

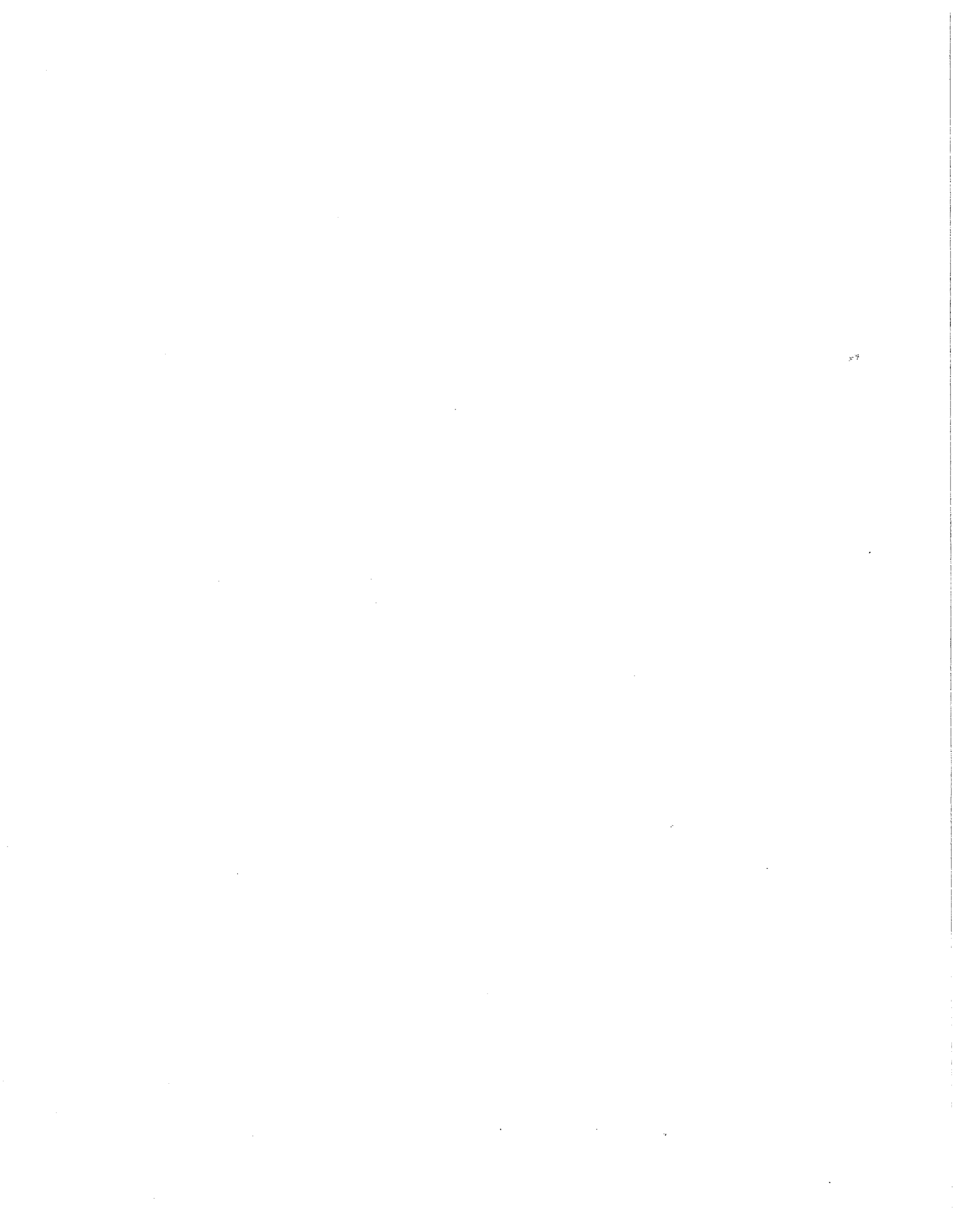
Introduction

Overview

Biblical Overview of the New Testament Church

**Living Word Fellowship Church:
Vision of the Church**

Church Ministry Profile



BIBLICAL OVERVIEW OF THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

The church mentioned by Christ on two separate occasions (Matthew 16:18; 18:17) was not referred to as an institution but an *ecclesia*, meaning an assembly of individuals who He considered to belong directly to Him. In Matthew 16:18, Christ made reference to the universal church, but in Matthew 18:17, He made reference to a local assembling of believers. Paul follows Christ's example when he refers to the church.

