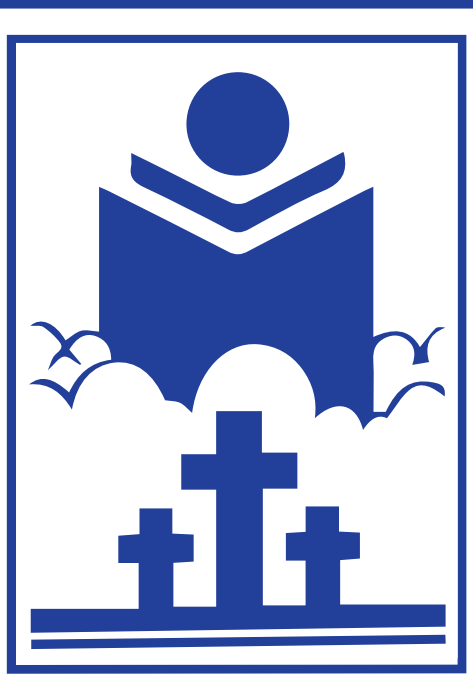
Church of Christ



Study Guide

STUDIES IN CHRISTIANITY

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INTRODUCTION

A. - HOW TO USE THIS BOOKLET.

This booklet contains a series of lessons that provide a useful guide for studying with non-Christians. The lessons focus on fundamental areas of Christian belief and are centred around biblical references.

The objective is that in working through these studies you can:

A. REINFORCE YOUR OWN FUNDAMENTAL BELIEFS AND BE CLEAR ON WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ON THESE PARTICULAR TOPICS.

B. BECOME COMFORTABLE WITH THE MATERIAL AND ABLE TO STUDY WITH UNBELIEVERS TO BRING THEM TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE TRUTH SO AS TO BE SAVED.

C. AIM TO BE ABLE TO TEACH OTHER BELIEVERS HOW TO USE THESE STUDIES THEMSELVES

THESE STUDIES ARE DIVIDED INTO TWO SECTIONS:

1. PRIMARY STUDIES.

Work through these studies in the order they appear. It is important not to skip any, as there is a logical direction to them. After each study you should look for an appropriate response, ie after the SIN study, you would expect the recipient to be cut to the heart. If an appropriate response isn't acknowledged it's better to divert to a SUPPLEMENTARY study, to allow time for consideration.

2. SUPPLEMENTARY STUDIES.

These studies are meant to compliment the PRIMARY studies. If an appropriate response is not accomplished by the PRIMARY study, backtrack to a suitable SUPPLEMENTARY study. Or use these SUPPLEMENTARY studies to fill in additional material. The studies are numbered to link to the PRIMARY studies - for example studies on Jesus have been numbered la, lb, le etc. to tie in with the first primary study.

SIDE NOTES.

The space for additional notes is provided for your benefit, to add ideas or appropriate illustrations. Remember this is your work book - use it, craft it well and it will serve you well.

PRAYERS.

Remember to the include the Lord in these studies. If you ask Him, He'll aid in the teaching process and give you the courage to teach the truth.

INTRODUCTION
B. - PRACTICAL TEACHING PRINCIPLES.

Here are some simple practical teaching principles, they are not meant to be hard and fast rules, but rather helpful advice. Study these guide lines and share them with those that you work with.

May the Lord richly bless all your efforts to make disciples of all the nations to the glory of Jesus Christ.

1 BECOME THEIR FRIEND.
Share your home, possessions and interests, become interested in them as people. John 1:35-39 & Luke 19:1-6. Befriend regardless of what people may think.

2. REMEMBER YOU'RE A LIVING EXAMPLE OF CHRIST.
In everything remember to try to be Christ like. John 12:32 & Matthew 5:14-16.

3. DON'T IMMEDIATELY CHALLENGE ON CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES.
Share Jesus and His word. Avoid issues like marriage and divorce, tongue speaking etc. Share common ground 1Corinthians 13. -The Love of God.

4. DON'T WRESTLE OVER OPINIONS.
They are entitled to their opinion and you to yours. Don't allow internal disputes in the group. If disputes arise, resolve them later in private. Matthew 23:23-24.

5. KEEP TO THE SUBJECT.
Bring all conversation back to the original subject matter. Remember the object of your class.

6. DON'T FORCE FEED OR OVERFEED.
When people are interested, don't try to teach them everything at once, give them a little bit at a time. Keep them interested and coming back (think of a mother bird feeding her chicks - a little bit at a time).

Don't try to give all the answers at once, you're trying to develop their dependence upon going to the Bible for solutions to life's questions.

7. ADMIT WHEN YOU DON'T HAVE THE ANSWERS.

Don't try to impress others with how much you know. If you don't know tell them. - 1 Corinthians 8:2.

8. DON'T TEACH OVER PEOPLES HEADS.

Keep it simple stupid (K.I.S.S.).
Make all points clear and understandable.

9. TREAT PEOPLE THE WAY YOU WANT THEM TO BECOME.

Treat people like idiots and they become idiots.
Treat them as responsible, and they'll become responsible.
Matthew 7:12.

10. CHALLENGE, REPROVE AND REBUKE THEM IN LOVE.

Build them up when they are correct, correct with love when they are wrong, with God's word, not your opinion. H Timothy 4: 1-4.

11. BEFORE YOU SPEAK ASK YOURSELVES.

These four questions:

a. Is it necessary?
b. Is it kind?
c. Is it the truth?
d. Is it to build up?

12. LOVE THEM ANYWAY.

Christ loves them, you should also, even if you can't convert them.
Love them anyway, faults and everything. Matthew 23:37-38.

It's my prayer that these lessons will serve to make us, a people moreproductive in reaching lost souls.

>> CLICK ON BIBLE STUDY GUIDE – FOR INDEX

1. JESUS THE CONTROLLER OF LIFE

To show that Jesus Christ is able to care for all aspects of our lives continually.

Read the scriptures and ask these questions. What is happening and who is affected? Does this show something about Jesus? What does this mean to me?

1. MARK 4:35-41 – CHRIST HAS CONTROL OVER THE ELEMENTS.

1) Jesus sleeps during traumas.
2) In Christ we can sleep during traumas.
3) Jesus has power over the elements.
4) Ignorance produces fear (:41).
5) God's word removes ignorance.

2. MARK 5:1-20 – CHRIST HAS CONTROL OVER THE SPIRITUAL

1) Demons recognise Jesus' authority.
2) Demons require God's permission (:12).
3) Jesus controls demons.
4) Jesus puts us in our right mind.
5) When I've touched God I should touch others (:19).

3. MARK 5:25-35 – CHRIST HAS CONTROL OVER ILLNESS.

1) The woman was physically and emotionally drained.
2) Her perseverance got her to touch Jesus.
3) Jesus can cure all diseases.
4) The woman wasn't just another face in the crowd she was special.

4. MARK 5:36-43 – CHRIST HAS CONTROL OVER DEATH.

1) Belief casts out fear.
2) To the physical world, death is final. To the spiritual world it's only sleep.
3) They laughed at Jesus. They'll laugh at you.
4) Jesus can raise the dead.

Response – This study should help us to see that we need to get to know Jesus Christ more as our personal saviour.

Notes:

2. THE WORD OF GOD.

To encourage people to see the necessity of submission to the Bible as the only source of salvation & inspiration.

1. 2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17

1) All scripture is God breathed.
2) It's useful.
3) Thoroughly equipping.

2. MATTHEW 15:1-9

1) Tradition invalidates Gods word.
2) Worship must be from the heart.
3) Otherwise it's vain/useless.

3. HEBREWS 4:12-13

1) Gods word is living and active.
2) Gods word is sharp and cuts.
3) Nothing is hidden before God.

4. 2 PETER 1:19-20

1) All scripture is from God.
2) There is only one correct interpretation.

5. 2 PETER 3:15-16

1) Paul was inspired by God.
2) Some things are hard to understand.
3) The penalty for misuse of scripture is ones own destruction.

6. JOHN 8:31-32

1) We must stay with Christ's teachings.
2) A disciple follows Jesus.
3) Staying with Jesus will keep us free from sin.

