in the church.
 - b. Only by the pastor, but at any place.
 - c. By any Christian.
9. A person who has been baptized
 - a. Can never lose his faith and is guaranteed salvation, no matter what.
 - b. Is given extra chances to keep his faith
 - c. May tragically lose the God-given faith by neglecting God's word later on.
10. After baptism, we will want to
 - a. Grow and be strengthened in our new life through the Word and the Lord's Supper
 - b. Live in confidence that our faith will stay alive even apart from the Word.
 - c. Remember that a second or third baptism may be needed later.

Word Study

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| ___ grace | 1. A sacred instituted by Jesus, such as baptism |
| ___ baptism | 2. God's undeserved love for undeserving sinners. |
| ___ sacrament | 3. Applying water in the name of the Triune God. |
| ___ immersion | 4. Putting under water, one possible method of baptizing. |
| ___ sponsor | 5. Instruments God uses to give us his grace and applying Jesus' work to our lives personally |
| ___ Means of Grace | 6. One who witnesses a baptism and promises to help in providing spiritual training for a child. |

Additional

Bible reading: Luke 9 – 12

Memorization: Matthew 28:18-20, Ephesians 5:25-26

Books of the Bible: Review all New Testament Books

Lesson 16**The Lord's Supper**

Catechism Reference: The Lord's Supper

A Study of 1 Corinthians 11:20-32

- vv.20-22 The Corinthians had a meal following their service at which they also celebrated the Lord's Supper. Paul is reprimanding them for their unloving actions toward their fellow Christians.
- v.23 "*the night he was betrayed*" Paul recounts the event of the institution of the Lord's Supper. Cf. Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20.
- v. 24 Pointing to the bread, Jesus said, "This is my body." Note: "Is" does not mean represent. This is shown both by how the word is used and by other statements Paul makes about the bread and the wine. See 10:16; 11:27-29.
- v. 25 "*new covenant*" Jesus called the cup, i.e. the wine, the "new covenant." The new covenant is nothing other than the forgiveness of sins. Hence we receive Christ's forgiveness as we drink the wine (the blood of Christ).
"remember" The Lord's Supper was given as a memorial meal in which we call to mind Jesus' suffering and death for us.
- v. 26 "*proclaim*" Not only do we "remember Christ's death, but our remembrance is also a proclamation or confession of our faith in Jesus' sacrifice of himself for us. Note: The Lord's Supper according to 10:17 implies unity of faith.
- v. 27 "*bread, cup*" In the Lord's Supper we receive bread and wine.
"body, blood" In the Lord's Supper we receive the true body and blood of Christ.
"unworthy manner" The Corinthians were sinning in their celebration of the Lord's Supper in various ways. They were carrying out their meal in a totally unloving manner. This loveless attitude toward their fellow Christians betrayed a lack of faith in the forgiveness Christ had won for them, forgiveness which they were being given in the Lord's Supper. Hence they were receiving the body and blood of Jesus, which gave them forgiveness, while they were simultaneously rejecting that forgiveness in their hearts.
"sinning" to partake of the body and blood of Christ without repentance and faith is a sin against Christ who is present in the sacrament.
- v. 28 "*examine*" Examination includes ascertaining whether we are sorry for our sins. A desire to show love to God and our fellow man will also be present. This the Corinthians had not done as was evidenced by their actions.
- v. 29 "*recognize*" Examination also includes reviewing the fact that the Lord is present in the Lord's Supper and as we eat and drink the body and blood that accomplished our salvation, we will be receiving the forgiveness of sins.
- vv. 29-32 God brought physical harm to those people in Corinth who were misusing the Lord's Supper. He did this to bring them to a realization of the wrong they were committing. The person who approaches the Lord's Table today needs to be aware of the fact that the Supper is a matter of faith, of God's grace and forgiveness, of the sacrifice that won that grace and forgiveness, and therefore, something that the Lord is most serious about.