In Ephesians 5:23, 25, Paul makes reference to the universal church but in 1 Corinthians 1:2, 4:17 and several other passages, Paul refers to the local church. Paul also states that there are four important principles that should characterize the universal and local church, they are faith, hope and love with the greatest being love (1 Corinthians 13:13), as well as the Word of God which he states should dwell in believers richly (Colossians 3:15-17), and Jesus Christ, presented through the Word, must serve as the chief cornerstone (Ephesians 2:20).

Therefore, the New Testament local church represents a group of baptized believers of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:2; 12:12-14) working together to carry out His plans, purpose, and will (Ephesians 1:11). These believers are baptized because they have first, by faith, accepted as fact that Christ died for their sin, and secondly, have confessed Him as Lord (Romans 10:9-10; 1 Corinthians 1:17).

These believers must gather regularly (1 Corinthians 1:2; 11:18; Acts 20:7; Hebrews 10:24-25) for the building up and equipping of one another (Ephesians 4:11-13; 1 Timothy 4:1-16) through teaching, prayer, singing, Lord's Supper, fellowship (Acts 2:42) and giving (2 Corinthians 8 and 9; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2). This will be done as a result of the use of individual gifts (Romans 12:3-21; 1 Corinthians 12-14; 1 Peter 4:10) so that believers will be imitators of Christ (Ephesians 4:1-2; 5:1-2) to be presented perfect in Him (Colossians 1:28-29). These believers must also become witnesses for Christ in the local community, and the world (Acts 1:8; 2:42-47; 13:1-4). They must also seek to function as one body, united in Christ, characterized as a loving community, for God's glory (Acts 2:44-47; Ephesians 2:14-18).

Finally, the absolute foundation for developing church ministry must rest on the authority of the Word of God (2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 4:4; Acts 20:27), and the goal of the ministry must be to disciple (Matthew 28:19-20) believers to be mature in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29). The Church must also bear the responsibility of representing Christ comprehensively before the community (Ephesians 1:22).

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH

VISION OF THE CHURCH

I. DEFINITION

A visionary plan is a framework of carrying out strategic thinking, directions and action leading to the achievement of consistent and planned results. --- Patrick J. Below

II. VISION FOR THIS BODY

The vision of **Living Word Fellowship Church** is to develop a community of believers of Jesus Christ who, through the development of genuine relationships, based on love and truth, will unite for worship focused on glorifying God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, so that everyone will demonstrate faith, hope and love as in 1Thessalonians 1:2-3. This church equips and establishes these believers to function under the authority of the inerrant Word of God. **Living Word Fellowship Church** also provides viable mechanisms and training programs to empower believers to reach unbelievers comprehensively as a local church, as well as corporately with other churches, so that together we will impact the community and the world for God's glory.

III. OUTREACH PROGRAMS

This church will also seek to develop a radio ministry specifically targeted at teaching urban youth, through bible-centered music, concerts, fun centers, camps, teenage pregnancy programs, job programs, and juvenile renewal programs. It will also seek to train adults in the community on issues such as parenting, marriage, job training programs and by developing a counseling ministry.

The vision of the church is to make disciples impacting them spiritually, physically and emotionally, renewing these men and women for the glory of God, so they can in turn reach others for Christ.

CHURCH MINISTRY PROFILE

In keeping with Acts 2:42; Matthew 28:19-21; Acts 1:8, this church has seven (7) major areas through which it fulfills its mission: Shepherding, Worship, Discipleship, Children and Youth, Evangelism and Missions, Family, and Fellowship.

SHEPHERDING

This ministry function is designed to allow the Pastor to care for those who are hospitalized, or going through a time bereavement. This ministry develops leaders whether they are elders, deacons, ministers or lay-leaders so that they function as true disciples of Jesus Christ. It is designed to prepare leaders to serve as prayer warriors for the entire church. It keeps up with every member so that if they were missing, during new membership, they would be contacted. This ministry is organized so that every member of the church is impacted in order that God's flock is strengthened to do work of service.