7. JOHN 12:47-48

1) Jesus' first visit was to save the world.
2) He's coming again in judgement.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES:

1) Galatians 1 :6 -12. There is no other Gospel.
2) 2 Peter 1: 3. God has given to us everything.
3) Jude 3.The faith delivered once, for all.
4) Revelation 22:18.Must be no addition or subtraction.

Notes:

Response - The Bible contains everything we need to get through this life, we need nothing in addition.

3. DISCIPLESHIP.

To show that there is no such thing as pew sitting Christians, but there are only life changing disciples.

1. ACTS 11:26 - CHRISTIAN OR DISCIPLE?

1) The word Christian appears only 3 times in the New Testament. Disciple appears 263 times in the New Testament.
2) There is no distinction between a Christian and a Disciple. All are called to the same level of commitment.

2. MARK 1: 17 - FOLLOWERS OF JESUS.

Jesus was very clear about the role of those who chose to follow Him. "I will make you fishers of men".

3. LUKE 19:10 - CHRIST'S MISSION.

Our purpose should be the same as Jesus' to seek and save the lost.

4. LUKE 14:25-35 - COUNTING THE COST.

1) Disciples must love God more than all else - including self.
2) Disciples must live a sacrificial life to God.
3) Disciples must count the cost, not making an irrational emotional decision, but a calculated choice.

5. JOHN 15:1-8 - STAYING WITH JESUS.

1) We must abide in Jesus.
2) By abiding in Jesus we will bear fruit.
3) We glorify God by bearing fruit.
4) Stay with Jesus.

Response - There is no greater privilege than to be a disciple of Jesus. It demands the highest responsibility, and gives the greatest reward.

Notes:

4. SIN.

Shows we're all separated from God by our thoughts and actions.

1. ROMANS 3:23 - ALL HAVE SINNED: No exceptions!

2. 1 JOHN 1:8-10 - IF WE SAY WE HAVE NOT SINNED,
We make Him a liar and the truth is not in us.

3. MARK 7:21-22 - SPECIFIC SINS.
1) Give examples.
2) Relate personal experiences.
3) Don't appear interrogative, rather aim to be frank & forthright.

4. GALATIANS 5:19-21 - THE HORROR OF SIN.
1) Go through each sin.
2) Be creative and specific.
3) Discuss such issues as:
   a) Stealing.
   b) Lying.
   c) Sexual sin.

5. EPHESIANS 5:3-7 - NOT EVEN A HINT OF SIN.
1) Don't see how close you can get, but how far away from sin you can stay.
2) Be specific:
   a) Living together unmarried.
   b) Dates in risky places.

6. ROMANS 6:23 - SIN WILL LEAD TO ETERNAL DEATH.

7. ISAIAH 59:1-2 - OUR PROBLEM TO BE DEALT WITH.
1) Sin separates mankind from God.
2) Sin is a dividing wall.
3) This wall must be removed.

8. 2 PETER 3:9.
The Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Response - To really appreciate the good news about Jesus, we must come to understand the bad news of where we are without Him, after this study a person should be convicted, and really desiring to know what to do next.

Notes:

4. SIN - WORD STUDY.

Thayers Greek English Lexicon.
New American Standard Version/*New International Version*.

Mark 7:21-22.

:21 Fornication/*Sexual Immorality.*---Give oneself to unlawful sexual activity.
:21 Thefts/*Theft.* ----------To steal or borrow and not return.
:21 Murders/*Murder*. ----------To kill maliciously; to take another's life.
:21 Adulteries/*Adultery* ----------Unlawful intercourse with another's partner.
:22 Coveting/*Greed*.----------Avarice, over-indulgence.
:22 Wickedness/*Malice*. ----------Depravity, evil purpose.
:22 Deceit/*Deceit* ----------To lust, snare.
:22 Sensuality/*Lewdness*----------To excite towards disgust.
:22 Envy/*Envy*. ----------Displeasure at the advantage or prosperity of others.
:22 Slander/*Slander*. ----------Finding fault with the conduct of others.
:22 Pride/*Arrogance*. ----------Swollen estimation of self, belittles others.
:22 Foolishness/*Folly*. ----------Senseless, reckless or thoughtless behaviour.

Galatians 5:19-21.

:19 Immorality/*Sexual lmmorality*------Giving oneself to unlawful sexual activity.
:19 Impurity/*Impurity*----------Indulgence in an immoral lifestyle.
:19 Sensuality/*Debauchery* ------Moral defilement.
:20 Idolatry/ *Idolatry* ----------The worship of false gods or things.
:20 Sorcery/*Witchcraft*----------Enchanter, one who uses magical devices.
:20 Enmities/*Hatred* ----------Malicious unjustified feelings toward others.
:20 Strife/*Discord*----------To produce ill will towards others.
:20 Jealousy/*Jealousy*. ----------Envious contentions, rivalry.
:20 Anger/*Fits of Rage*----------To rush headlong, unprovoked anger.
:20 Disputes/*Selfish Ambition*.---Constant incessant wrangling, to elevate self.
:20 Dissensions/*Dissensions* -----To cause an uproar.
:20 Factions/*Factions* ----------To cause division.
:21 Envying/*Envy*. ---------- Displeasure at prosperity or advantages of others.
:21 Drunkenness/*Drunkenness*.--Over-indulgence, alcoholic intoxication.
: 21 Carousings/*Orgies*. ----------Boisterous living.
:21 Things like these/*And the like*. -------Similar things.

The simple guide is: if you are unsure about it, don't do it!

Notes:

5. REPENTANCE.

To show that repentance brings about a complete change of heart, mind and action.

1. LUKE 13:1-5 -ALL MUST REPENT.

1) No one is more guilty.
2) Repentance or damnation.

2. ACTS 26:20 - PAUL TAUGHT REPENTANCE.

1) Prove repentance by your deeds.
2) Repentance is a change of heart.
3) Think of the example of Scrooge, in the famous Christmas story.

Question = HAS YOUR LIFE CHANGED?

3. LUKE 3:8 - BRING FORTH FRUIT IN KEEPING WITH REPENTANCE.

4. 2 CORINTHIANS 7:8-11 -THE PENITENT LIFE.

1) Worldly sorrow, is sorry that you were caught.
2) Godly sorrow produces change.
3) Produces eagerness, alarm & indignation.

Question = ARE YOU EAGER TO DO GOD'S WILL?

5. MARK 9:42-48 - GOD'S ATTITUDE TO SIN.

1) We're responsible for others.
2) The worlds attitude to sin is apathetic.
3) God's attitude is radical.

Question = DO YOU HAVE GOD'S ATTITUDE TO SIN?

6. ACTS 3:19 - TIMES OF REFRESHING COME WHEN WE REPENT.

7. PSALM 51:10-13 - "CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART O GOD."

Response - We must call upon the Lord and make a conscious effort to turn from our old ways, towards God Repentance does not bring salvation, but it prepares us by our demonstration of our sincerity - a genuine desire to change should accompany this lesson.

Notes:

6. DARKNESS TO LIGHT.
To show that there is a line, not a grey area between being in darkness/lost and being in the light/saved.

1. COLOSSIANS.1:13-14 -TRANSFERRED INTO HIS KINGDOM.
1) We're delivered from darkness to light.
2) Into Christ's kingdom/saved.
3) Salvation is in Christ.

2. 1 PETER 2:9-10 - NOW THE PEOPLE OF GOD.
1) Once not a people.
2) Now we're God's people.
3) Once you'd received no mercy.
4) J\ow we've received mercy.
5) There is a definite barrier to remove.

3. ISAIAH 59:1-2 - SIN SEPARATES US.
1) The Lord is able to save us.
2) We've made the separation.
3) Our sins separate us from God.
4) Our sins must be removed.

4. MATTHEW 26:26-29 - THE NEW COVENANT.
1) Christ's blood is the new covenant.
2) Poured out for the forgiveness of our sins.
3) How do we contact his blood?

5. ROMANS 6:3-7 - OUR BURIAL AND NEW LIFE.
1) Being buried ,vith Christ in baptism.
2) As he was raised, we're raised into newness of life.
3) We're free from our sins.

