

# **FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

## ***Systematic Theology Course***

**Dr. William E. Bell**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This comprehensive course on the Doctrines of the Scriptures represents a complete study necessary for building a secure Biblical foundation into your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Foundations For Discipleship Course consists of nine volumes, each of which is subdivided into twelve 45-minute audio units. Each unit is accompanied and supplemented by a downloadable study guide.

Listen carefully to each audio message, and follow along in the printed material. Make notes on your printed study guide as needed, to help you grasp and retain the material. This will become your own personal notebook and can be used in training others. When needed, replay sections that you did not grasp the first time. It may be that the information is entirely new to you and needs to be run past you again, or perhaps you find that your mind wandered a bit. The great advantage of digital material over a live lecture is this flexibility of time, place and replay capabilities.

The normal pace is one unit per week with the entire course taking two years to complete. The pace may be accelerated cautiously if you desire, but should be kept modest enough so not to hinder comprehension. Ideally, the course would be done in a small-group setting where each participant works through a specific unit on a given weekend. The Bible study group would then meet during the week to listen to that week's audio unit again together accompanied by a time of sharing notes, discussion and prayer together.

### **Doctrinal Statement**

- The Bible alone and the Bible in its entirety is the Word of God written and is thus inerrant in the original manuscripts.
- There is only one true God, and He exists eternally in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is God the Son incarnate, born of a virgin, and sinless. He died a substitutionary, sacrificial death for man's sin, was raised bodily from the tomb, ascended bodily into heaven, and will return bodily in glory to this earth.
- Salvation is entirely by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit.
- The Christian life is substantially as taught in Volume 1, Units 5-6 of the organization's training material, and I do not subscribe to nor do I participate in any of the "distortions" therein discussed.
- The local church is at the very heart of God's program for this age, and I am an active, participating member of such an assembly.

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### **VOLUME 1**

**7**

#### **The Basics of the Christian Life**

Unit 01 – Introduction - The Great Commission	8
Unit 02 - The New Testament Strategy	9
Unit 03 - The Nature of Christian Salvation - Part 1	10
Unit 04 - The Nature of Christian Salvation - Part 2	13
Unit 05 - The Christian Life - What It Is Not	16
Unit 06 - The Christian Life - What It Is	20
Unit 07 - Is It OK for a Christian to ___? - Part 1	22
Unit 08 - Is It OK for a Christian to ___? - Part 2	23
Unit 09 - Prayer & the Devotional Life - Part 1	25
Unit 10 - Prayer & the Devotional Life - Part 2	27
Unit 11 - Sharing Your Faith - The Theology of Evangelism	30
Unit 12 - Sharing Your Faith - How To Do It	33

## **Introduction – The Great Commission**

### *Volume 1 - Unit 1*

#### **I. The Great Commission**

**Matthew 28:18-20** – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen.”

**Mark 16:15** – “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

**Acts 1:8** – “But ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

#### **II. World Statistics – 2002 Population: 6.3 Billion**

##### **World Religious Populations**

Roman Catholics	1,057,328,093
Independents	385,745,407
Protestants	342,001,605
Orthodox	215,128,717
Anglicans	79,649,642
Jews	14,434,039
Muslims	1,188,242,789
Hindus	811,336,265
Chinese folk-religionists	384,806,732
Buddhists	359,981,757
Ethno-religionists	228,366,515
Atheists	150,089,508
New-Religionists	102,356,297
Sikhs	23,258,412
Spiritists	12,333,735
Baha'is	7,106,420
Confucianists	6,298,597
Jains	4,217,979
Shintoists	2,761,845
Taoists	2,654,514
Zoroastrians	2,543,950
Mandaeans	38,977

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/clock2.html>

## **The New Testament Strategy**

### ***Volume 1 - Unit 2***

#### **III. The New Testament Model**

##### **A. Jesus**

1. ***Selection*** of a "hard-core" beginning group.
2. ***Association*** with them.
3. ***Obedience*** from them.
4. ***Teaching*** them--by precept and demonstration
5. ***Delegation*** of responsibility.
6. ***Supervision*** of performance.
7. ***Reproduction*** in other people.