WORSHIP

Worship has, as its primary goal to provide meaningful adoration and praise to God through Jesus Christ. This is done through songs and hymns, singing praises, and spiritual songs to God. Worship must include the preaching and teaching of God's Word, prayer, and to administer the ordinances, giving, and the fellowship of believers who stimulate each other to love and good deeds (Hebrews 10:23-25). Each believer must be challenged to no longer concentrate on self, but focus totally on the power, faithfulness, and glory of God (Colossians 3:15-17). They must celebrate His nature in Spirit and in truth (John 4:24).

DISCIPLESHIP

This ministry is designed to shape a believer from infancy to maturity. It is designed to teach believers the truth, and by lifestyle models, encourage them to consistently apply God's Word to life issues. Whether this is the believer's lifestyle, decision making challenges, managing the stress of life or being a good husband and father or wife and mother, it is this ministries' goal to present each believer complete in Christ so that the agenda of God manifests itself either in the life of the believer or in the health and strength of the church.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Children: The Children's Ministry (birth to twelve years old) is not a baby-sitting service; it is designed to minister, in a relevant manner, to the children and to also

encourage parents to participate in the worship service or Bible study without distraction. Children are taught through play and by using materials that maintain the child's attention. There are several different ministry efforts that are in place to disciple the child to spiritual maturity. They are: Teacher Training, AWANA, Tuesday Night Bible Study, Children's Worship, Life Application classes, Vacation Bible School, KAA Camp, and the Puppet Ministry.

Youth: The vision of this youth ministry is to reach youth with a strong dynamic ministry that would impact youth to stand for Christ. We feel that this impact would involve discipling youth to reach a level of spiritual growth that wherever they go they would be able to show by example their commitment to Christ and be a witness to other youth who don't know Christ. This ministry will seek to equip and establish its youth through education (The Word of God) Fellowship and Activities, Outreach and Evangelism.

EVANGELISM AND MISSIONS

Biblical Importance: The keys to the gates of Hades are in the church (Matthew 16:10-20). All of the problems we face in our communities, country and world can find their answers through the powerful Word of God (2 Peter 1:3-5). Another powerful part of this process is that Christ took on Satan, died, and arose (complete victory over Satan), and He is now the head of the church (Ephesians 1:22; Colossians 1:18), and all power is in His hands (Matthew 28:18). The problems we encounter are really not the major issue today. The issue today is finding humble men and women who are called by God, and therefore have the gift of evangelism, to impact the community and the world for God's glory.

Jesus Christ came to "seek and to save those who are lost" (Luke 19:10). This call is not just for those in the local community, which the church resides in, but also all those around the world (Acts 1:8). Jesus said to them,

My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to accomplish His work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest"? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest. Already he who reaps is receiving wages and is gathering fruit for life eternal, so that he who sows and he who reaps may rejoice together. For in this case the saying is true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you have not labored; others have labored and you have entered into their labor (John 4:34-38).

Definition: Evangelism is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Savior and Lord in the community and the world with the intent of persuading people to come to Christ personally and so be reconciled to God. This call is for persons to deny themselves, take up the cross, and identify themselves with His new community.

Christian Outreach Center: When biblical principles for church development are examined and applied they expose the express reason why Christ established the church. Its mission is to restore people whether spiritually, emotionally or physically to be complete in Christ (Colossians 1:28-29). This ministry is focused on influencing the community and the world by the power of God so that the rule of God is established in the community for God's glory (1 Timothy 3:15; 1 Peter 2:9-10; 4:17).

With our communities decaying morally and with a value system that is null or void, the church needs more than ever to be the church through its teaching, accountability, and comprehensive approach to reach the whole man.

FAMILY

This ministry will seek to minister to the diverse needs of families. The focus is to grow the family members closer to God and to each other. This ministry will seek to outline the biblical roles of the family and challenge all members of the family to support God's rule for the home. It provides counseling as well as financial planning for all families who seek assistance from this ministry area. This ministry serves as the counseling center for all issues presented to church leadership.

FELLOWSHIP

Definition: Fellowship (*koinonia*) means companionship or partnership and communion with others on the basis of a something held in common (Acts 2:44).

Biblical Philosophy of Fellowship: Fellowship is designed to promote the interpersonal caring and sharing of God's people one to another as an outgrowth of our fellowship with God (Matthew 22:37-40; Acts 2:42).

With our communities decaying morally and with a value system that is null or void, the church needs more than ever to be the church through its teaching, accountability, and comprehensive approach to reach the whole man.