Response - Baptism brings us into the light from darkness, by washing away our sins which separate us from God - a positive desire to be transformed should accompany this lesson.

Notes:

7. BAPTISM.

Before studying baptism, it's a good idea to get the person your studying with to WRITE ON A PIECE OF PAPER details of their previous baptism if any. Ask, have you been baptised, when (get a date), how were you baptised and why were you baptised These details will help to clarify the errors in denominational teachings. To show that baptism is essential for our salvation.

I. 1 PETER 3:21 - BAPTISM NOW SAVES YOU!

1) An appeal to God for a good conscience.
2) Through the resurrection of Jesus.

2. ROMANS 6:1-4 - WE'RE BAPTISED INTO CHRIST.

1) New life begins at baptism.
2) Baptism is a sharing in the death, burial & resurrection of Jesus.

3. COLOSSIANS 2:12 - BAPTISM REQUIRES FAITH.

1) Raised up with Him through faith in the working of God.
2) Therefore it is impossible to baptise infants.

4. ACTS 2:38 - BAPTISM IS IN THE NAME OF JESUS.

1) Repentance must precede baptism.
2) Repentance and baptism are essential for salvation.
3) The promise still applies today.

5. ACTS 8:26-39 - BAPTISM REQUIRES WATER.

1) Requires a willingness to study.
2) Must be fully convicted.

6. ACTS 22:3-16 - CALLING ON HIS NAME.

1) Saul was sincere - sincerely wrong.
2) Baptism is necessary even after:
   a) Calling Jesus Lord (Acts 22:8-10).
   b) Willingness to obey (Acts 22:10-11).
   c) Repentance - fasting, praying and thinking (Acts 9:9).
   d) A miracle (Acts 22:13).
3) Baptism is urgent.

Response - Baptism is for salvation, it washes away sins. It is for those who believe, repent, have a bad conscience, have faith in God and wish to be born again.

Notes:

8. FALSE DOCTRINE.

To have a biblical answer to some of the common religious errors.

1. THE THIEF ON THE CROSS WASN'T BAPTISED! - LUKE 23:39.

1) Mark 2: 10 - Jesus Christ has power on earth to forgive sins.
2) Hebrews. 9: 15-17 - We live under the new covenant which began with the death of Christ. (Baptism for the forgiveness of sins is a new covenant requirement).

2. WE'RE NOT SAVED BY FAITH ONLY - EPHESIANS 2:8-10.

1) James 2:24 - We are justified by works, not by faith alone.
2) Hebrews. I I: 1-40 - Faith is a verb, it produces action (What would have happened if Noah had believed God, but hadn't built the ark?)

3. WE CAN'T PRAY JESUS INTO OUR LIVES - REVELATION 3:20.

1) Rev.3: 14 - Written to the church in Laodicea.
2) Rev.3:20 - Look at the context - The letter is written to Christians asking them to allow Christ back into their hearts.

4. CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD - ROMANS 10:11-13.

1) Acts 2:21 - Calling on the name of the Lord means we decide to obey His will. (Does simply calling the doctor make a sick person well? - no! we must act upon the instructions given to us).
2) Acts 22: 16 - What did calling on the name of the Lord involve for Paul?

5. WE'RE NOT SINNERS FROM BIRTH - ROMANS 5:12.

1) Ezekiel.18:20 - The soul that sins shall die.
2) Ecclesiastes. 7:29 - People are created upright.
3) Matthew.18:4 - We're to become like little children.

6. ONCE SAVED ALWAYS SAVED - JOHN 10:28.

1) Gal.5:4 - You've fallen from grace.
2) Hebrews.2: 1-4 - Pay attention lest we drift away.
3) Hebrews.3: 12 - Don't fall away from the living God.
4) Hebrews.6:4-6 - Those who have fallen away.
5) 1 Tim. I: 19 - Shipwrecked their faith.
6) 2 Pet.2:21 - It is better not to have been saved, than to be saved and then fall away.

Response -A confident understanding of the errors of traditional religion should accompany this lesson.

Notes:

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT.

God's personal presence through which he accomplishes His will.

1. THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Received At Baptism.

1) Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptised, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
2) Galatians 3:26-4:6 God sent forth His spirit into our hearts crying, "Abba Father".
3) Acts 5:32 The Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

B. Necessary For Salvation.

1) Romans 8:9 If any man does not have the spirit he does not belong to Christ.
2) John 3:5 Must be born again of water and the spirit.
3) Titus 3:5 Saved us by the renewing of the Holy Spirit.

C. Transforms Us.

1) 2 Corinthian.3: 18 Transformed into the same image.
2) 2 Tim. I: 7 God has given us his Spirit of power, love and discipline.
3) Gal.5:22-26 The fruit of the Spirit.

D. Seals Us Within Him.

1) Ephesians. I: 13 Sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.
2) Ephesians.4:30 The Holy Spirit in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Every Christian possesses the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

2. THE EMPOWERING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. (HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM).

A. Occurs Twice. Acts 2: 1-4 & Acts 10:44-48.

1) Came suddenly.
2) Foreign languages were spoken.
3) Was promised, not commanded.
4) Fulfiled prophecy.
5) Ushered in the Church.
   To Jews (Acts 2) & To Gentiles (Acts 10).
6) Not through the laying on of hands.
7) Not essential for salvation. Forgiveness of sins is in the name of Jesus. Acts 2:38, Acts 10:48 & Acts 19:5.

Notes:

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED)

B. Is It Present Today?

1) Acts 2. Written about 33AD.
2) Acts 10. Written about 41AD.
3) Ephesians.4:4-6. Written about 62AD.
   a) Now there is only one baptism.
   b) Must be the commanded baptism.
4) After Acts 10 (Cornelius) there is no biblical record of Holy Spirit baptism. Obviously Holy Spirit baptism provided a special function vital to the first century church.

3. MIRACULOUS GIFfS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Passed By The Apostolic Laying On Of Hands. Acts 8:4-18 & Acts 19:6.

B. When The Generation After The Apostles Died So Did The Passing Of The Gifts Of The Holy Spirit.

1) There was no one left to transmit the gift.
2) There is no record of miraculous gifts in the second century.
3) The miraculous gifts confirmed the word of God.
   a) Mark 16:20 - "and confirmed the word by the ... "
   b) Acts 14: 3 - "bearing witness to the word ... "
   c) Hebrews 2:4 - "bearing witness with them ... "
   d) Acts 2:22 - "attested to you with miracles ... "
   e) John 3:2 - "no one could do these signs ... "
   f) John 5:36-39 - "the works I do bear witness ... "
4) Paul prophesied the gifts would pass.
   1 Corinthians 13:10 -The miraculous was considered immature in relation to the greatest gift- love.
   Miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit served a specific need at a specific time - it seems to be the conclusion that those needs are no longer applicable today.

4. MIRACULOUS EVENTS TODAY.

A. God Answers Prayers. James 5:16.

B. Miracles can be of Satan. 2 Thessalonians.2:9-10, Deuteronomy.13:1-5, Matthew. 7:22 & 24:24.

C. Miraculous activity is not necessarily conclusive of salvation. Matthew. 7:22 & Numbers 22:21-28.

God is certainly alive and active today in the lives of Christians) and He has certainly given us everything that we need for life and Godliness through the true knowledge of His son Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 1:3.

Notes:

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED)

ONLY THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE EMPOWERING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ACTS 2.

1) The context of the "these, them & they" suggest that it is only referring to the twelve Apostles.

2) The promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1: 5 was only made to the twelve Apostles John 16:12-13)

3) The angel referred to them as men from Galilee (Acts 1: 11)

4) The Apostles are individually identified by name (Acts 1: 13)

5) Those speaking in tongues were noted as being from Galilee (Acts 2:7)

6) Peter took his stand to defend the eleven, presumably only the Apostles were being accused of being drunk and disorderly (Acts 2: 14)

7) The Apostles were asked what all this meant (Acts 2:37)

8) The Apostles were considered to be the authoritative ones whose teaching were to be considered (Acts 2:42)

The only conclusion from this is that the twelve Apostles were the only ones to receive the miraculous baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4.