##### **B. Paul**

1. Summary of the strategy - *Spiritual Multiplication*

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

2. Implementation of the strategy.

# **Nature of Christian Salvation - Part 1**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 3*

### **I. The Creation of Man**

#### A. Purpose

1. Fellowship (John 4:23, Revelation 3:20)

2. Dominion (Psalm 8:4-8)

#### B. Method (Genesis 2:7, 21-22)

#### C. Time

### **II. The Fall of Man**

#### A. The Test (Genesis 2:16-17)

#### B. The Temptation (Genesis 3:1-5)

#### C. The Disobedience

1. Eve - Deceived (Genesis 3:6a)

2. Adam - Deliberate (Genesis 3:6b)

#### D. The Punishment

1. The Serpent (Satan) (Genesis 3:14-15)

- a. Lowly position
- b. Enmity with man

2. Eve (Genesis 3:16)

- a. Sorrow of childbearing
- b. Subjection to the man

3. Adam (Genesis 3:17-19)

- a. Curse upon natural creation
- b. Arduous toil for physical survival
- c. Physical death for all human beings

E. Continuing Implications for Adam's Descendants

- 1. Curse upon natural creation - - - - - → man's lack of dominion → man vs. creation. (Hebrews 2:8)
- 2. Mortality - - - - - → physical death. (Romans 5:12, Hebrews 9:27)
- 3. Spiritual death - - - - - → the second death. (Revelation 20:14)
- 4. Adamic nature - - - - - → personal sins. (Romans 3:23)

### III. The Divine Dilemma

A. God's Holiness, Justice, Veracity Demand Punishment. (Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 6:23)

B. God's Love Desires Fellowship.

## **Scripture Memory**

### ***Addendum to Unit 3***

Beginning with this unit, we will all undertake a modest program of Scripture memory. Mature Christians everywhere testify to the benefits of having strategic portions of the Bible committed to memory. The purpose is simply to have certain key verses and passages immediately available when needed to stabilize our own lives and to assist in counseling others.

Experience has shown that overly ambitious programs start well but seldom are continued over the long haul. Since systematic review is essential to the retention of the verses, we must be realistic in evaluating the time and effort available from the typical busy person. Therefore, we are requiring only one verse per week. (Occasionally, two verses will be taken together to complete a thought.) The verses will pertain to the material currently being studied and will thus help to fix some key concepts in the mind. Specific verses will be selected for each unit, starting at this point and continuing through Volume 8. At the completion of Volume 8 (approximately 2 years), 94 verses will have been memorized, covering key doctrines and techniques of the Christian life.

**Suggested Techniques.** Don't be afraid to memorize. Even if you have been out of school for years, even if you may be well along in years, you can do it. It really isn't very difficult. Take the verse selected each week and read it over several times in the original context in which it occurs. This will help you to see the verse as an integral part of a passage - not just as an isolated proof text. Then attach the reference to it and read it over several times. (Some find it helpful to say the reference before and after the verse.) For example, taking our first verse, say: "Colossians 2:9 - For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily - Colossians 2:9. " Say this over and over again until you can repeat it without looking at the verse. Then say it many more times until it begins to get fixed in your mind. Go on about your other business, but try to say it again a few minutes later - and again periodically as you think of it during the day. If you have trouble, go back and look at it again and repeat the process. Review the verse many times a day for the first week. This will fix the verse in your mind and will also turn your attention periodically to the truth of the verse and thus help to keep us occupied with Christ each day.

Do the same thing with the verse for the following week, and (very important!) review last week's verse each day as well. In time you will find that some of the older, more familiar verses will need to be reviewed only two or three times a week - and eventually weekly or even less, but the newer verses will need daily review. The review is essential. Knowing a verse for a week is fine, but it is infinitely better to know it permanently. This is our goal - and retention comes only with systematic review. Your sponsor will help you at this point. He will check you out on your verses each week (and you might check to see that he knows them, too!).

As already indicated, our first memory verse has to do with the deity of Jesus Christ, and it will receive further comment in Unit 4.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE 1:** Colossians 2:9 – “For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.”