Summary and Application

A. The Lord's Supper is

1. A meal instituted by Christ before he was crucified, in which he gave his disciples of all time his body and blood (in and with the bread and wine) which was sacrificed for the sins of the world.
2. A Sacrament. It was instituted by Christ, it contains the visible elements of bread and wine, it is connected with the Word of God, and it gives to us the forgiveness of sins.

B. The Lord's Supper is for

Christians who have been instructed so that they can "remember" Christ's death, understand the real presence of the body and blood of Christ in the supper, and are able to examine themselves in the light of repentance and faith.

Questions for examination:

- 1) Am I sorry for my sins?
- 2) Do I believe in Jesus as my Savior?
- 3) Do I believe that His body and blood are truly present to give me forgiveness?
- 4) Do I intend, with God's help, to live a more God-pleasing life:

C. Because of the nature of the Lord's Supper, the following should not come to the Lord's table:

1. Those who are not Christians.
2. Those who have not been instructed and therefore are not able to examine themselves.
3. Those who are not united in a common faith. Romans 16:17 also applies here.

Our church practices "close communion". We wish everyone to come to the Lord's Supper with us, but only if they can receive the benefits Christ intended to give through his body and blood. This implies instruction in the truths of Christianity.

Lesson 16**Review Questions**Multiple Choice

1. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper
 - a. Right after He rose from the grave
 - b. On the night he was betrayed, the night before he died on the cross.
 - c. During the time when he was on a mountain alone with his disciples.
2. When a person receives the Lord's Supper , he receives
 - a. Only bread and wine.
 - b. Only Christ's body and blood.
 - c. Bread and wine together with Christ's body and blood.
3. Just how Christ's body and blood can be present in this Sacrament
 - a. Cannot be explained, but is clearly what the Bible teaches.
 - b. Can be explained by saying that the bread and wine are changed into Christ's body and blood.
 - c. Can be explained by saying that the bread and wine represent Christ's body and blood.
4. Two good reasons for receiving the Lord's Supper are
 - a. To be assured of forgiveness and to show what good Christians we are.
 - b. To remember Jesus' death and be helped in earning heaven.
 - c. To remember Jesus' death and receive the forgiveness of sins.
5. Receiving the Lords' Supper with fellow believers is
 - a. Necessary for the Sacrament to have any power or purpose
 - b. A beautiful expression of our shared unity in the Christian faith.
 - c. Part of God's will that we must to if we are to earn salvation.
6. The Lord's Supper may be given to
 - a. All people, regardless of age or beliefs.
 - b. Christians who can properly remember Jesus' death and examine themselves.
 - c. Anyone who is a church member regardless of his personal faith or conduct.
7. The Lord's Supper is
 - a. A sacrament, that is, an instrument God uses to give and strengthen faith.
 - b. A sacrifice, that is, something we do to complete payment for sin.
 - c. Neither a sacrament nor a sacrifice, but a fine church custom.
8. The practice of "close communion" is designed to
 - a. Protect true believers from the corrupting influence of church visitors.
 - b. Protect all communicants from receiving communion improperly or foolishly.
 - c. Remind everyone that some disciples don't need to receive communion at all.
9. We will always love and desire the Lord's Supper because
 - a. It is a very important part of getting to heaven through obeying all of God's laws.
 - b. It keeps us church members in good standing.
 - c. Jesus commanded it in love for us for the strengthening of our faith.

True and False

1. () It is all right to take communion if I don't recognize Christ's body in it.
2. () One with weak faith can have that weak faith strengthened in the Lord's Supper.
3. () It's not so important to examine myself before coming to the Lord's Supper.
4. () If I have sinned against someone, I should resolve to settle the matter with him before I partake of the Lord's Supper.
5. () A main reason for receiving the Lord's Supper is to be assured of forgiveness.
6. () The power and blessing in Communion come from God's Word and promises in it.
7. () I should be sure that I am united in faith with a Christian congregation before I receive the Lord's Supper in its fellowship.
8. () The Lord's Supper can be given only in church during a church service.
9. () A person shouldn't receive the Lord's Supper more than once a month.

Additional Study

Bible reading: Luke 13-16

Memorization: 1 Corinthians 11:27, 28, 1 Corinthians 10:16

In this section Paul describes acts of service that come from faith, and the attitude of love that the Christian has toward his neighbor.