Notes:

9. THE HOLY SPIRIT (CONTINUED)

I CORINTHIANS 14

To comprehend I Corinthians we must understand that the instruction given is intended to be corrective to some of the attitudes that the Corinthian Christians were practicing. In general it would seem they were using spiritual gifts to emphasise greater Christian maturity. "I have the gift of tongue speaking therefore I'm more mature, ah! but he has the gift of prophecy so he must be the most mature etc."

UNDERSTANDING THE TERMINOLOGY

A. TONGUE SPEAKING

The miraculous ability to speak a foreign language without any previous experience or teaching. Acts 2:6,8 & 11 The men who heard the tongue speakers could understand them speaking in their own native language.

B. INTERPRETATION

The miraculous ability to translate the foreign language. I Corinthians 14:5 One man had to translate the tongue speaking so the whole church could understand the message.

C. PROPHECY

The miraculous ability to speak for God. The word today means to look into the future, however in Biblical times a prophet was one who would simply convey to the people the will of God. Moses was told that God would tell him what to say. Exodus 4: 10-17. Jeremiah was also appointed as a spokesman or prophet of God. Jeremiah.1:4-10.

1) If a man speaks with a tongue but there is no interpreter, then only God will be able to understand. (I Corinthians 14: 1-4)
2) The gift of prophesy is of more benefit than tongue speaking - because it builds up the church. (I Corinthians 14:5)
3) All tongue speaking is an identifiable language. (I Corinthians 14:7-10)
4) Tongue speaking should always be accompanied by an interpreter otherwise the church does not benefit. (I Corinthians 14:5 & 27-28)
5) Tongue speaking was to preach to the unbelieving. (I Corinthians 14:22)
6) All things are to be done to benefit or edify the church. (I Corinthians 14:5, 12, 18-19, 26, 31 & 40)

Response -Although a difficult subject this study should help us to see that the Holy Spirit needs a common sense approach, and not an emotion driven reaction.

Notes:

10. THE CHURCH.

To show that God adds us to His body of saved people, the church - not a building, but a living organism.

1. EPHESIANS 2:19-21 - GOD'S HOUSEHOLD.

3) Built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets.
2) Christ Jesus himself being the chief cornerstone.
3) Christians are a dwelling place for God.

2. 1CORINTHIANS 12:12 - ONE BODY.

1) Many individual members.
2) Equal concern for each part.
3) Each part is vital to the body.

3. ROMANS 12:4-5 - WE'RE ALL FAMILY.

4. HEBREWS 3:12-13 - ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER.

1) Look out for each others welfare.
2) Must be in daily contact.
3) Sin hardens, slowly.

5. HEBREWS 10:24-25 - DON'T STOP MEETING TOGETHER.

1) Consider how to stimulate one another.
2) Be a giver, not a taker.

6. ACTS 2:42 - CONTINUE ON DAILY.

1) Be devoted to -Apostles teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread & prayer.
2) Gave as they had need.
3) Met daily from house to house.
4) Had glad sincere hearts.
5) The Lord added daily to their number.

The Church is often referred to as "the saved", "the saints" or "the called". It is also the kingdom of God, where God rules in men hearts. The Lord himself adds us to it, not man, it is alive and responsible for delivering God's saving message to a lost and dying world.

Response -After this study it should be clear that we need to get close to our family the church and attend as many services as possible.

Notes:

11. USEFUL TO GOD.

To remain growing and useful to God there are certain qualities o f life that we must constantly attain to.

1. JOHN 9:30:34 - REMAIN TEACHABLE.

1) The sin of the Pharisee was that he was unteachable. (:34.You were born entirely in sin, and are you trying to teach us?).
2) Always remain open to being taught new things in relation to the word of God.

2. HEBREWS 5:11-14- BECOME A TEACHER.

1) We all should become mature enough to be teachers.
2) In teaching others, we grasp greater spiritual truths (Solid food).
3) The practice of God's word causes us to be able to discern good and evil.

3. 2 PETER 1:4-11 - KEEP GROWING.

1) You've escaped the world.
2) You've become part of God.
3) Be hard working to grow in the qualities described in these scriptures.
4) These qualities make us useful to God.
5) If these qualities are yours and increasing they will ensure your salvation.

Response - This study should produce a strong desire to grow and mature in Christ - Can you imagine being useful to the creator of the universe?

Notes:

1a. SIGNS TO BELIEVE IN JESUS.

Signs that we might believe that Jesus is the son of God John 20:30-31).

1. JOHN 2:1-11 - JESUS THE MASTER OF QUALITY.

1) Jesus turns water into wine.
2) Our lives should reflect quality in our service to Him.

2. JOHN 4:46-54 - JESUS THE MASTER OF DISTANCE.

1) He cures a diseased son in Capernaum while in Cana of Galilee.
2) Whether we live in Austria or Australia.
3) Jesus can touch your life - right now.

3. JOHN 5:1-9 - JESUS THE MASTER OF TIME.

1) Cures a man who has been sick 38 years at Bethesda.
2) You may be 4 or 64 Jesus can still touch your life.

4. JOHN 6:1-14 -JESUS THE MASTER OF QUANTITY.

1) Feeds the 5,000 at Galilee.
2) The billions of souls in the world are not too great a number for Jesus.

5. JOHN 6:16-21 -JESUS THE MASTER OF NATURE.

1) Walks on the sea of Galilee.
2) We shouldn't be too disturbed by the elements - we know who's in control!

6. JOHN 9:1-7 -JESUS THE MASTER OF MISFORTUNE.

1) Brings sight to a man born blind.
2) Christ is the Lord of all people, no matter what their circumstances.

7. JOHN 11:38-44 -JESUS THE MASTER OVER DEATH.

1) Raises Lazarus from the dead.
2) Because He can raise Lazarus,
3) He'll raise you if you let Him.

Jesus is the master of Quality, Distance, Time, Quantity, Nature, Misfortune and Death itself. Will you decide to make Jesus master of your life?

Notes:

1 b. JESUS COMPASSIONATE TO ALL.

"Jesus reached out to all types of people, even to those that we are intimidated by, and consider unreachable.

1. LUKE 4:16-30 - THE BEARER OF GOOD NEWS.

1) Preach the good news to the poor.
2) Proclaim release to the captives.
3) Open the eyes of the blind.
4) Set free the downtrodden.
5) Proclaim the favourable year of the Lord.

2. JOHN 4:1-27 - THE ABSOLUTE IMMORAL PAGAN.

1) Samaritan woman was a social outcast.
2) Jesus disciples were critical of her.
3) Consider the prostitutes, pimps, drop outs & immoral.

3. MARK 5:1-20 - THE DEMON POSSESSED & DRIVEN.

1) Nobody can get along with him.
2) Nobody wants to be around him.
3) Everybody is afraid of him.
4) Consider the drunkards, drug addicts, retarded & insane.

5. LUKE 19:1-10 - THE SELF MOTIVATED ACHIEVERS.

1) Zacheus was rich.
2) Successful at the expense of others.
3) The executive, the millionaire the workaholic.

6. JOHN 3:1-7 - THE HIGHLY RELIGIOUS.

1) Knowledgeable in God's word.
2) Prominent in religion.
3) Apollos was converted (Acts 18:24-28.)
4) Consider the holy-rollers denominational preachers, eastern holy men & cult leaders.

Do we see people as prospects for the good news, reaching towards all walks of life with compassion for all the lost.

Notes:

lc. WHO STOLE THE BODY OF JESUS?

There's an empty tomb in Jerusalem, and at some time in life each one of us is going to have to deal with the question of what happened to the body of Jesus.

1. THE JEWS? - MATTHEW 27:62-66.
The Jews knew of Jesus prophecy to be resurrected.
It was in the Jewish interest to keep the body of Jesus in the tomb. Acts 5:28. If the Jews did have the body of Jesus why did they not produce it?

2. THE DISCIPLES? - MARK 14:50.
When Jesus was arrested His disciples led. Mark 16:14. His disciples had to be convinced that He was resurrected. Why go back and preach in Jerusalem, where the facts could be veri ied? Acts 12:2-3. Why didn't the disciples produce the body when they faced death?