## **Nature of Christian Salvation - Part 2**

### *Volume 1 - Unit 4*

#### **IV. The Solution--The Atonement of Christ A. His Person**

##### A. His Person

###### 1. Humanity

a. The evidence (Hebrews 2:14)

b. The necessity

###### 2. Deity (Colossians 2:9)

a. The evidence

b. The necessity

###### 3. The Hypostatic Union (I Timothy 3:16)

Jesus Christ = The God-Man

##### B. His Work

###### 1. His death, viewed as:

a. Redemption (Rom. 3:24)

b. Propitiation (Rom. 3:25)



c. Substitution (I Peter 3:18)

d. Reconciliation (II Corinthians 5:18-19)

2. His resurrection (I Corinthians 15)

a. Evidence

b. Significance

C. The Appropriation (Acts 16:30-31)

1. The Means: Faith

2. The Object: Jesus Christ

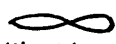
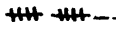
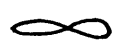
D. The Results

1. Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7)

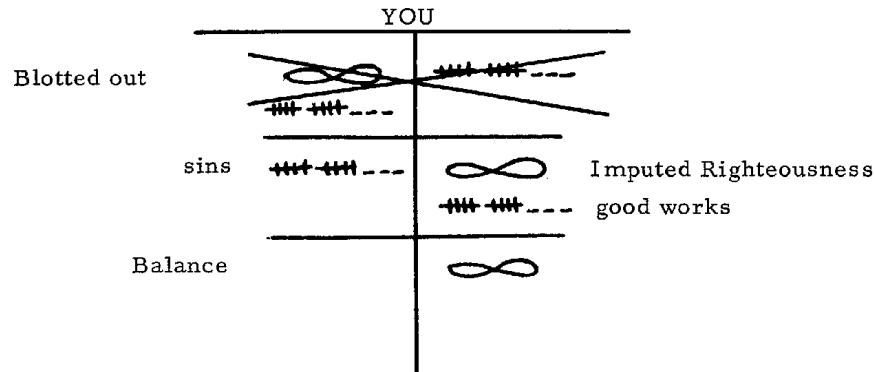
2. Imputation of Christ's Righteousness (II Corinthians 5:21)

3. Justification (Rom. 3:28)

a. Before

	Debits	YOU	Credits
sins	 +++ +---		 "good" works
Balance			

b. After



#### E. Christ's Salvation vs. Adam's Sin

1. Curse on nature - - - → Lifted, New Heavens, New Earth (II Peter 3:13)
2. Mortality - - - - - → Immortality (I Corinthians 15:51f.)
- Physical Death - - - - - → Resurrection (I Corinthians 15:23)
3. Spiritual death - - - - - → Reconciliation (Ephesians 2:1)
- Second death - - - - - → No condemnation (Rom. 8:1)
4. Adamic nature - - - - - → Control now (Rom. 6:6)
- - - - - → Removal eventually (Revelation 21:27)
- Personal sins - - - - - → Forgiveness (Ephesians 1:7)

#### F. The Assurance

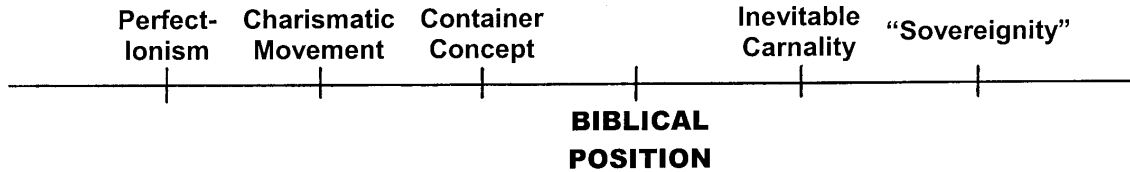
1. Subjective and progressive: Witness of Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16)
2. Objective and absolute: Witness of God's Word (I John 5:11-13)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE 2: Romans 3:28 – “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

# **The Christian Life - What It Is Not**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 5*

### **I. The Spectrum**



### **II. The Distortions**

#### **A. Sovereignty**

1. Psalm 76:10
2. Ephesians 1:11

#### **B. Perfectionism**

1. I John 3:6-10 (King James)
2. But cf. (compare) I John 1:8, 10.

#### **C. Inevitable Carnality - Romans 7:15-25**

#### **D. The Charismatic Movement**

1. The Baptism of the Spirit - The Second Work of Grace
  - a. What is it?

b. Who can get it?

c. When?