V1-3 God's mercies are the foundation for our Christian lives.

1. All that has been said about God's mercy forms the basis on which Paul makes his appeals to us regarding our lives as believers.
2. We are to offer sacrifices, just as the people in the Old Testament did, but with some differences. Our sacrifices are to be our own bodies, and our worship is to be done in a spiritual way, not in an outward law motivated way.
3. Our minds are to be renewed, through the Gospel. As this happens our minds will become more and more attuned to what God's will is.

V4-8 Our sacrifice of service involves using our spiritual gifts.

1. Before offering himself for service, Christians will analyze their gifts.
 - a. They will seek to appraise themselves realistically.
 - b. They will determine what place in God's work they will fit into best.
2. Christians will examine the various spiritual gifts God gives to the Church, determine which gift(s) God has given to them, and then use that gift in a humble, loving, and sincere way.

V9-2 Above all, our sacrifice includes love.

1. Paul mentions a number of ways Christians will show their love. Notice that love shows itself in deeds, not simply in emotions and sentiments. It is concerned about the good of the other person, and that often means pointing out the sins that person is caught up in.
2. Love is large-heartedness. Love has a light grasp on the world and so its attentions are directed to the other person's good and not bogged down in its own concerns and problems. It recognizes that God will avenge whatever our enemies might do to us, and so it seeks to overcome evil with goodness.

Lesson 17**Homes Study: Serving the Lord – Stewardship**

Stewardship is using the gifts God has given us in a god-pleasing way.

A. The Gift of the Gospel

1. The greatest gift we have received is the Gospel in which God tells us of the forgiveness he has won for us in Christ. How do these passages tell us that it is God's will that we continue to use the Gospel in Word and sacraments, and in fellowship with other Christians?

John 8:31 – 32 _____

Acts 2:42 _____

Colossians 3:16 _____

Hebrews 10:23-25 _____

2 Peter 1:5-9 _____

2. What most important aspect of being a good steward of the Gospel do these passages inform us of?

Acts 8: 1-4 _____

1 Peter 1:5-9 _____

B. Spiritual Gifts

1. God has given each Christian spiritual gift(s) to use for the building up of the church. Compile a list of spiritual gifts from the following passages: Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11; Ephesians 4:11-13. (Two occur twice – list them only once.)

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| a. _____ | g. _____ | m. _____ |
| b. _____ | h. _____ | n. _____ |
| c. _____ | i. _____ | o. _____ |
| d. _____ | j. _____ | p. _____ |
| e. _____ | k. _____ | q. _____ |
| f. _____ | l. _____ | r. _____ |
| | | s. _____ |

2. If possible, comment on your spiritual gift of gifts. _____

C. Temporal Gifts

The Lord has given us resources to help us fulfill the various responsibilities he has given us. These responsibilities include care for our families, taxes, recreation, etc. To be a good steward of our temporal gifts means to recognize that we have a responsibility to use a portion of our resources for the Lord's work.

1. Romans 16:12-13 How does Paul feel about three women who spent time and energy helping him do the Lord's work?

Lesson 17**Homes Study: Serving the Lord – Stewardship**

2. What encouragement does Paul give us in 2 Corinthians 8:7 concerning giving?

3. Acts 9:36- 42 How did Dorcus use her natural abilities to help those in need?

4. Evaluate your stewardship of temporal resources in the area of God's work. Leftovers or Firstfruits?

2 Corinthians 8:9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you, through his poverty, might become rich."

Additional

Bible Reading: Luke 17 – 20

Memorization: Hebrews 10:23-25

Lesson 18**Notes: Romans 13**

In this section Paul continues his description of how a Christian will offer himself in love as a spiritual sacrifice.

V1-7 Christians have responsibilities toward the government.

1. Governments (even evil ones) have been established by God to promote order in the world.
2. The government bears the power of the “sword”.
3. A Christian will want to obey the government because it is an agent of God. His submission will be not only from fear, but also from a desire to serve the Lord.
4. Payment of taxes and giving of honor is part of the Christian’s responsibility toward the government.