3. THE ROMANS? - WHAT INTEREST COULD THEY POSSIBLY HAVE IN THE CORPSE OF AN INSURRECTIONIST.
When Christianity became a threat to Rome why didn't the Romans produce the corpse?

4. GRAVE ROBBERS? - IN THOSE DAYS ROBBERS BROKE IN TO TOMBS TO STEAL VALUABLES NOT CORPSES.
Body snatching began in the 15th century.
How did they get past the Roman guard?
Why did they leave the grave clothes?

5. WRONG TOMB? - MATTHEW 27:57-61.
Both Marys' knew where Jesus was buried.
John 20: 1-8. Grave clothes were there.

6. DIDN'T REALLY DIE. COULD SOMEONE BEATEN AND CRUCIFIED ALMOST TO DEATH CONVINCE SO MANY THAT HE WAS VICTORIOUS OVER DEATH?Mark 16:4. How could a wounded man roll away the stone?

7. WAS IT A GHOST? - I CORINTHIANS 15:1-8.
Could a ghost convince so many individuals that He was victorious over death?

At some time you are going to have to come up with a good answer to the question, "What happened to the body of Jesus?"

Notes:

ld. WHY SHOULD I LISTEN TO JESUS?

Why listen to the teachings of a man who has been dead 2,000 years?

1. MARK 9:1-7 - BECAUSE GOD SAID TO LISTEN TO HIM.
When God tells us to pay attention we'd be fools to ignore Him.

2. LUKE 6:46-49 - BECAUSE YOUR HOUSE WILL STAND.
God promises to bless all of our efforts as long as we seek His will.

3. JOHN 12:46-48 - BECAUSE HIS WORD WILL JUDGE US.
God is preparing us in this life.
He's giving us a test - however He's already given us all the answers, we would be very foolish to go through this life totally unprepared.

4. ACTS 3:22-23 - BECAUSE IF I DON'T LISTEN I'LL BE UTTERLY DESTROYED.
God has done everything to reconcile us to Himself, now if I fail to meet His terms He'll have no choice but to send me away.

5. ROMANS 10:17 - BECAUSE I'LL DEVELOP FAITH IN GOD AND LEARN TO TRUST HIM.
The more I learn about God, through His word, the more I'll be able to depend upon Him, and put my life in His capable hands.

6. 1 CORINTHIANS 14:37-38 - BECAUSE THE WHOLE BIBLE IS THE WORD OF THE LORD.
Paul may have signed his name to it, but if it's in the Bible, it's inspired by God, and is profitable for life.

Acting upon the teachings of Jesus brings more satisfaction.

Notes:

le. JESUS THE SON OF MAN (PART I)

Jesus is a complete man: He knows and cares in every situation.

1. MARK 1:32-34 - WHEN WE'RE TIRED, HE CARES.
When its late at night and you've had a hard day, and you just want to put your feet up and relax.

2. MARK 1:35 - WHEN WE WANT TO BE ALONE.
When you've hardly slept a wink, you just want to spend some time alone and still people are coming to you.

3. MARK 1:40 - WHEN NO ONE WANTS TO KNOW YOU.
When you don't quite fit in, no one seems to care - Jesus cares.

4. MARK 3:1-6-WHEN BEING REJECTED FOR DOING GOOD.
When the good you do backfires or is misunderstood, you are rebuked when you should be thanked.

5. MARK 5:35-42 - WHEN PEOPLE MAKE FUN OF YOU.
They'll laugh at you, they laughed at Jesus - but those that belong to Christ will have the last laugh.

6. MARK 6:1-4 - WHEN YOUR FAMILY REJECT YOU.
Often people that are closest to us should be the ones we thought would understand, hurt us the most - Jesus understands.

7. MARK 6:30-32 - WHEN YOU ARE OVERWORKED.
Sometimes we just need to escape from the world for a while. If you let Him, He'll find you a quiet place.

Jesus is a real man and can understand all of our struggles.

Notes:

lf. JESUS THE SON OF MAN (PART II.)

The real man Jesus suffered grievous pains for us.

1. MARK 14:32-35 - WHEN YOU ARE DEEPLY SORROWFUL.
Jesus understands when you despair of life itself.

2. MARK 14:40 - WHEN FRIENDS LET YOU DOWN.
When even your closest friends fail you and let you down.

3. MARK 14:44- WHEN A FRIEND BETRAYS YOU.
Betrayed by a loved & trusted friend. Jesus knows how it feels.

4. MARK 14:50 - WHEN FRIENDS DESERT YOU.
Abandoned by close friends, Jesus knows exactly how it feels, and he never will abandon you.

5. MARK 14:56- WHEN PEOPLE LIE ABOUT YOU.
Jesus was slandered to His face, He knows the pain of someone's false accusations against you.

6. MARK 14:65 - WHEN PEOPLE MOCK & SPIT AT YOU.
Jesus understands the ultimate insult when someone despises you so much that they spit in your face.

7. MARK 14:71 - WHEN YOUR BEST FRIEND CURSES YOU.
Your very special friend, the one who is so close to you, disowns you. Jesus knows and cares.

'*When my life seems to be impossible to bear - remember Jesus understands because he's been there.*'

Notes:

1g. THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

To help us to understand the deep love that God has for each and every one of us - shown in the suffering of His son.

1. MATTHEW 26:36-46 - THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE.

1) Jesus doesn't want to die.
2) Jesus is grieved, He's in agony.
3) Jesus chooses God's will - crucifixion.

2. MATTHEW 26:57-68 - JESUS BEING HUMILIATED.

1) False accusations.
2) Jesus is beaten.

3. MATTHEW 27:26 - JESUS BEING SCOURGED.

1) Whipped almost to death.
2) Back tom up to expose blood vessels etc.

4. MATTHEW 27:33-50 - JESUS BEING CRUCIFIED.

1) Hanging on the cross.
2) Hatred from the people as they hurl abuse.
3) Jesus separated from God (Psalm 22).
4) Jesus dead.

5. MATTHEW 28:1-20 - JESUS BEING RESURRECTED.

1) Sunday, first day of the week.
2) He's risen.
3) Jesus has all authority.
4) Go make disciples.
5) Baptise the disciples.
6) Teach disciples to teach others.

We all must carefully consider the sacrifice that God made for us, then choose to follow him.

Notes:

lh. THE CRUCIFIXION (A MEDICAL PERSPECTIVE)

An article by C. Truman Davis, M.D., M.S.from -"*Arizona Medicine*" March 1965
"*The Passion of Christ from a Medical Point of View*"

In this paper, I shall discuss some of the physical aspects of the passion or suffering of Jesus Christ. We shall follow him from Gethsemane, through his trial, his scourging, his path along the Via Delorosa, to his last dying hours on the cross.

I became interested in this about a year ago when I read an account of the crucifixion in Jim Bishop's book, *The Day Christ Died.*

I suddenly realised that I had taken the crucifixion more or less for granted all these years, that I had grown callous to its horror by a too easy familiarity with the grim details and a too distant friendship with him. It finally occurred to me that as a physician I didn't even know the actual immediate cause of death. The gospel writers don't help us very much on this point, because crucifixion and scourging were so common during their lifetime that they undoubtedly considered a detailed description totally superfluous, so we have the concise words of the evangelists:
"Pilate, having scourged Jesus, delivered him to them to be crucified, and they crucified him."

I am indebted to many who have studied this subject in the past, and especially to a contemporary colleague, Dr. Pierre Barbel, a French surgeon who has done exhaustive experimental and historical research and has written extensively on the subject. The infinite psychic and spiritual suffering of the incarnate God in atonement for the sins of fallen man I have no competence to discuss; however, the physiological and anatomical aspects of the Lord's passion we can examine in some detail.....what did the body of Jesus of Nazareth actually endure during those hours of torture?

This led me first to a study of the practice of crucifixion itself; that is, the torture and execution of a person by fixation to a cross. Apparently, the first known practice of crucifixion was by the Persians. Alexander and his generals brought it back to the Mediterranean world – to Egypt and to Carthage.