IF THE CHURCH IS NOT FOCUSED ON GOD'S AGENDA, IT HAS USURPED GOD'S POWER AND ITS REASON FOR BIBLICAL EXISTENCE.

Module One

Salvation

**The Meaning of Salvation
and
The Meaning of Baptism**

THE MEANING OF SALVATION

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE:

He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" Acts 16:30 (NIV)

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To help the participant understand the meaning of Salvation from a biblical perspective
 - What does it mean to be Saved?
 - What are you Saved from? What are you Saved for?
- To bring each participant to an awareness and an appreciation of God's mighty act of Love and to the life changing knowledge of His extraordinary gift

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. Ephesians 2:8-9 (NIV)

LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

- Define the process of Salvation (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- Evaluate the implications of personal Salvation.
- Develop a Personal Testimony that may be used to help disciple others.

PREPARATION FOR SALVATION CLASS:

- Read the Introduction, Parts I, II, and III on pages 2 through 5.
- Complete the answers before you come to Salvation class.
- Bring these pages with you to Salvation class.
- Be ready to discuss your answers.

THE MEANING OF SALVATION

INTRODUCTION

A few years ago in one of the city's local newspapers, several hundred people were asked, "Are you going to Heaven when you die?" Many of them answered in this manner, "I don't know," or "I'm working on it," or "I've no idea, " or "I'm not sure." As you reflect on these answers, how would you respond to this question? Listed below are several ways in which you can choose to enter Heaven.

Please circle the answer that best represents how you believe you can enter Heaven.

1. Be baptized and/or confirmed.
2. Follow the teachings and example of Christ.
3. Join a church and attend regularly.
4. Live a good life.
5. Love your fellow man.
6. Obey the Ten Commandments.

Part I. THE NEED FOR SALVATION

- A. Write a definition of *sin*.

- B. Read the following passages. Then give man's present spiritual state based on those passages. Please use short answers.

1. John 3:17-18, 36 _____
2. Romans 3:10-18 _____
3. Romans 3:23 _____
4. Ephesians 2:1-3 _____

- C. Because of man's present spiritual state, what is characteristic of his behavior?

1. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 _____
2. Ephesians 2:2a _____
3. Ephesians 2:2b _____

4. Ephesians 2:2c _____

Part II. THE PROVISION OF SALVATION

A. Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

1. How many individuals were involved in providing Salvation?

2. According to Ephesians 1:4, 5 and 6, the Father has _____ us, _____ us, and _____ us.

3. According to Ephesians 1:7, the Son _____ us, with His _____.

When Christ died on the cross to redeem us, it was a sovereign act by God whereby He paid as a ransom the price of human sin and purchased sinners to himself through the death of His Son (1 Peter 1:18-19). The result of Christ's redemptive death on the cross is that we have _____ of all of our past, present, and future sins (Ephesians 1: 7b; 1 John 2:1-2).

4. According to Ephesians 1:3-14, the Holy Spirit _____ us. The purpose of a seal is to demonstrate ownership and security. Therefore, the Holy Spirit confirms to the believing sinner ownership and security in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

B. According to Romans 10:9-10, how do I demonstrate the following statement? "I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior."

1. Please explain the word *confess* as it is used in verses 9 and 10.

2. What is the content of the confession in Romans 10:9a?

2. What is the result of the confession in Romans 10:9b?

Part III. RECEIVING SALVATION

A. In order to receive salvation, it is necessary that you _____

3:16) _____ (John 5:24; John

1. Write your definition of the word *believe*.

B. According to John 3:16, what is the content of the message we must believe?

C. If belief in Jesus Christ is all that is necessary to receive eternal life, what should be our conclusion concerning the following ways an individual may choose to enter Heaven?

1. Being baptized and/or confirmed
2. Following the teachings and example of Christ
3. Joining a church and attending regularly
4. Living a good life
5. Loving your fellow man
6. Obeying the Ten Commandments

It is important that we understand that the Bible teaches we cannot earn or win our way to Heaven. Eternal life is not a reward that we can earn; it is a free gift (Romans 6:23b). As long as we think that we can earn our way into Heaven, we can never be certain that we have done enough to enter into Heaven. But when we understand that God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to pay for our sins through His death on the cross and rose from the dead in order to offer eternal life, we can only conclude that entrance into Heaven is solely based on our having trusted Jesus Christ alone as the basis whereby we receive eternal life and enter into Heaven.