V8-10 Christians owe a debt of love to their neighbor.

The believer should consider himself to be a debtor to all, owing love to all. Offering this debt of love will be the fulfillment of all the commandments.

V11-14 The time is now to offer ourselves as spiritual sacrifices.

Putting off growth in our faith is hazardous considering the fact that as each day goes by, the day of Jesus’ coming gets closer.

Lesson 18**Home Study: Serving the Lord – Love**

Study Romans 14:1 – 15:13. This section gives us an example of how we should show love to our fellow Christian.

V1-4 *Disputable matters* are those things that are neither commanded by God nor forbidden by him. For various reasons, Christians choose to use these “neutral” things or not use them in their worship of God. Paul gives instructions for living in a Christian congregation where there are people who worship God using different customs.

What command does Paul give to the one who thinks it is alright to eat what the other person refrains from eating? (verse 3a) _____

What command does Paul give to the “weak” brother who refrains from eating certain things? (verse 3b) _____

V5-9 Even though one person “eats” and the other person “does not eat,” both share a common motive in what they do. What are both doing in their actions of worship?

V10-12 Why should the believer not worry about how his fellow believer worships God when the method of worship involves “disputable matters”? (verse 10)

V13-18 Paul makes a most important point in verses 13-15. What is that point?

In addition to harm being done to the brother if we cause him to sin against his conscience, harm is done to that gift of God which we ourselves enjoy using. What might the “weak” brother be led to do toward the gift of God we enjoy? (verse 16)?

Outward forms and customs are not the most important thing in our faith. What is? (verses 17-18) _____

V 19-23 The burden lies on the “strong” Christian. He should

Do what leads to _____. (verse 19)

Not _____ the work of God. (verse 20a)

Not cause a brother to _____, (verse 20b)

Keep our “knowledge” about the rightness of these good gifts to _____. (verse 22)

Never put himself in apposition where his doing something good will turn out to be a sin because of what it does to the other brother and therefore cause himself to be

_____. (verse 22b)

Recognize that it is not eating or not drinking that is important when those matters are neither right nor wrong in themselves, but that a person does what he thinks is

_____. (verse 23)

Bear with _____ (verse 15:1)

Do what we do for the sake of _____ (v2)

V4-6 Christians seek to grow in a desire and in the ability to live in harmony with each other. They find their source of strength and encouragement in _____

V7-13 Who serves as our example in showing love? _____

Additional:

Bible readings: Luke 21- 24

Memorization: Romans 12:1, 2 Corinthians 8:7

Lesson 19**Notes: Romans 15:14-33**

In this section Paul states his reason for writing to the Romans, and tells them of his plans to come to them.

V14-16 Paul is a minister to the Gentiles.

1. Paul did not want to make it seem as if he thought the Romans were unlearned Christians. So he makes it clear that he was only reminding them of what they had learned already, but need to hear again and again.
2. It was within Paul's call to write to the Romans, as God had appointed him to be his Apostle to the Gentiles.

V17-22 Paul's "boasting" in his work.

1. Paul "boasts" in his work, but his boasting is always in what Christ has accomplished through him.
2. Paul tells the Romans the scope of his work, and the extent of his travels. It is this large responsibility that has kept him from coming to them. They had received the Gospel already; many had not.

V23-32 Paul states his plan to visit Rome.

1. Paul's work in Asia Minor and Greece was finished.
2. Paul intended to visit Spain with a stop in Rome.
3. Paul's first order of business was to deliver the contribution collected in Greece for the needy in Jerusalem.
4. Paul asks the prayers of the Romans that he might be delivered from evil and allowed to come to Rome as planned.