## 2. The Sign of the Baptism - The Gift of Tongues

### a. The Current Phenomena

(1) Nature

(2) Purpose

(3) Recipients

### b. The New Testament Phenomena

(1) Nature

(2) Purpose

(3) Recipients

### c. Evaluation of Current Phenomena

(1) Dissimilarities in nature, purpose and recipients

(2) Revelational aspect of the gift

(3) Counterfeits

(4) The concept of temporary gifts

(5) Conclusion

### 3. The Power of the Spirit-Filled--The Gift of Healing

#### a. Healing in the Atonement?

(1) Matthew 8:17--cf. Isaiah 53:4

(2) But also cf. II Corinthians 12:1-10

#### b. New Testament Purpose of Healing

(1) Mark 2:1-12

(2) Acts 2:22

(3) Hebrews 2:3-4

#### c. The Nature of Christian Suffering

### E. The Container Concept

#### 1. The Concept and Its Illustrations

#### 2. The Scriptures

a. Galatians 2:20

b. Colossians 2:27

c. Philippians 1:21

### 3. The Contradictions and Misconceptions

a. Philippians 4:13

b. Hebrews 4:16

c. I Timothy 6:12

d. I Timothy 1:18

e. II Timothy 2: 3-4

f. Ephesians 6:10f. (f. = "and following")

### 4. The Evaluation

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Romans 12:1-2 - "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your spiritual service, and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

1. Note the slight change from the King James--"spiritual" for "reasonable". The Greek word here is *logikos* and has the sense of that service which the priests used to render in the tabernacle and later in the temple. The thought is that Christians today are to present themselves to God as the counterpart of the animal offerings of the Old Testament.

2. Keep on reviewing your previous verses.

# **The Christian Life - What It Is**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 6*

### **I. The Surrender (Romans 12:1)**

A. Why?

B. How?

### **II. The Transformation (Romans 12:2)**

A. Why?

B. How? -- The Renewal of the Mind

### **III. The Renewal of the Mind (Romans 12:2)**

A. Occupation with Christ--Living in the Word (II Corinthians 3:18, Colossians 3:16)

B. The Work of the Indwelling Spirit (II Corinthians 3:18)

### **IV. The Daily Test**

A. Obedience ----- → Growth, Blessing (Rom. 6:16-23)

B. Disobedience ----- → Suspended Growth, Broken Fellowship

*Remedy:* Confession of Sin (I John 1:9)

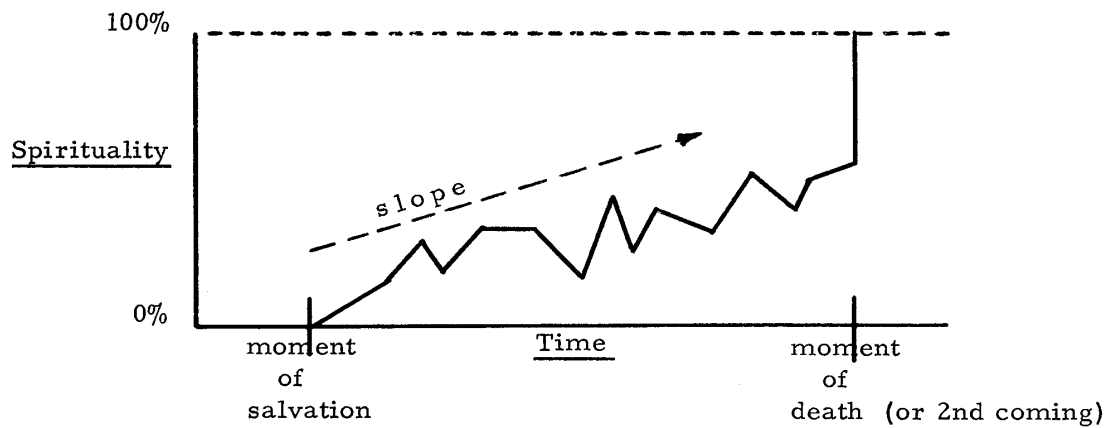
C. Illustration

## V. The Goal

A. Immediate: Maturity (Ephesians 4:13-15)

B. Ultimate: Made Like Christ (Romans 8:29)

## VI. Graphic Illustration



SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - I John 1:9 – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”



# **Is It OK for a Christian to\_\_\_? - Part 1**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 7*

### **I. The Check List**

#### A. Specific Scripture

#### B. The Christian's Body = Temple of the Holy Spirit

##### 1. The Doctrine (I Corinthians 6:19, 3:16, Rom. 8:9)

##### 2. The Implications

###### a. Physical

###### b. Mental

#### C. Spiritual Headship

##### 1. Husband - Wife

###### a. The Doctrine (Ephesians 5:22-33, Colossians 3:18-19, I Peter 3:1-7)

###### b. The Implications

##### 2. Parents - Children

###### a. The Doctrine (Ephesians 6:1-3, Colossians 3:20-21)

###### b. The Implications

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - I Corinthians 6:19-20 – “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

\*Note the change from "Holy Ghost" to "Holy Spirit". The word "ghost" is not a suitable rendering today, because it has the connotation of Halloween and spooks. The Greek word pneuma is better rendered by our word "spirit".