D. Please describe the Bible's response to the suggested ways in which an individual can enter Heaven.

1. Being baptized and/or confirmed (Ephesians 2:8-9)
2. Following the teaching and example of Christ (Ephesians 2:8-9)
3. Joining a church and attending regularly (Titus 3:5)
4. Living a good life (Romans 10:23)
5. Loving your fellowman (Isaiah 53:6)
6. Obeying the Ten Commandments (Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16)

E. In your own words, please describe why God made the provision of Salvation for mankind.

F. In your own words, please describe why God made the provision of Salvation for you.

PERSONAL ACTIVITY:

Based on your study of this lesson, please convey how you trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior. In other words, tell your "Salvation" story. Please write out your response on the form following this Module. Give your instructor a copy and be sure to make a copy for yourself to be used later.

THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

The ordinances of baptism and communion are significant acts that are at the center of the church's expression of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is important for believers in the Lord Jesus Christ to understand that baptism reflects the meaning of the Gospel because it involves both a relationship with Jesus Christ and fellow believers in the local church.

I. WHY BAPTIZE?

- A. Baptism was commanded by the Lord Jesus Christ. "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). The word of the Lord Jesus Christ is sufficient warrant for baptism of believers.
- B. Baptism was practiced by the early church. In the book of Acts, believers expressed publicly through the act of baptism their inward decision and intent to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ as King (Acts 2:28, 41; 8:12-13, 36-38; 9:18; 10:44-48; 16:14-15, 32-33; 18:8; 19:5; 22:13-16).

II. WHO SHOULD BE BAPTIZED?

- A. Disciples - The Apostles were commanded to "make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them..." (Matthew 28:19). One must be a follower of Jesus Christ.
- B. Believers - Individuals who personally trusted Jesus Christ as their own personal Savior. "Those who have received His word were baptized..." (Acts 2:41). "But when they believed Phillip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike" (Acts 8:12). Believers are...
 - 1. anyone who has not been baptized since they became a Christian,
 - 2. any Christian who has never clearly understood the meaning of baptism even though they may have been baptized previously, and
 - 3. any Christian who feels the need to renew their commitment to the Lord.

From the scripture we conclude that baptism is limited to those who have personally trusted Jesus Christ as Savior and are willing to obey Him as Lord.

III. WHAT DOES BAPTISM MEAN?

- A. Baptism is a public declaration of the believer's identification with Jesus Christ in His death, burial and resurrection. "Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the

dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:3-4).

- B. Baptism is a public declaration of the believer's identification with the church. It signifies the inward reality of a believer to participate in the fellowship of other believers in the context of a local church. The participation of the believer in baptism results in the believer being held accountable for his lifestyle and commitment by the local church.
- C. Baptism is a symbolic proclamation of the spiritual reality of a believer's identification with Jesus Christ in His **death, burial, and resurrection**.
 - 1. **Death** - Placed into the water "Baptized into His death" (Romans 6:3).
 - 2. **Burial** - Submerged "Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death... (Romans 6:4a).
 - 3. **Resurrection** - Brought up out of the water "In order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might in newness of life" (Romans 6:4a; Colossians 3: 1a).
- D. So we can see that baptism is important to the believer for the following reasons:
 - 1. **Baptism** proclaims the believer's unity with Jesus Christ.
 - 2. **Baptism** proclaims the believer's identification and accountability to the local church.
 - 3. **Baptism** is a symbolic proclamation of the believer's saving experience with Jesus Christ.
 - 4. **Baptism** proclaims the believer's commitment to be obedient to Jesus Christ.

IV. BAPTISM IS A TESTIMONY TO THE NEW LIFE

- A. Having a new direction and purpose for living
- B. Having complete trust in God to direct your life
- C. Having courage and excitement to share Jesus Christ with others
- D. Having a new life controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:16-24; Ephesians 4:17 - 6:20)
- E. Abandoning sinful habits and adopting Godly habits (Colossians 3:1 - 4:6)

V. DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

GROUP ACTIVITY:

Break up into groups of two or three people and decide on the best "biblical world view" for the following questions:

1. Is it necessary that all men trust Jesus Christ as Savior?

2. In an increasing multicultural society, isn't it narrow minded and intolerant to insist that there is only "one way" to God? Don't all religions have some good in them and lead people to a knowledge of God?
 - What about really faithful people who hold to another religion such as Buddhism or Hinduism?