Lesson 19**Home Study: The Church****A. The Holy Christian Church** Read 1 Peter 1:22-2:10

1. The word “church: means “called out”. The Holy Christian Church (communion of saints) is people in heaven and on earth who have been _____
_____ (verse 9b)
2. Peter describes the group of people making up this Church as _____
_____ (verse 9a)
3. The cornerstone of the Church is _____. (verse 6)
4. Using the picture of a house, the Apostle calls the members of the church _____
_____ (verse 5)
5. People become members of the Church through _____

B. A Christian Congregation

1. 1 Corinthians 1:2; Revelation 1:11. Note how individual congregations of Christians are called “churches” in scripture.
2. When the Word is preached, all sorts of people gather themselves around it. Some do so because they love the Word. Others do so for worldly reasons. Hence, there may be hypocrites in the visible church. See Matthew 13:24-30; 47-49.
3. It is God’s will that Christians assemble together in congregations to...
 - a. 1 Peter 2:2 _____
 - b. Hebrews 10:23-25 _____

C. Church Fellowship – God’s will. It is God’s will that

1. 1 Corinthians 1:10 there be no _____ among Christians and that all be united in _____ and _____,
2. John 8:31; Matthew 28:20 such unity be gained by adhering faithfully to _____
3. Matthew 7:15 Christians recognize that there will be _____ in the world.
4. Isaiah 66:2; Romans 16:17 that Christians love the truth so much that they keep away from teachers, churches and religious organizations that go against the teachings of God Word. See Appendix 4 for more information on the teaching of Church Fellowship.

Additional: Bible reading: Ephesians. Memorization 1 Peter 2:2; Romans 16:17.

Lesson 20**Notes: Romans 16**

In this final section, Paul extends personal greetings and gives the congregation warnings to remain faithful to the truth.

V1-16 Final greetings

Paul greets those whom he personally knew in the church at Rome. These were people who he had known in other churches. Note the importance of laypeople, men and women, in Paul's work.

V 17-27 Remain faithful to the truth!

1. We are to avoid those whose teachings do not correspond to God's Word. These people serve themselves, not the Lord.
2. God will make the Romans able to stand firm. This he will do through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
3. To God be the glory for all he has done in Christ and for his grace in revealing the message of his pardon to us.

A Bible Study on Ephesians 5:21-33

This section of Scripture begins with a basic principle that applies equally to husbands and to wives: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Basically there is one cause of conflict between people—an attitude of self-centeredness. This is the attitude that leads people to ask: What will make *me* happy? What will fulfill *my* needs, *my* wants, *my* longings? With such an attitude there is a tendency to act as though I were the only person in the world.

But what happens when my spouse's desires clash with mine? That's when conflict begins. Each says, "I want to do it *my* way." Each refuses to budge or back down.

The cure for conflict is extremely simple, yet extremely difficult to put into practice: "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

This verse emphasizes two things:

1. "Submit to one another." This is directly contrary to the philosophy of the world that teaches self-fulfillment. To submit means to put oneself under another person. How one person submits to another is determined by their relationship to each other.
2. Always recognize that in time of conflict between Christians a third party is involved—Jesus Christ. So it's not merely "What do *I* want?" It's not even, "What do *you* want?" But first of all it's "What does *Jesus* want? What would he have me do?" We are urged to act "out of reverence for Christ."

Now the inspired Apostle Paul applies these words to husbands and wives.

God's word to Wives

Paul writes: "Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything."

This section gives direction to wives in four ways:

1. "Wives, *submit* to your husbands as to the Lord." For wives, to submit means to put oneself under the authority of her husband..

This instruction goes all the way back to creation and God's purpose for a wife. The wife's God-given role is to be the husband's helper, She will do this *as to the Lord*, that is, out of love for her Lord Jesus whom she wants to please.

2. Wives should submit "For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. Wives are tempted to rebel against this command, but to do so is to rebel against what God says.

3. In what spirit should wives submit? "As the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands."

How does the church submit to Christ? It submits willingly. It submits lovingly. a wife submits to her husband with an attitude that says, "I will submit since it is God's will for me."

4. How far should wives go in submitting? Wives should submit to their husbands in everything, unless the husband tells her to go against God's Word in some way..

God's Word to Husbands

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.”