The Romans apparently learned the practice from the Carthaginians and (as with almost everything the Romans did) rapidly developed a very high degree of efficiency and skill in carrying it out. A number of Roman authors (Livy, Cicero, Tacitus) comment on it. Several innovations and modifications are described in the ancient literature; I'll mention only a few which have some bearing here. The upright portion of the cross (or stipes) could have the croo-arm (or patibulum) attached two or three feel below its top – this is what we commonly think of today as the classical form of the cross (the one which we have later named the Latin cross): however, the common form which was used in our Lord's day was the Tau cross (shaped like the Greek letter tau or like our T). In this cross the patibulum was placed in a notch at the top of the stipes. There is fairly overwhelming archeological evidence that it was on this type of cross that Jesus was crucified.

The upright post, or stipes, was generally permanently fixed in the ground at the site of execution and the condemned man was forced to carry the patibulum, apparently weighing about 110 pounds, from the prison to the place of execution. Without any historical or biblical proof, medieval and Rennaisance painters have given us our picture of Christ carrying the entire cross.

Many of these painters and most of the sculptures of crucifixes today show the nails through the palms. Roman historical accounts and experimental work have shown that the nails were driven between the small bones of the wrists and not through the palms. Nails driven through the palms will strip out through the fingers when they support the weight of a human body. The misconception may have come about through a misunderstanding of Jesus' words to Thomas, "Observe my hands". Anatomists, both modern and ancient, have always considered the wrists as part of the hand.

A titulus, or small sign, stating the victim's crime was usually carried at the front of the procession and later nailed to the cross above the head. This sign with its staff nailed to the top of the cross would have given it somewhat the appearance of the Latin cross.

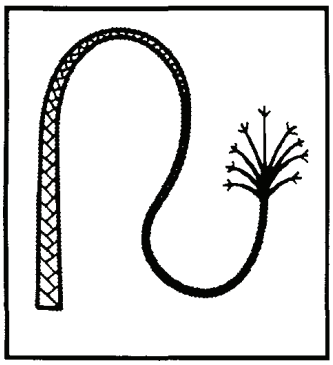
The physical passion of the Christ begins in Gethsemane. Of the many aspects of this initial suffering, I shall only discuss the one of physiological interest; the bloody sweat. It is interesting that the physician of the group, Luke, is the only one to mention this. He says, "and being in agony, he prayed the longer. And his sweat became as drops of blood, trickling down upon the ground." Every attempt imaginable has been used by modern scholars to explain away this phrase, apparently under the mistaken impression that this just doesn't happen.

A great deal of effort could be saved by consulting the medical literature. Though very rare, the phenomenon of Hematidrosis, or bloody sweat, is well documented. Under great stress, tiny capillaries in the sweat glands can break, thus mixing blood with sweat. This process alone could produce marked weakness and possible shock.
We shall move rapidly through the betrayal and arrest; I must stress again that important portions of the Passion story are missing from this account. This may be frustrating to you, but in order to adhere to our purpose of discussing only the purely physical aspects of the passion, this is necessary. After the arrest in the middle of the night. Jesus was brought before the Sanhedrin and Caiaphas, the high priest; it is here that the first physical trauma was inflicted. A soldier struck Jesus in the face for remaining silent when questioned by Caiaphas.

The palace guards then blindfolded him and mockingly taunted him to identify them as they each passed by, spat on him, and struck him in the face.

In the early morriJng, Jesus, battered and bruised, dehydrated, and exhausted from a sleepless night, is taken across Jerusalem to the practorium of the fortress Antonia, the seat of the government of the procurator of Judea, Pontius Pilate. You are, of course familiar with Pilate's action in
attempting to pass responsibility to Herod Antipas, the tetrarch of Judea. Jesus apparently suffered no physical mistreatment at the hands of Herod and was returned to Pilate. It was then, in response to the cries of the mob, that Pilate ordered Bar- Abbas released and condemned Jesus to scourging and crucifixion. There is much disagreement among authorities about scourging as a prelude to crucifixion. Most Roman writers from this period do not associate the two. However many scholars believe that Pilate originally ordered Jesus to be scourged as his full punishment, and that the death sentence by crucifixion came only in response to the taunt of the mob that the procurator was not properly defending Caesar against this pretender who claimed to be the King of the Jews.

Preparations for the scourging are carried out. The prisoner is stripped of clothing and his hands are tied to a post above his head. It is doubtful whether the Romans made any attempt to follow the Jewish law in the matter of Scourging. The Jews had an ancient law prohibiting more than forty lashes. The Pharisees, always making sure that the law was strictly kept, insisted that only thirty-nine lashes be given. (In case of a miscount, they were sure of remaining v.ithin the law.) The Roman legionnaire steps forward with the flagrum (or flagellum) in his hand.



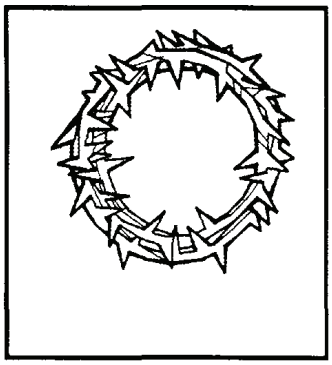


Figure 1. Figure 2.
The flagrum (Figure 1) is a short whip consisting of several, perhaps nine heavy leather thongs with two small balls of lead, broken glass or sharp stones attached near the ends of each.

The hemy whip is brought down with full force again and again across Jesus' shoulders, back and legs. At first the hemy thongs cut through the skin only. Then, as the blows continue, they cut deeper into the subcutaneous tissues, producing first an oozing of blood from the capillaries and veins of the skin, and finally spurting arterial bleeding from vessels in the underlying muscles. The small balls of lead, glass or stones would first produce bruises which are then broken by subsequent blows. Finally the skin of the back is hanging in long ribbons and the entire area is an unrecognisable mass of torn, bleeding tissue. When it is determined by the centurian in charge that the prisoner is near to death, then the beating is finally stopped.

The half-fainting Jesus is then untied and allowed to slump to the stone pavement, wet with His own blood. The Roman soldiers see a great joke in this provincial Jew claiming to be a king. They throw a robe across His shoulders and place a stick in his hand for a sceptre. They still need a crown to make their travesty complete. A small bundle of flexible long thorned branches (commonly used for fire wood) are plaited into the shape of a crown and this is then pressed into His scalp (Figure 2). Again there is copious bleeding (the scalp being one of the most vascular areas of the body.) After mocking him and striking Him across the face, the soldiers take the stick from his hands and strike Him across the head, driving the thorns deeper into his scalp. Finally, they tire of their sadistic sport and the robe is torn from His back. This garment had already become adherent to the clot of blood and serum in the wounds, and il removal, just as in the careless removal of a surgical bandage, causes excruciating pain ..... almost as though He were again being whipped, the wounds would again open up and begin to bleed profusely.

In deference to Jewish customs, the Romans returned His garments. The heavy patibulum of the cross is tied across His shoulders, and the procession of the condemned Christ, two thieves and the execution detail of Roman soldiers, headed by the centurian, begins its slow journey along the Via Delorosa. In spite of his efforts to walk, the weight of the heavy wooden beam, together with the shock produced by the copious blood loss, is too much. Jesus stumbles and falls. The rough wood of the beam gouges into his lacerated skin and the muscles of His shoulders. He tries to rise, but human flesh has been pushed beyond its endurance. The centurian, anxious to get on with the crucifixion, selects a stalwart North Africa onlooker, Simon of Cyrene, to carry the cross. Jesus follows, still bleeding and sweating the cold clammy sweat of shock. The 650 yard journey from the fortress Antonia to Golgotha is finally completed. The prisoner is again stripped of His clothes - except for a loin cloth which is allowed by the Jewish officials.