**Is It OK for a Christian to\_\_\_? - Part 2**  
*Volume 1 - Unit 8*

3. Elders - Congregation

a. The Doctrine (Acts 20:28, I Tim. 5:1, 19, Hebrews 13:7, 17, I Pet. 5:2-5)

b. The Implications

4. Government - Citizens

a. The Doctrine (Rom. 13:1-7, I Tim. 2:1-4, Tit. 3:1, I Pet. 2:13-17)

b. The Implications

5. Masters - Slaves

a. The Doctrine (Ephesians 6:5-9, Colossians 3:22--4:1, I Timothy 6:1-2, Tit. 2:9-10, I Pet. 2:18)

b. The Implications

D. The Weaker Brother

1. The Doctrine (Rom. 14:1 - 15:13, I Corinthians 8 - 10)

a. The Stronger Christian

b. The Weaker Christian

2. The Implications

### E. The Glory of God

#### 1. The Doctrine (I Corinthians 10:31)

#### 2. The Implications

## **II. Some Illustrations**

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSES - I Corinthians 10:31 – “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.

# **Prayer & the Devotional Life - Part 1**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 9*

### **I. WHO?**

#### A. Who May Pray?

1. Only priests have access to God (Hebrews 4:14-16, 10:19-22).
2. Universal priesthood of believers (I Pet. 2:9, Revelation 1:6)

#### B. To Whom?

1. To the Father
2. In the name of the Son
3. In the power of the Holy Spirit

### **II. WHAT?**

A. Confession (I John 1:9, Psalm 66:18, Isaiah 59:1-2)

B. Worship and Praise (I Kings 8:23f., Matt. 6:9)

C. Thanksgiving (Luke 17:17, Phil. 4:6)

D. Petitions - For Others and Self (Phil. 4:6)

Prerequisites for Answers:

1. In Christ's Name (John 14:13-15, 16:24)

2. According to God's Will (I John 5:14)

a. How do we know?

(1) The Word (John 15:7)

(2) The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26-27, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20)

b. Examples

3. Glory to God (John 14:13-15, James 4:2-3)

4. Ask in Faith (Mk. 11:24, Matt. 21:22, James 1:6) - How to increase faith? - Romans 10:17

5. Accompanied by Obedience (John 14:15, I John 3:22)

### **III. WHEN?**

A. General Answer - Always (I Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18)

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - John 16:24 - "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name; ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

## **Prayer & the Devotional Life - Part 2**

### *Volume 1 - Unit 10*

#### ***(III. WHEN? Cont.)***

##### **B. Specifics on when to pray**

1. Morning
2. In the Word
3. When we sin
4. Before difficult situations
5. After answers and victories

#### **IV. WHERE?**

##### **A. General Answer - Anywhere**

##### **B. Specifics (Matt. 6:6)**

#### **V. WHY?**

##### **A. God's Command (John 16:24)**

##### **B. God Answers - Necessary for:**

1. Victory over Satan (Ephesians 6:18)

2. Obtaining things from God (James 4:2)

### C. Biblical Examples

1. Apostles (Rom. 1:9)
2. Christ
  - a. On earth (Mk. 1:35, Luke 6:12)
  - b. Now (Hebrews 7:25)

## **VI. No Answer?**

### A. Sin

1. Unbeliever (See Section I.)
2. Marital problems (I Pet. 3:7)
3. Unforgiving attitude (Mk. 11:25)
4. Selfishness (James 4:2-3)
5. Disobedience (I John 3:22)

### B. Not God's Will (Now, at least) - Examples:

1. Marriage partner
2. Healing - Why Christian Suffering?

- a. Sin (I Corinthians 11:30)
- b. To produce dependence on God (II Corinthians 12)
- c. To glorify God (Job, John 11:4, 1 Pet. 1:7, 4:12-14)
- d. To build Christian maturity (Jam. 1:2, Rom. 5:3, 8:28-29, 1 Pet. 5:10)
- e. To comfort others (II Corinthians 1:3-4)
- f. To promote longing for glorified body (Rom. 8:22-23)

#### C. Dependent on Volition of Others

- 1. Salvation of lost
- 2. Behavior of saved/lost

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - I John 5:14-15 – “And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him.”



# **Sharing Your Faith - The Theology of Evangelism**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 11*

### **I. The Great Commission - Obedience**

### **II. The Great Commission - Rationale**

#### **A. Universalism**

##### **1. Typical (but otherwise diverse) advocates**

a. Nels Ferre

b. James Pike

c. Paul Tillich

d. Karl Barth

##### **2. The premise**

a. Similarity of religions

b. Religion - culturally oriented

c. No finality - syncretism

#### **B. The Biblical View of Non-Christian Religions**

##### **1. Old Testament**

a. Cain (Genesis 4)

b. Abram (Genesis 12f.)

- c. Egypt (Exodus 12:12)
- d. First commandment (Exodus 20:3-4)
- e. Joshua and the Canaanites (Book of Joshua)
- f. Elijah and Baal (I Kings 18)
- g. Daniel and comrades in Babylon (Dan. 3, 6)
- h. Isaiah and apostate Judaism (Isaiah 1)

## 2. New Testament

- a. Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3)
- b. Jesus as Bread (John 6)
- c. Jesus as Light (John 8)
- d. Jesus as the Door (John 10)
- e. Jesus as the Way (John 14:6)
- f. Peter and the Sanhedrin (Acts 4:12)
- g. The One Mediator (I Tim. 2:5)
- h. Paul at Athens (Acts 17)

i. Paul at Ephesus (Acts 19)

j. Paul and the Galatian Heresy (Gal. 1:9)

C. Truth in Other Religions?

1. Creation accounts

2. Flood accounts

3. Golden Rule

D. What About Those Who Haven't Heard?

1. Natural Revelation (Rom. 1:18f.)

2. Special Revelation

a. Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

b. Cornelius (Acts 10)

c. Corinthians (Acts 18:10)

E. The Destiny of the Unbeliever

1. Mark 9:43 -48

2. Revelation 20:10-15

**III. Conclusion**

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - John 14:6 – “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father but by me.”

# **Sharing Your Faith - How To Do It**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 12*

### **I. How Are People Won to Jesus Christ?**

#### A. By the Conviction of the Holy Spirit

1. John 16:7 -11

2. Acts 1:8

#### B. Through the Message of the Gospel - Contained in the Word of God

1. Romans 10:17

2. I Peter 1:23

3. II Timothy 3:15

#### C. Using the Instrumentality of Men

1. Great Commission

2. Romans 10:13-15

### **II. The Strategies to be Employed**

#### A. Mass Evangelism

1. Biblical Examples

- a. Jesus and the multitudes
- b. Peter at Pentecost (Acts 2)
- c. Paul at Antioch (Acts 13)

## 2. Modern Examples

- a. Area-wide crusades (multiple-church support)
- b. Local church crusades
- c. Specialized efforts directed toward

(1) Children

(2) Youth

(3) Students

(4) Athletes

(5) Businessmen

Etc.

## B. Personal Evangelism

### 1. Biblical Examples

- a. Jesus and Nicodemus (John 3)

b. Jesus and individual disciples (Matt. 9:9)

c. Philip and the eunuch (Acts 8:26-39)

d. Paul and the jailor (Acts 16:25-34)

## 2. Techniques

a. Depend on the Holy Spirit (Pray).

b. Be absolutely honest (No gimmicks).

c. Some suggestions as to how to get started

(1) World events - where will it all end?

(2) Do you have any interest in spiritual things? (or - in philosophy?)

(3) May I tell you about the greatest thing that ever happened to me?

d. Make the issue clear (Use Scripture).

(1) The need of man

(2) God's provision in Christ

(3) Appropriation by faith

e. Be sensitive to the response.

(1) Hostile, withdrawn - don't force it.

(2) Interested, but obviously not ready for commitment - sow the seed and stop.

(3) Under conviction and apparently ready -encourage commitment now.

### 3. Follow-up

SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE - Romans 3:23 – “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”