 - What did Jesus really mean in John 14:6 (NIV)?
Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

3. Is Heaven only for morally outstanding individuals?

4. Is it possible to be a member of a church and unsaved?

5. How did you come to trust Jesus Christ as your Savior?

6. Can I lose my eternal salvation?

VI. YOUR ETERNAL SECURITY

Question: How can you be certain that you will not lose your salvation?

What does Jesus say?

John 3:16 (NIV)

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24 (NIV)

I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

John 10:27-30 (NIV)

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. ³⁰ I and the Father are one.

What does the Apostle Paul say?

Romans 6:23 (NIV)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:29-30 (NIV)

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰ And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (NIV)

Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²² set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Philippians 1:6 (NIV)

...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Titus 1:2-3 (NIV)

...a faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time, ³ and at his appointed season he brought his word to light through the preaching entrusted to me by the command of God our Savior, ...

What does the Apostle John say?

1 John 2:24-25 (NIV)

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. ²⁵ And this is what he promised us — even eternal life.

What do you say?

LIVING WORD FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
NEW MEMBERS' CLASS

MY SALVATION STORY

Name: _____ Date: _____

(Please write out your response and give it to your instructor. Keep a copy for yourself. You may use both sides of the paper.)

Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal lines.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 20 horizontal lines.



Module Two

Financial Support

The Meaning of Stewardship

THE MEANING OF STEWARDSHIP

I. THE NATURE OF STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship means that we are managers of what belongs to God and everything belongs to Him. Thus, all that we are and all that we possess is a gift from Him to be used for our good and His glory.

- A. The ownership of God is seen in the fact that everything is _____ Him, _____ Him, and _____ Him (Romans 11:36; Colossians 1:16).
- B. God claims ownership of the whole _____ and every _____ that lives on it (Psalms 24:1, 89:11).
- C. Everything _____ comes from God (James 1:17) including our resources since it is God who gives the power to _____ (Deuteronomy 8:18).
- D. The reality that we are only stewards and not owners of anything is seen in the fact that we _____ into the world and we will take _____ with us when we die (Ecclesiastes 5:15).
- E. The major areas of stewardship are _____ (Psalms 39:4-5, 90:12), _____ (Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; 1 Peter 4:10-11), and _____ (Psalms 24:1).
- F. The primary qualification of a steward is that he or she is _____ (1 Corinthians 4:2).

II. THE EXAMPLES OF STEWARDSHIP

- A. So great is the grace of God demonstrated in the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ that Paul calls it God's _____ (2 Corinthians 9:15).
- B. Why did Jesus freely give up His heavenly riches to become poor?
_____ (2 Corinthians 8:9).
- C. In Christ, God now blesses us with _____ (Ephesians 1: 3). in our enlightened hearts we now know the _____ of His calling which are the _____ of the glory of His _____ (Ephesians 1:18).
- D. Excited Christians in the first century Church sold their _____ and _____ to _____ with other believer as _____ might have _____ (Acts 2:45).

- E. The deep _____ of the churches of Macedonia overflowed in the _____ of their _____ (i.e., generosity) when they supported the Apostle Paul as a missionary, even though they experienced _____ ordeal of _____ (2 Corinthians 8:1-2).
- F. They not only gave _____ to their _____ but completely of their _____ accord (i.e., free choice), begging Paul for the _____ of supporting _____ who had needs (2 Corinthians 8:3-4).

III. THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF STEWARDSHIP

- A. It brings glory to God.
1. When we give, we are making a _____ to God (1 Chronicles 1:24).
 2. We should give because it is an act of _____ before God (1 Chronicles 29:11-14; Hebrews 13:16).
 3. We should give because it is an act of _____ to God (1 Corinthians 9:14; Galatians 6:6).
 4. We should give because it permits us to invest in _____ (Matthew 6:20, 33).
 5. We should give because it permits us to demonstrate the _____ (1 John 3:16-18).
- B. It reflects and affects our spiritual growth.
1. We are to _____ so as to become more like _____ (2 Corinthians 8:13-14).
 2. When we see our brother's _____, we are to open up our _____ in compassion to him and demonstrate that we have the true _____ of God by _____ (1 John 3:17-18).
- B. Giving supplies the need of others.
1. God created us in Christ Jesus for _____ (Ephesians 2:10) to be done first for the _____ of faith (i.e., Christian brothers and sisters),

then as we have _____ and for _____ (Galatians 6:10), especially those who are _____ and _____ (Psalms 41:1-3).

2. The believer who is _____ from God's Word must share with him who _____ (Galatians 6:6) so that those whom the _____ directed to _____ the _____ should also get there from the _____ (1 Corinthians 9:14).

IV. THE ATTITUDES OF STEWARDSHIP

"Possessions" may be defined as property, i.e., "wealth" for the Christian. God has entrusted all of us with varying degrees of material wealth.

- A. List five attitudes that a Christian should have concerning his possessions.

1. 1 Samuel 2:7 _____
2. Proverbs 14:11 _____
3. Proverbs 16:8 _____
4. Ecclesiastes 5:19 _____
5. 1 Timothy 6:8 _____

- B. List five attitudes that a Christian should not have concerning his possessions.

1. Proverbs 11:18 _____
2. Proverbs 18:11 _____
3. Jeremiah 9:23 _____
4. Luke 12:15 _____
5. Luke 16:13 _____

V. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF STEWARDSHIP

- A. The manner in which a Christian should give

1. Giving should be done _____ (2 Corinthians 8:11-12).
2. Giving should be done _____ (2 Corinthians 9:7).
3. Giving should be done _____ i.e., weekly or regularly (1 Corinthians 16:2) in a _____ or private manner (Matthew 6:1-4).
4. Giving should be done by _____ i.e., someone who earns wages (1 Corinthians 16:2) in a _____ or private manner (Matthew 6:1-4).

- B. The amount to give

1. A person must first give _____ to _____ and to _____ i.e., the church, by the _____ of God and then what he possesses (2 Corinthians 8:5).
2. A Christian's gifts are _____ if he freely gives from what he _____ and not according to what he _____ (2 Corinthians 8:12). As God causes him _____ so proportionately he should _____ for the church (1 Corinthians 16:2).
3. When a Christian does not give all which the Holy Spirit directs him to give, he _____ God and is _____ so that his robbery cannot be enjoyed (Malachi 3:8-10).
4. Please note that nowhere in the New Testament is a believer commanded to offer a tithe or one-tenth of his income. We are not under any Law except that of Love (Galatians 2:16; John 13:34-35). However, note that nowhere in scripture does God ever require of us less than one-tenth. It is the minimum that is pleasing to Him and is thus where believers should start their giving.

VI. THE REWARD FOR STEWARDSHIP

- A. When Christians prioritize their giving to God, then can they expect their _____ will be _____ with _____ and their _____ will _____ with _____ (Proverbs 3:9-10).
- B. Those who are rich in _____ on earth are not only storing up a _____ for the _____ is heaven (1 Timothy 6:18-19), but will be blessed now upon the _____ (Psalms 41:1-3).
- C. God promises to meet all the _____ of those who support God's work (Philippians 4:14-19).
- D. The biblical law of giving teaches those believers who _____ shall also _____ (2 Corinthians 9:6).
- E. Those who fail to give to God what he should _____ God is _____ (Malachi 3:9-10), so that he puts wages he earns into a _____ so that it cannot be enjoyed (Haggai 1:4-6).

Module Three

Doctrine

A Statement of Doctrine

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

SECTION 1. THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

We believe the Holy Scriptures to be the verbally inspired Word of God, authoritative, and without error in the original manuscripts. We further believe that the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments are designed for our practical instruction in faith and conduct (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:21).

SECTION 2. THE GODHEAD

We believe that the Godhead eternally exists in three persons—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that these three are one God (Deuteronomy 6:4; Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19).

SECTION 3. THE PERSON AND THE WORK OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, came into the world, that He might manifest God to men, fulfill prophecy, and become the Redeemer of a lost world. To this end, He was born of the Virgin Mary, received a human body and a sinless human nature, without ceasing to be God.

We believe that, in infinite love for the lost, He voluntarily accepted His Father's will and became the divinely provided sacrificial Lamb and took away the sin of the world.

We believe that He arose from the dead in the same body, though glorified, in which He had lived and died, and that His resurrected body is the pattern of the body, which ultimately will be given to all believers.

We believe that, on the departing from earth, he was accepted of His Father and that His acceptance is a final assurance to us that His redeeming work was perfectly accomplished.

We believe that He became head over all things to the church which is His body, and in this ministry He does not cease to intercede and to be an advocate for the saved (Luke 1:35; John 1:1, 14, 18, 29; 1 Corinthians 15:1-3; Ephesians 1:23; Philippians 2:6-8; 1 Timothy 2:5; 1 John 2:1-2).

SECTION 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT

We believe that the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity, dwells in every believer immediately after he places his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and God provides, through the Holy Spirit, power to live the Christian life.

We believe that every believer receives grace from God, in the form of a spiritual ability which enables him to function as a member of the body of Christ (Romans 8:9, 12:6; 1 Corinthians 12:7; Ephesians 4:7).

SECTION 5. THE PERSONALITY OF SATAN

We believe that Satan or the devil, is the prince of demons, and is the declared adversary of God and man. However, when the Lord Jesus Christ died on the cross, he limited the power of the devil (Ephesians 2:2; 1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10).

SECTION 6. SALVATION

We believe that no one can enter the kingdom of God unless born again spiritually, and that the new birth of the believer comes only through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

We believe that the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ has accomplished our redemption and that this redemption is by the grace of God, an unmerited gift, given in love by God and not the result of any human works.

We believe that upon receiving the Lord Jesus Christ by faith, the believer passes immediately out of spiritual death into spiritual life and into fellowship with God.

We also believe that once this salvation is accomplished, we and all true believers everywhere shall be kept saved forever (John 3:5, 10:28-29; Romans 3:24; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:5, 8-9).

SECTION 7. THE CHURCH

We believe that all who are united to the risen and ascended Son of God are members of the church, which is the body of Christ.

We believe that the church as a group, gathers together for practical instruction in the Scriptures, fellowship with God and with other believers, and for corporate witness to the unsaved world. Our common spiritual goal is to grow toward Christ's likeness (Matthew 18:18-20; Acts 2:42; Ephesians 2:11-18, 4:13-16).

We believe that the explicit message of our Lord Jesus Christ to those whom He has saved is to make Christ known to the whole world and that this is the purpose of the church as individuals.

We believe that the church is also called for the execution of divine justice on behalf of those who are defenseless in society as a natural reflection of, and a relationship with a just God, starting with those in God's family and extending to society as that becomes possible.

SECTION 8. THE RAPTURE AND THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST

We believe that there will be the second return of the Lord Jesus Christ in the air to receive to Himself into Heaven His own who are alive and remain unto His coming, and also all who have died in Christ (1Thessalonians 4:13-17; Zechariah 14:4-11; Revelation 3:10).

SECTION 9. ETERNAL STATE

We believe that at death the spirits and souls of those who have trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation pass immediately into His presence and there remain in conscious bliss until the resurrection of the glorified body when Christ comes for His own, whereupon soul and body reunited shall be associated with Him forever in glory. All those who rejected Jesus Christ will eternally be separated from God to endure His eternal wrath forever (2 Corinthians 5:8; Revelation 20:11-15).

SECTION 10. THE RESPONSIBILITY OF BELIEVERS

We believe that all believers should seek to walk by the Spirit separating themselves from worldly practices witnessing by life and by word to the truths of Holy Scripture (Romans 12:1; Galatians 5:16, 25; 2 Corinthians 5:17).

SECTION 11. ORDINANCES

We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ instituted the ordinances of Baptism and the Lord's Supper to be observed by all believers until His return (Matthew 28:19; Luke 22:19-20; Acts 10:47-48).

We believe that the Lord's Supper is a privilege accorded to all believers in commemoration of our Lord's death until He comes (1 Corinthians 11:23-28).

We believe that the purpose of the Lord's Supper is to remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, to develop unity in the body, and stimulate loving relationships among believers (1 Corinthians 11:27-32). We would not like this to become a ritual but a worship that occurs in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24).

We believe that Baptism is a form of public identification of cognitive internal commitment to Christ. Baptism does not save; it only makes public what was done privately (Romans 10:9, 10, 13, 17; 6:1-14).

We believe that the ordinances of baptism is immersion of the believer in water as it sets forth the essential facts in redemption—and as stated above it illustrates the death and resurrection of Christ and the essential resurrection of newness of life (Romans 6:4; Acts 8:26-39).