1. This verse tells husbands to love their wives.
2. It gives a pattern to follow: Love your wives just as Christ loved the church.
3. It describes Christ's love for the church: He gave himself up for her

From this it's clear that:

1. Love is an attitude and has to do with the way one talks and acts toward another. It is not merely a good feeling.
2. God's word sets the highest standards for husbands. It tells husbands to aim at no less than the kind of love that Christ showed to them, a total, unselfish love.

A Concluding Word to Both Husbands and Wives

“Each one of you also must loves his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

Note here the word, “Each one of you.” Each person in the marriage relationship is called upon to fulfill his or her responsibility to Christ, regardless of what the other does. It is not: “When he starts loving me, I'll start submitting to him;” or “When she starts submitting to me, I'll start loving her.” But: Each one is to carry out his or her responsibility before Christ.

Appendix 2

Additional Notes On Infant Baptism

Sin is a serious matter:

Ezekiel 18:20—“The person who sins will die.”

Romans 6:23—“The wages of sin is death.”

John 3:6—“Flesh gives birth to flesh.” Everyone is a sinner from birth.

John 3:3—“Unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God

There is no such thing as the “age of accountability.” That is the idea that before children reach a certain age, at which they become accountable to God for their sins, God does not hold their sins against them. Scripture, however, nowhere teaches this.

Children, too, need to be saved from the guilt of their sins and the eternal punishment that results.

The means of grace

The means of grace are the tools through which God the Holy Spirit conveys to people the gift of forgiveness of sins won by Christ, and works faith in our hearts to accept this forgiveness. They are God’s Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper.

1. God’s Word leads people to faith.

Romans 10:17—“Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

1 Peter 1:23—“You have been born again . . . through the living and enduring Word of God.”

2. In the Lord Supper, God gives us his body and blood.

Matthew 26:26, 28—“This is my body . . . this is my blood . . . poured out for the forgiveness of sins.”

Sin and unbelief condemn. All people, by nature, including infants, are sinners separated from God. Forgiveness and a new birth are necessary for life with God forever. Only God can grant these blessings. From what he has revealed to us in the Scriptures, God has bound us to the Means of Grace.

We don’t know if God might bring children to faith through his spoken word. And the Lord’s Supper is for those who know the truths of the faith and can examine themselves. So we turn to Baptism as the means by which God brings children to faith.

Scripture does not specifically say to baptize children. Nor does it say that we should not baptize children. The fact that children are sinners and need forgiveness, and the fact that Baptism gives the forgiveness of sins, convinces us that the Lord wants us to baptize our children

Note the passages in the lesson on Baptism that tell us about the power of Baptism.

Commonly heard objections to infant Baptism

1. “Little children aren’t sinful.”

Genesis 5:3—“Adam . . . became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth”

John 3:6—“Flesh gives birth to flesh.”

2. “Little children, though sinful, aren’t held accountable for their sins until they know what they are doing (age of accountability).

1 Corinthians 15:22—“In Adam all die.”

3. “You need to believe to be baptized, and little children can’t believe.”

Luke 18:16—“Babies were being brought to Jesus. He said, “The Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

Titus 3:5—“He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.”

4. “How can mere water do all that? Sounds like a superstitious practice to me.”

Ephesians 5:25-26—“Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word.”

Baptism receives its power from the Word (“I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”)

5. “If baptism was intended for infants also, why does the Bible only mention the baptism of adults?”

This is not necessarily true. Several whole families were baptized:

Acts 16:15—Lydia: “and the members of her household”.

Acts 16:33—The jailer at Philippi: “and all his family”

1 Corinthians 1:16—“the household of Stephanas”

6. “The teaching of infant baptism was introduced into the church after the time of the apostles.”

The early church fathers (Irenaeus, Origen, Tertullian, Hippolytus) all write about infant baptism in such a way as to show that it was a generally accepted practice, not an innovation to be guarded against.

Infant baptism was never widely questioned until about the time of the Reformation when baptistic type groups came into being.

Summary: Our gracious God wants all to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). To give all the opportunity for the forgiveness and the new birth necessary for salvation, the Lord gives us the Sacrament of Baptism.

Appendix 3**Guidelines For Giving From God's Word*****Points to Ponder***

Consider that you were headed for destruction. You had no right to God's sympathy or consideration. But he sent his son to do for you. He came to you, called you to be his own. Let your offering show it.

“God showed his love for us in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

God wants your offering to be your decision. The only pressure is to come from the Lord's continuing mercy to you.

“Take for me an offering; from every man whose heart makes him willing you shall receive the offering for me” (Exodus 25:2).

Give a definite and generous percentage of your income to your Lord for his work. This is the proportionate giving he seeks. It is giving according to ability.

“Let everyone (give) as God has prospered him” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Make your giving a personal act between you and your Lord. Let every offering be an expression of your devotion to him. This is why we lay our offering on the altar at church. We worship God with our offerings.

“Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness” (1 Chronicles 16:29).

God desires offerings that are systematic and regular.

“On the first day of the week let everyone give as God has prospered him” (1 Corinthians 16:2).

Be assured that God can give you everything you need. You will have enough both for yourself and for giving to God and to others.

“You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God” (2 Corinthians 9:11)

Put God first. Love and trust in him above all things.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well” (Matthew 6:31).

Remember that what we have is not ours to do with as we please. It is a trust from God to be used to serve God.

“Serve as good stewards of the manifold grace of God” (1 Peter 4:10).

Some Do's and Don'ts of Christian Giving

DO make your offering to the Lord.

DON'T give to the church.

DO give from the blessings God gives you.

DON'T give according to "the average."

DO give according to your love for God.

DON'T give according to what someone else might be giving.

DO give to honor your Lord.

DON'T give to meet a budget.

DO be thoughtful in your giving.

DON'T let your giving become haphazard.

DO set aside a a portion of your income for the Lord first.

DON'T offer the Lord leftovers from your income.

DO give what you love to give.

DON'T give as a matter of duty.

DO give to show your devotion to your Savior.

DON'T give to maintain a sense of respectability.

When our giving flows out of love for the Lord and becomes something we do automatically, we can get on with the Lord's work. We can direct our attention and energy to other things: saving souls, educating young and old, strengthening the weak, recalling the wandering.

Appendix 4**Scripture's Teaching On Church Fellowship**

It makes a difference to which Christian congregation we belong. Thank about the following passages:

“If you Hold to my teaching you are really my disciples” (John 8:31).

“Teach them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:20).

“Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1).

“I urge you brothers, to watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them” (Romans 16:17).

“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves” (Matthew 7:15).

“[A Christian] must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it” (Titus 1:9).

“All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16).

“I appeal to you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly united in mind and thought” (1 Corinthians 1:10).

“A little yeast (of error) works through the whole batch of dough. (Galatians 5:9)

From these passages we learn:

1. We are not to ignore religious differences. We are to judge teachings, but, of course, we are not to judge the faith of any person who professes to trust in Jesus as the Son of God who had died to redeem us from sin.
2. Error in religious teaching must not be given the same status as the truth of God. Error, that is, teaching contrary to God’s revealed Word, is not to be ignored, but is to be revealed and avoided.
3. God wants us to test a congregation’s or church body’s published statements of faith, declarations and professions, by comparing them with God’s standard of truth—his inspired Word.
4. Our primary concern should be for faithfulness to all the teachings of God’s Word
5. How much agreement is necessary? When we find ourselves to be in agreement with what a person or a church body confesses in doctrine and practice, we are urged by God to show and express this common faith. The early Christians, who were “devoted to the apostles’ teaching,” worshiped, prayed, communed, and lived and worked together as one family, as they outwardly expressed their spiritual oneness in Christ. (See Acts 2:42-47.)
6. Christians should be faithful to the Word, and ought not be involved in any way adding to it, subtracting from it, or changing it.
7. Every denial of the Word is a denial of Christ, since it is His word we are denying.
8. Christians should take care to affiliate themselves with a church which is consciously striving to teach everything Christ commanded.
9. While there will be Christians in every church in which Christ is still proclaimed to be the Son of God and the only redeemer from sin, even a small error will work its way through the entire Christian faith.