The crucifixion begins. Jesus is offered wine mixed with myrrh, a mild analgesic mixture. He refuses to drink. Simon is ordered to place the patibulum on the ground and Jesus is quickly thrown backwards with His shoulders against the rough wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square, wrought iron nail through the wrist and deep into the wood. Quickly, he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flexion and movement. The patibulum is then lifted into place at

the top of the stipes. And the titulus reading "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews" was nailed into place.The left foot is pressed backwards against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes downward, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees moderately flexed. The victim is now crucified. As He slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrist, excruciating, fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain. The nails in the wrist are putting pressure on the median nerves, as He pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, grasping for air, He places His full weight on the nail so cruelly driven through His feet. Again there is the searing agony of the nail tearing through nerves between the metatarsal bones of the feet.

At this point another phenomenon occurs. As the arms fatigue, great waves of cramps sweep over the muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability to push himself upward. Hanging by His arms, the pectoral muscles are paralysed and the intercostal muscles are unable to act. Air can be drawn into the lungs, but cannot be exhaled. Jesus fights to raise Himself in order to get even one short gasp of breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream and cramps begin to partially subside. Spasmodically, He is able to push Himself upward to exhale and bring in the meagre amounts of life giving oxygen. It was undoubtedly during these periods that He uttered the seven short sentences which are recorded from the cross.

The first, looking down at the Roman soldiers throwing dice for His seamless garment, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do".

The second, to the penitent thief, "Today you shall be with me in paradise".

The third, looking down at the terrified, grief stricken, adolescent John, (the beloved apostle), He said, "Behold your mother," and looking at Mary, His mother,"Woman behold your son".

The fourth cry is from the beginning of the 22nd psalm. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

Hours of this limitless pain, cycles of twisting, join trending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from His lacerated back as He moves up and down against the crude timber grasping for precious breath. Then another agony begins. A heavy crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with serum and begins to compress the chambers of His heart.

Let us remember again the 22nd psalm and the 14th verse, "I am poured out like water, and all of my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax, it is melted in the midst of my bowels".

It is now almost over - the loss of tissue and fluids has reached a critical level, the compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy thick blood into the failing tissue, the tortured lungs are making a frantic effort to grasp in small gulps of air. The markedly dehydrated tissues send their flood of stimuli to the brain.

Jesus gasps His fifth cry, "I thirst".
Let us remember another verse in the prophetic 22nd psalm; "My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to the roof of my jaw; and you have brought me into the dust of death".

A sponge soaked in Posca, the cheap, sour wine, which is the staple drink of the Roman legion, is lifted up to His lips. He apparently doesn't take any liquid. The body of Jesus is now in extremis and He can feel the chill of death creeping through His tired tissues. This realisation brings out His sixth sentence, possibly now little more than a tortured whisper. "It is finished".

His mission of atonement has been completed. Finally He can allow his body to die. With one last surge of strength, He once again presses His torn feet against the nail, straightens His legs, takes a deep breath, and utters His seventh and final cry, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit".

The rest you know. In order that the Sabbath not be profaned, the Jews asked that the condemned men be dispatched and removed from the cross. The common method of ending crucifixion was by crucifracture, the breaking of the bones of the legs. This prevented the victim from pushing himself upward; the tension could not be relieved from the muscles in the chest, and rapid suffocation occurred. The legs of the two thieves were broken, but when they came to Jesus, they saw that this was unnecessary.

Apparently to make doubly sure of His death the legionnaire drove his lance through the fifth interspace between the ribs, upward through the pericardium and into the heart. The 34th verse of the 19th chapter of the Gospel according to John states "And immediately there came out blood and water". Thus, there was an escape of watery fluid from the sac surrounding the heart along with blood from the interior of the heart.

We therefore, have rather conclusive post mortem evidence that Our Lord died, not the usual cruel crucifixion death of suffocation, but death by heart failure due to excessive shock and constriction of the heart by fluid in the pericardium.

Thus we have seen a glimpse of the epitome of evil which man can exhibit towards man, and toward God. This is not a pretty sight and is apt to leave us despondent and depressed. However we can be grateful that this one incidence does have a sequel. A glimpse of the infinite power and mercy of God towards mankind, the miracle of the atonement and the expectancy of the first easter morning.

2a. THE SUFFICIENCY OF GOD'S WORD.

To create in each one the desire to study God's word.

1. 2 PETER 1:3 - GOD'S WORD HAS GIVEN US EVERYTHING.

1) His word is sufficient for everything.
   a, Produces security.
   b, Produces compassion.
   c, Produces patience.
   d, Produces love, etc
2) Through a true knowledge of Jesus.
3) We must look more at Jesus.

2. PROVERBS 2:1-10 - GOD'S WORD PRODUCES WISDOM.

1) We must receive God's word.
2) Must treasure His commandments.
3) God's word is buried treasure.
4) If you knew where treasure was buried, would you dig it up?
5) God's word produces only good things.

3. DEUTERONOMY 11:18-25 - GOD'S WORD MUST MAKE AN IMPRESSION.

1) God's word must be taken to heart.
2) We must be constantly reminded of His word.
3) God's word should be taught and talked about at every opportunity.
4) Those who keep God's commandments are always victorious.

We must be hungry for the word o f God, to study and to live it.

Notes:

2b. ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOD'S WORD.

God's Word is the most important thing in the world. We must approach the Word with the correct attitude.

1. MATTHEW 5:6
- HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS.
A continual desire.

2. MATTHEW 7:7-11 - ASK, SEEK AND KNOCK.
Even evil fathers know how to give good gifts to their children.

3. JOHN 7:17 - BE WILLING TO DO GOD'S WILL.
1) Makes us able to distinguish truth from error.
2) Christianity is a lifestyle of doing.

4. 2 THESSALONIANS 2:10
- WE MUST LOVE THE TRUTH.
1) Truth about sin and separation from God.
2) Truth about grace and salvation.

5. 2 TIMOTHY 2:14-15
- DON'T WRANGLE ABOUT WORDS.
1) Be diligent and hard working.
2) Learn to handle Gods word accurately.

These attitudes should fill our lives, and daily nourish us, making it possible to concentrate upon getting closer to God.

Notes:

3a. THE BLESSINGS OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Although discipleship demands the greatest sacrifice and commitment it also produces the most beautiful rewards and blessings.

1. MARK 10:29-32 - OUR BLESSINGS IN CHRIST.

1) Things left behind for the gospel.
2) Magnified a hundred times in this life.
3) We leave our family and friends to become part of a bigger family.
4) We have eternal life.

2. JOHN 14:1-6 - OUR NEW HOME IN HEAVEN.

1) Christ is preparing our new dwelling.
2) It took six days to make the universe.
3) Our new home has taken 2,000 years - think how beautiful it will be!
4) God keeps His promises (remember the rainbow).

3. 1 JOHN 5:13-15 - OUR ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.

1) We can know we're saved.
2) We can have confidence.
3) He'll answer our prayers.

4. MATTHEW 7:24-27 - OUR SECURITY NOW.

1) We must act upon God's word.
2) Our lives and works will not be destroyed.
3) Discipleship although costly will bring more blessings than the hardships we often associate with it.

When I am a disciple of Jesus Christ and have given everything to Him, then no one can steal anything from me, I already surrendered it to God.

No one can hurt me anymore, because I'm dead and buried with Christ - at last I'm truly free.

Notes:

3b . MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP.

Christ has given us special distinguishing features to recognise us as christians.

1. JOHN 8:31-32 - ABIDE IN GOD'S WORD.

1) Take up permanent residence in His word.
2) His word will enlighten you.
3) His word will free you from sin.
4) Make Gods word your home.

2. JOHN 13:34-35 - LOVE ONE ANOTHER.

1) The love of each other is commanded.
2) We must love unselfishly as Christ loved.
3) Our love for one another will be a sign to the world that we are His disciples: (see 1 John 4:7-11).

3. JOHN 15:1-8 - BEAR MUCH FRUIT.

1) God's will becomes our will.
2) We glorify God by bearing fruit.
3) The fruit of an apple tree is an apple, the fruit of one Christian is another.
4) We prove our discipleship. (Matthew.28: 18-20).

4. JOHN 17:20-21 - BE UNITED.

1) Christians are to be united, as God and Christ are one.
2) Our unity will tell the world that the message of Christ is very real.

Are you maintaining the marks of a true disciple? If not start with God's natural process, study daily and make a conscious effort to love God and people, then fruit will be born.

Notes:

4a. SINS OF TIIE HEART/FLESH AND OMISSION.

To show that not only do we sin by our lustful thoughts, desires and actions - but also through our failure to act at the correct time.

1. MARK 7:20-23 - SINS OF THE HEART.

1) Sin is from within.
2) They proceed out of the mouth.
3) These sins are shown in our speech.

2. GALATIANS 5:19-21 - SINS OF THE FLESH.

1) Stand in opposition to the spirit.
2) They condemn the soul.
3) These sins are shown in our actions.

3. JAMES 4:17 - SINS OF OMISSION.

1) Knowing the right thing to do.
2) Omission condemns.
3) These sins are shown in our failure to respond.

4. LUKE 12:42-48 - THE FAITHFUL AND SENSIBLE.

1) Doing is considered faithful & sensible.
2) Greater knowledge produces greater responsibility.
   a) All to make disciples.----Matthew 28:19.
   b) Abide in Gods word. -------John 8:31-32.
   c) Love one another. --------John 13:34-35.
   d) Encourage daily. ------Hebrews 3: 12-16.
   e) Meet with the saints. ----Hebrews 10:25.

Praise the Lord that he has washed our sins away - now we need to show our gratitude by the way we live our lives.

Notes:

5a. DYING TO SIN DAILY.

To show that Christianity is a continual putting off of the old sinful nature. and a putting on of good things - growth.

1. LUKE 9:32 - DENY YOURSELF DAILY.

1) Make Christ your daily example.
2) What would Christ do in this situation.
3) Would I be ashamed if He caught me here? He is here!

2. ROMANS 12:1-2 - RENEW YOUR MIND DAILY.

1) Be selective in what you put into your mind.
2) Feed a dog crumbs you get a crumby dog.

3. GALATIANS 2:20 - LET CHRIST LIVE IN YOU DAILY.

1) You are dead, Christ now lives.
2) If you are easily offended or hurt you are not dead - you cannot hurt the dead.

4. MARK 9:42-48 - KILL SINS DAILY.

1) Develop God's attitude to sin.
2) Cut sin out of our lives.
3) Would you let germs run rampant in your kitchen? Don't let sin run rampant in your life.

5. PSALM 32:3-5 - SIN DRAINS AWAY VITALI1Y.

1) Unforgiven sin drains vitality.
2) Acknowledgment of sin brings refreshment.
3) Be vital, active and in touch with Jesus.Grow away from the sinful nature, towards God.

The only life that's worth living is one which strives to be Christlike each day - reaching for perfection.

Notes:

10a. THE CHURCH AND UNITY.

To show that the church isn't a social club, but the body of Christ, singular, alive and active in saving the lost.

1. JOHN 17:20-21 - JESUS PRAYED FOR UNITY.

1) All disciples to be one in Christ.
2) By our unity the world will know that God sent His son, Jesus.

2. 1 CORINTHIANS 1:10-17 - PAUL PLEADED FOR UNITY.

1) Don't follow people, follow Jesus.
2) Teach only the Gospel.

3. 1 CORINTHIANS 4:17
- TIMOTIIY WAS SENT TO TEACH UNITY.

1) Paul taught the same thing in every church.
2) Teach Christ's ways, not man's way.
3) A jelly mold of a rabbit will produce identical rabbits everywhere.

4. EPHESIANS 1:16 - BIBLE TEACHES UNITY.

1) Christianity is singular.
2) All should strive for unity.
3) Become a mature Christian.
4) Christ holds us together.
5) Like a football team, each member has a role to play.

Make every effort to work with all Christians towards unity - it's a command of God.

Notes:

11a. GOD IS ABLE.

Our God is more than able and we need to be constantly reminded of his great might.

1. 2 KINGS 6:8-17 - GOD THE GREATER.

1) He that is with us, is greater than he that is \\ith them.
2) Pray for your eyes of faith to be open.
3) When you are in Christ you are in the majority.

2. ISAIAH 40:21-26 - GOD THE CREATOR.

1) Earth is nothing compared to God's might.
2) God knows every star by name.
3) How much more will he care about you.

3. ROMANS 8:31 - GOD THE PROTECTOR.

1) If God is for us, who can be against us.
2) If He gave us His son - won't he freely give us all things, if we ask?
3) Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ - nothing!

4. 1JOHN 4:4 - GOD THE ALMIGHTY.

1) We are God's children.
2) We are victorious.
3) We're on the greatest team.
4) We may look to be little, defeated and the world may appear to be winning. But God's army will be victorious.

With God as our Father and Christ as our elder brother, can we ever be defeated?

Notes:

11b . DISCIPLINED FOR GROWTH.

To strive for the highest goal in our lives to be like Jesus, we must always remain pliable in the hands of the Lord.

1. REVELATION 2:1- 7 - THE DISCIPLINE OF THE CHURCH.

1) Encouraged for their good deeds.
2) Rebuked for their shortcomings.
3) Positive instruction.
   a) Remember - The blessings of Christ.
   b) Repent - Change your heart.
   c) Redo - Get back to work
4) The promised reward.

2. HEBREWS 12:1-3 - THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD.

1) My suffering is never as extreme as Christ's.
2) Without discipline we're illegitimate.
3) Discipline produces righteousness.
4) Consider a broken leg which has not been set properly.

3. PROVERBS - THE DISCIPLINE OF PEOPLE.

1) The Rebuke:

Proverb 9:7-9 .....Rebuke a wise man and he will love you.
Proverb 17- 10 .....A rebuke goes deeper into one of understanding.
Proverb 27-6 ..... Faithful are the wounds of a friend.

2) The Advice:

Proverb 12: 15 .....A wise man listens to counsel.
Proverb 15:22 .....With many counsellors plans succeed.
Proverb 19:16-27...Listen to counsel & accept discipline.

3) The Correction:

Proverb 12: I .....Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge.
Proverb 15:10, 32 ..He who hates discipline will die.

With the correct application of discipline, in love, we will all grow into powerful servants of the Lord.

Notes:

11c. THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN.

To Bible calls us more than conquerors, and so we are, we're the children of the King.

1. 2 CORINTHIANS 2:14-17 - WE'RE TRIUMPHANT.

1) Our supernatural father, takes natural people and does super things with them.
2) We're in a victory parade being led by Christ in triumph.

2. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-5 - WE'RE CONFIDENT.

1) When we know Jesus we're always confident.
2) He's given us a new heart.

3. 2 CORINTHIANS 3:18 - WE'RE RADIANT.

1) We can be open and honest.
2) We have been transformed to be just like Jesus.
3) Jesus is glorious.

4. 2 CORINTHIANS 5: 17 - WE'RE BRAND NEW.

1) We're new creatures in Christ.
2) All the past is erased.
3) All things are brand new.

5. 2 CORINTHIANS 5:18 - WE HAVE PURPOSE.

1) Our lives have reason and purpose.
2) We're ambassadors for Christ.
3) We're to reconcile men back to God.

Let's choose to live according to our calling, as victorious Christians.

Notes:

11d. GROWING UP IN JESUS.

This study is for recent converts to assure them, in the face of Satan's opposition.

1. 1PETER 5:6-11 - SATAN IS OUT TO GET YOU.

1) Be humble before the almighty God.
2) Resist Satan's temptations.
3) Christ will perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

2. MATTHEW 4:1-11 - IT IS WRITTEN.

1) Three times Satan tempted Jesus.
2) Three times Jesus thwarted Satan with a recurring statement (Matthew 4:4, 7 & 10).
3) We must defeat Satan the same way, with the Word of God.

3. 1 PETER 2:1-5 - GOD'S WORD IS OUR FOOD.

1) Put the old self aside.
2) Like a baby, long for God's word.
3) The word produces growth.
4) People will reject us.
5) We're precious to God.

4. ROMANS 8:31-39 - WE WILL BE WINNERS IN CHRIST.

1) Nothing can pull us away from Christ.
2) We stand as conquerors against all created things in Christ.

With the word o f God stored up in our hearts, we can more than stand against all temptations which Satan will throw at us.

Notes: