

# Teach Our Neighbors



*A Study of Preparing To Teach Our Neighbors*

by Max Tice

With Supplemental Material

by Chris Reeves

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 7: Denominational Arguments (Part 1)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- Some of these “defenses” are based upon faulty use of scripture (1-3)
- Some of these “defenses” are based upon faulty human reasoning (4-7)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

1. “All churches make up the Church of Christ (Mt. 16:18). There is one body with many member denominations (1 Cor. 12:20).”
  - This is an assertion made without proof. This claim is not even found in the NT.

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- Who decides which “churches” are in the body? Why just “Protestant Churches”, why not others?
- This is reading back into the NT a modern situation. Modern denominations did not exist in the NT.

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- In some cases, “churches” were started by the same person (Acts 15:41; 16:5)
- In the NT, “churches” were local assemblies of Christians who believed and practiced the same thing (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17; 14:33-34; 16:1)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- In the NT, some “churches” received the same message (Rev. 1:4)
- The man-made denominational concept of “church” is more than a local church (1 Cor. 1:2) and less than the universal church (Eph. 1:22-23)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- When Paul speaks of “many members”, he is speaking of individual Christians within a local church, not denominations (1 Cor. 12:20; Rom. 12:4-6; Eph. 4:25; 5:30)



# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 7: Denominational Arguments (Part 2)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

2. “Jesus is the ‘vine’ and all the churches are the ‘branches’ (Jn. 15:1-5).”
  - No, read carefully. Jesus is the vine and his individual disciples (verse 6) are the branches.

# Defenses of Denominationalism

3. “The \_\_\_\_\_ Church goes back to the days of John the Baptist or Jesus.”
- Many modern churches makes this same claim, so who is right?
  - Jesus said, “I will build...” (Mt. 16:18)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

4. “All denominations teach some truth. All denominations have good people in them. How can they all be wrong?”
- Some truth is not enough. We are to teach the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27).

# Defenses of Denominationalism

- Some truth admits that there is also some error. A mixture of truth and error is wrong (Mt. 15:9; Gal. 1:8-9).
- Being “good” is not the only factor to consider when determining one’s standing before God (2 Jn. 9-11)

# Defenses of Denominationalism

5. “One church is as good as another.”

- If you are talking about man-made churches, this is true.
- Those who say this do not actually practice it. They refuse some churches.

# Defenses of Denominationalism

6. “Worship in the church of your choice. Choice in religion is a good thing.”
- We must worship in the church of God’s choice. Jesus (Mt. 16:18) and Paul (Eph. 4:4-6) taught “one”, not choices.

# Defenses of Denominationalism

## 7. “All churches lead to heaven.”

- This assumes what has not been proven. It assumes the existence of denominations in the NT era.



# Defenses of Denominationalism

- Those who say this don't actually practice it. They refuse some churches.

# No Kingdom Before Pentecost?

- In answering denominational arguments, some brethren say, “There is no church before Pentecost, because the kingdom (being the church) did not exist before Pentecost. However, this is not the best way to answer. (**Note:** I differ with the author of our workbook on this point.)

# No Kingdom Before Pentecost?

- This answer is partially right, but it is an over-simplification of the truth. As we will see, God's "kingdom" includes the church, but is not limited to it.
- Let us consider the who, when, and where of God's kingdom

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- The “kingdom” (Gr. βασιλεία) of God is his rule and reign (realm of dominion) over all his creation and over all mankind starting with Genesis 1:1 (Psa. 22:28; 103:19; 145:10-13; 1 Chron. 29:11); God’s kingdom rules over all men (Rev. 11:15) and in heaven also (Rev. 12:10)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- God has had a kingdom in Israel since the days of the Exodus (Ex. 15:18; 19:6; 2 Chron. 13:5, 8)
- God ruled over Israel as “king” (Judg. 8:23; 1 Sam. 8:7; 12:12)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- God's future reign over Israel was foreshadowed in the OT (Isa. 24:23; Obadiah 21; Zech. 14:9)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- Daniel 2:44 is a prophecy of another, future (from Daniel's time) realm of God's kingdom (the church); but, God already had a kingdom when Daniel said he would later "set up a kingdom" (see Dan. 4:3, 34; 6:26)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- Daniel 7:13-27 is the same as the prophecy of Daniel 2:44; i.e., a prophecy of another, future (from Daniel's time) kingdom of God for the "Son of Man" and the "saints of the Most High" (the church)



# The Kingdom Before the Church

- The “sons of the kingdom” were Jews (Israel ) in God’s kingdom (Mt. 8:12)
- The kingdom existed in the days of John the Baptist (Mt. 11:12) and Jesus’ miracles demonstrated God’s kingdom (Mt. 12:28; Lk. 11:20)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- The kingdom would be taken away from the unfaithful Jews in Jesus' day (Mt. 21:43)
- Some Jewish leaders refused to enter the kingdom and hindered others from doing so (Mt. 23:13)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- OT characters are in God's kingdom (Lk. 13:28)
- The kingdom was among or within them at that time (Lk. 17:20-21)

# The Kingdom Before the Church

- Transition: the kingdom would come with power looking forward to the church as the kingdom (Mk. 9:1)

# The Kingdom As the Church

- The Apostles would have the keys of the kingdom – the church (Mt. 16:19; 18:18; Lk. 22:29-30)
- The Lord's supper is in the kingdom – the church (Mt. 26:19)

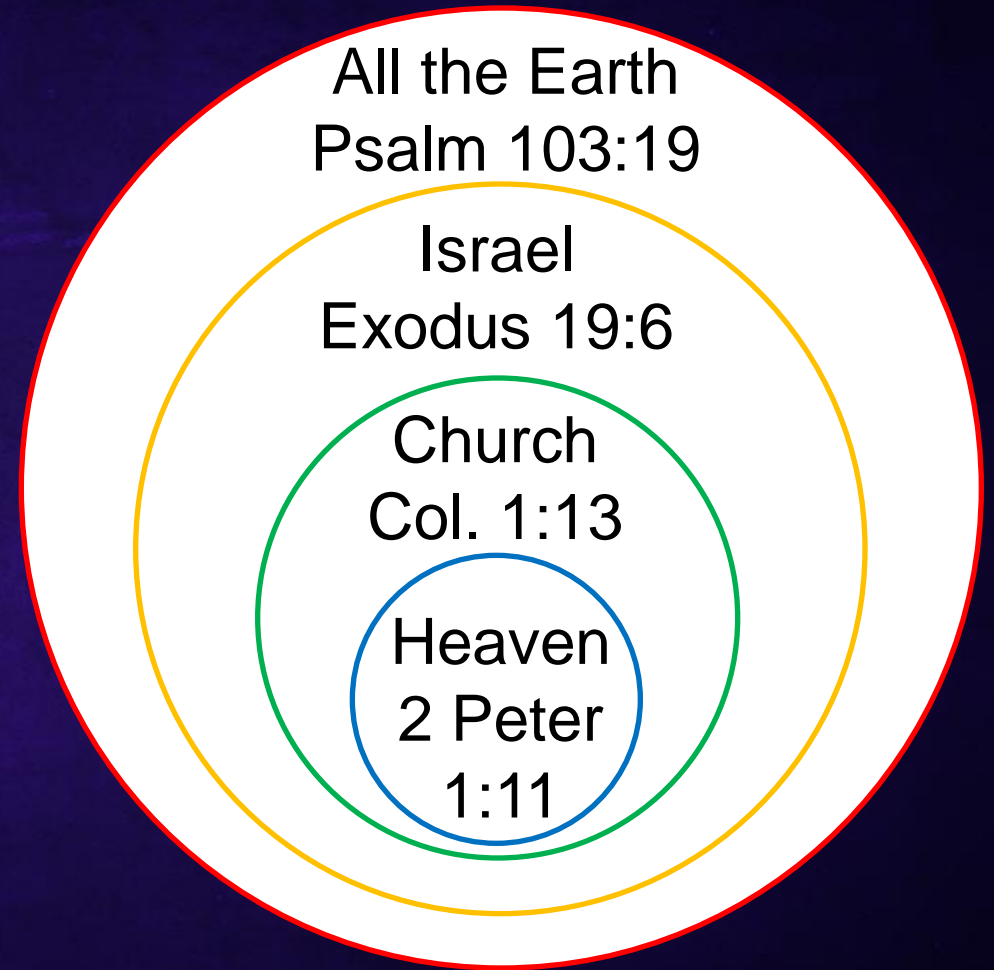
# The Kingdom As the Church

- The kingdom of the son of his love – the church (Col. 1:13)
- Christians in the church are in the kingdom (Rom. 14:17; 1 Thess. 2:12; Rev. 1:4,6,9)

# The Kingdom In Heaven

- Flesh and blood will not inherit the kingdom of heaven (1 Cor. 15:50)
- Heavenly kingdom (2 Tim. 4:18)
- Entrance into the eternal kingdom (2 Pet. 1:11)

God's Kingdom =

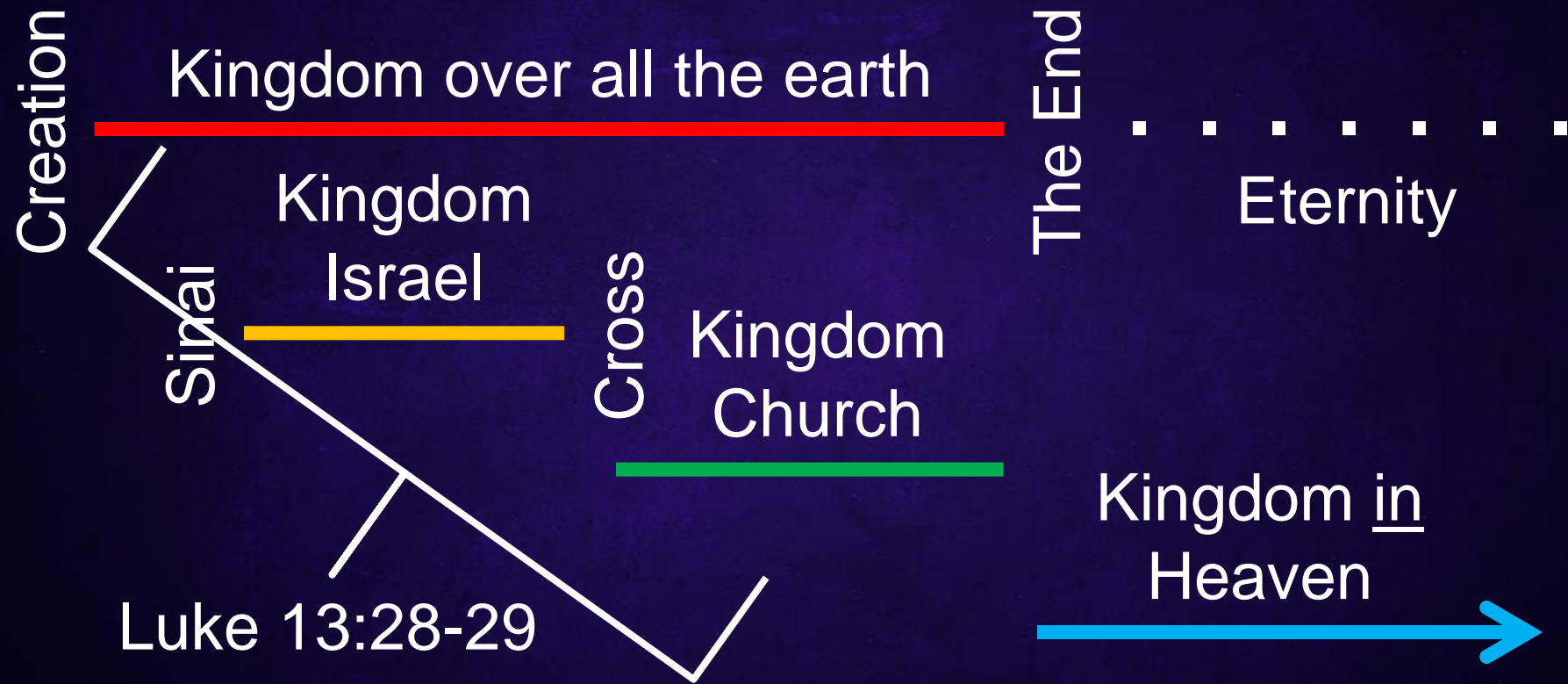




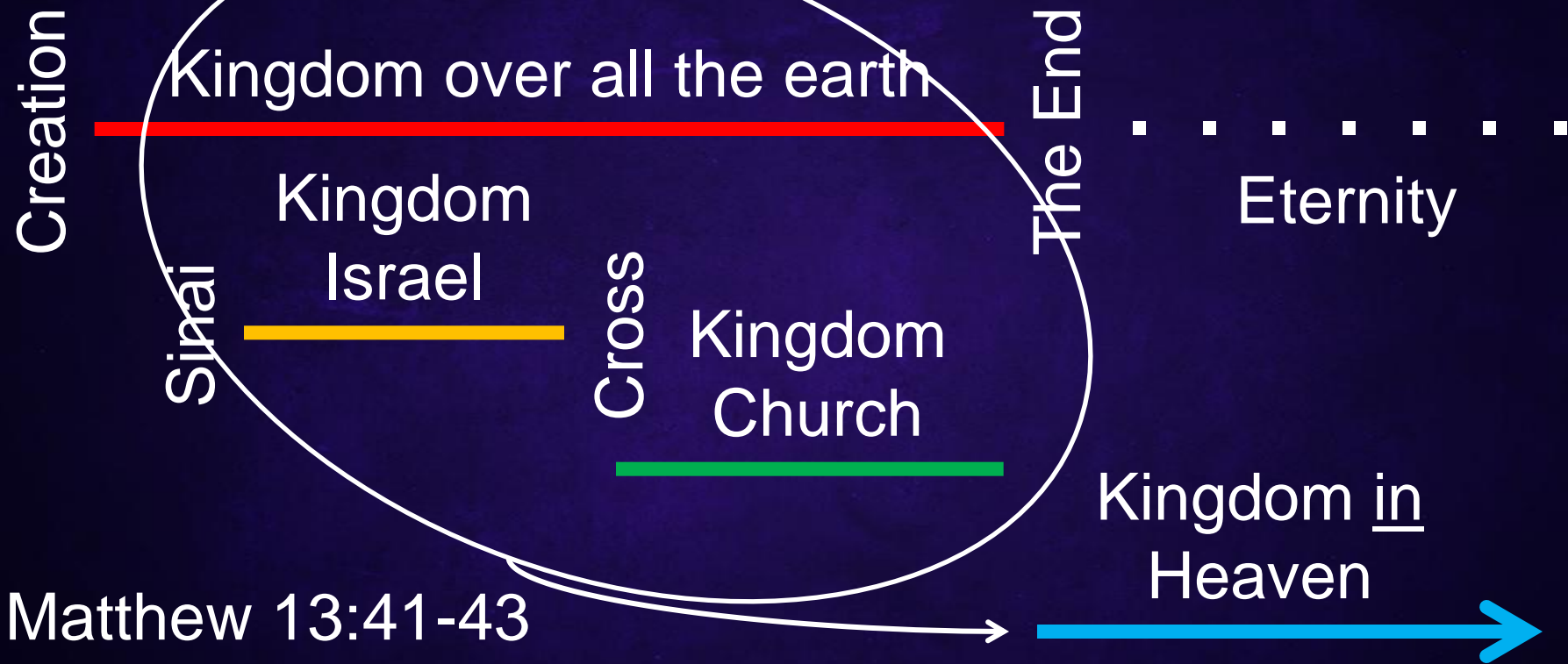
# God's Kingdom: Creation to the End



# God's Kingdom: Creation to the End



# God's Kingdom: Creation to the End



Matthew 13:41-43  
1 Corinthians 15:24

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 8: Denominational Arguments (Part 1)

# The Five Points of Calvinism

- The major denominations that came out of the Protestant Reformation followed some form of Calvinism (Presbyterian, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist, etc.). Today, many of the mainline denominations are Calvinistic in their theology.

# The Five Points of Calvinism

- Many commentaries are written by denominationalists who are influenced by Calvinism. Some members of churches of Christ have accepted portions of Calvinism (see *Neo-Calvinism in the Church of Christ*, Tom Roberts, Editor, Cogdill Foundation, 1980).

# The Five Points of Calvinism

**T** – Total Depravity

**U** – Unconditional Election & Reprobation

**L** – Limited Atonement

**I** – Irresistible Grace

**P** – Perseverance of the Saints

## Total Depravity: Stated

The sin of Adam, according to Calvin, corrupted the whole human race; Adam's guilt was transmitted to all humans ("original sin"); man is so corrupted and depraved (dead) that he cannot do any good; man cannot exercise his free-will to do good, but is wholly inclined to do evil; sin is inherited



# Total Depravity: Defended

Common Calvinists proof-texts: Gen. 6:5;  
8:21; Ex. 20:5; Job 14:4; 15:14-16; Psa. 51:5;  
58:3; Rom. 5:12-21; Eph. 2:1-3

## Total Depravity: Answered

- All are born upright and innocent  
(Deut. 1:39; Eccl. 7:29; Mt. 18:3)
- Sin is committed, not transmitted  
(Rom. 7:9; Jas. 1:13-14; 1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17)
- Each one is accountable for his own sin  
(Ezek. 18:20)

# Total Depravity: Answered

- Sin in one's life does not eliminate all good (Lk. 8:15)
- Sin can grow worse (2 Tim. 3:13)

## Unconditional Election: Stated

Since, according to Calvin, mankind is totally depraved and cannot choose to do good, God, by sovereign decree saves mankind unconditionally; God predestines some to be saved and others to be lost without regard to any conditions, character, or conduct

# Unconditional Election: Defended

Common Calvinist Proof-texts: Acts 13:48;  
Rom. 8:28-30; 9:11-13,15-18,22-23; 11:5-6;  
Eph. 1:3-14; 1 Pet. 2:8

# Unconditional Election: Answered

- One must work the works of God to be saved (Jn. 6:29; Acts 10:34)
- One must obey conditions to be saved (Heb. 5:8-9; 2 Thess. 1:8)
- One is not saved by grace or faith alone (Eph. 2:8-9; Jas. 2:26)

# Unconditional Election: Answered

- Election is conditional – “if” (Jer. 18:7-10)
- Election is in a “body” ... “in Christ” (Eph. 1:3ff; 3:9-10)
- One exercises his free-will choice to be saved or to be lost (Deut. 30:15-20)

## Limited Atonement: Stated

Since, according to Calvin, some have been predestined by God to be lost, Jesus did not die for them; Jesus' death was limited in scope to the elect only; Jesus did not die for the non-elect; the blessings of Jesus' atonement (reconciliation, redemption) are for the elect only and no one else



# Limited Atonement: Defended

Common Calvinist Proof-texts: Isa. 53:12;  
Mt. 1:21; 20:28; 26:28; Jn. 1:11; 6:35-40;  
10:11,15,27-29; 11:50-53; 17:1-11,20,24-26;  
Acts 20:28; Rom. 8:32-34; Eph. 5:25-27;  
Heb. 2:17; 3:1; 9:15,28; Rev. 5:9

# Limited Atonement: Answered

- The blood of Jesus is provided for all (Jn. 1:29; 3:16; 6:51; 12:32-33; Rom. 5:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Heb. 2:9; 1 Tim. 2:6; 4:10; 1 Jn. 2:1-2; 4:14); however, it is appropriated only by a few (Mt. 7:14)
- The gospel is for all (Mt. 28:19; Mk. 16:15)

# Limited Atonement: Answered

- The gospel invitation is for all (Mt. 11:28; Rev. 22:17)
- God does not want anyone to be lost (Mt. 18:14; 23:37; Acts 17:30-31; 1 Tim. 2:4; Tit. 2:11,14; 2 Pet. 3:8-9)

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 8: Denominational Arguments (Part 2)

# The Five Points of Calvinism

**T** – Total Depravity

**U** – Unconditional Election & Reprobation

**L** – Limited Atonement

**I** – Irresistible Grace

**P** – Perseverance of the Saints

## Irresistible Grace: Stated

Since, according to Calvin, the elect for whom Christ died are unconditionally saved, God irresistibly calls them to salvation by the Holy Spirit (“direct operation of the H.S.”); the non-elect cannot hear or heed this call; the elect cannot resist or oppose this call (“experience of grace”)

# Irresistible Grace: Defended

Common Calvinist Proof-texts: Jn. 1:12-14;  
3:3-8; 6:44; 15:26; Acts 7:51; 10:44-45; 14:27;  
16:14; Rom. 5:5; 1 Cor. 2:14; 12:3; Eph. 1:17-  
18; 2:8; Phil. 2:12-13; Col. 4:3; 1 Thess. 1:5;  
2 Thess. 2:13; Tit. 3:5; 1 Jn. 5:20

## Irresistible Grace: Answered

- The gospel is God's power to save (Rom. 1:16; 10:17; 2 Thess. 2:14); the gospel can be rejected (Acts 13:46)
- Jesus (Jn. 12:47-48), the Holy Spirit (Neh. 9:30; Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19), and the Devil (Jas. 4:7) can indeed be rejected and resisted



# Irresistible Grace: Answered

- God's grace is not irresistibly given, but freely offered (Eph. 2:8; Tit. 2:11)
- Man, not God, does the believing and the confessing (Rom. 10:9-10); man is urged to repent (Acts 2:38,40)

## Perseverance of the Saints: Stated

Since, according to Calvin, some are predestined to be saved and irresistibly called, they will be eternally secure no matter what they do or do not do; they can neither totally nor finally fall away (“once saved always saved”)

# Perseverance of the Saints: Defended

Common Calvinist Proof-texts: Jn. 3:16,36;  
5:11-12, 24; 6:37; 10:5, 27-29; Rom. 8:1,31-  
39; 1 Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-  
14; Phil. 1:6; 2 Tim. 2:12; 1 Pet. 1:5;  
1 Jn. 2:19; 3:9; 5:1-3, 18

# Perseverance of the Saints: Answered

- There are plain statements of apostasy  
(Lk. 8:12-13; Gal. 5:4; Jas. 5:19-20;  
Jude 24; Rev. 3:5)
- There are severe warnings of apostasy  
(Jn. 15:1-6; 1 Cor. 9:27; 10:12; Rom. 11:22;  
Heb. 2:1; 3:12-14; 10:26-29; 12:15;  
2 Pet. 1:10; 3:17; 2 Jn. 8)

# Perseverance of the Saints: Answered

- There are certain promises of apostasy (1 Tim. 4:1)
- There are clear examples of apostasy (Acts 8:20-24; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 5:12; 2 Tim. 2:18; Heb. 6:4-6; 2 Pet. 2:1-3,20-22; Jude 5)

# Calvin's Consequences

## Consequences for God

- God does not want all to be saved  
(Ezek. 18:23; 33:11; 1 Tim. 2:4; Tit. 2:11;  
2 Pet. 3:8)
- God is a respecter of persons (Acts 10:34;  
Rom. 2:11; Eph. 6:19; Col. 3:25; 1 Pet. 1:17)

# Calvin's Consequences

- God forces man to be saved or lost (Rev. 3:20; 22:17)
- God is responsible for the damnation of the wicked (Ezek. 18:21-32; 33:10-20)

# Calvin's Consequences

## Consequences for Man

- Man blames heredity for his sin and excuses his sin (Total Depravity)
- Man is not motivated to act; a fatalistic view of life is adopted (Unconditional Election and Limited Atonement)



# Calvin's Consequences

- Man is a robot without a free-will, or choice (Irresistible Grace) – Gen. 4:6-7; Deut. 30:19; Josh. 24:15; Heb. 11:25
- Man lives any way he wants (Perseverance of the Saints)

# Calvin's Consequences

- Man is not truly accountable to God, but only doing what God predestined him to do or not do (Eccl. 12:14; Mt. 25:19; Rom. 14:12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rev. 22:12-13)

# Calvin's Consequences

## Consequences for Gospel Preaching

- Why preach to the whole world, if the whole world cannot be saved (Mt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Acts 8:4)?

# Calvin's Consequences

- The all-sufficiency of the gospel call is denied (Jn. 6:44-45; Rom. 1:16; 10:14-15,17; 2 Thess. 3:14)
- The gospel invitation (Rev. 22:17) and call to repentance (Acts 17:30) is foolish

# Calvin's Consequences

## Consequences for the Devil

- There is no work for the Devil. Why should the Devil try to get people to be lost, if the lost are predestined to be lost anyway and can never be saved, and the saved elect can never be lost (Lk. 8:12; 1 Pet. 5:8)?

# Calvin's **TULIP** Picked and Plucked

- Calvinism when tested under the light of God's truth is found to be false (Acts 17:11; 1 Thess. 5:12; 1 Jn. 4:1)
- Calvinism is "*not after Christ*" (Col. 2:8) ... we listen to Jesus Christ, not to John Calvin (Mt. 17:5)!

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 9: Tongue-Speaking (Part 1)

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 1. Mark 16:17-20

- “these signs” (1 Cor. 14:22)
- “cast out ... speak ... take up ... drink ... lay hands” (not just tongue-speaking)
- “speak with new tongues” (Gr. glossa = glossary)
- “confirming the word ... signs” (Heb. 2:3-4)



# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 2. Acts 2:1-13, 16-21, 33

- “they were all together”
- “filled with the Holy Spirit”
- “speak with other tongues” (see Mk. 16:17)
- “speaking in his own language”
- “hear them speaking in our tongue”

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 3. Acts 10:44-48

- “Holy Spirit fell on all them that heard”
- “poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit”
- “heard them speak with tongues”
- “received the Holy Spirit as well as we”

(see also 11:15-18 [Acts 1:5; Mk. 3:11]; 15:8; fulfilled the “all flesh” of Joel 2:28)

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 4. Acts 19:1-7

- “baptized into the name” (this addresses the question of v. 3)
- “laid his hand on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them” (this addresses the question of v. 2)
- “spake with tongues, and prophesied”

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 5. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28, 30

- “to one is given ... to another”
- “kinds of tongues” (see Mk. 16:17; Acts 2:4)
- “interpretation of tongues”
- “do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?”

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 9: Tongue-Speaking (Part 2)

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 6. 1 Corinthians 13:1, 8-13

- “tongues of men and of angels”
- “if ... if ... if ... if ... if” (speaking hypothetically and hyperbolically)
- “tongues, they shall cease”
- “when that which is perfect is come”  
(lit. the perfect thing; not, he who is perfect)

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 7. 1 Corinthians 14:1-33, 39-40

- “in a [*unknown* – kjv] tongue”
- “no man understands”
- “he speaks mysteries”
- “speaks in a tongue edifies himself”
- “I would have you all speak with tongues”

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 7. 1 Corinthians 14:1-33, 39-40

- “except he interpret”
- “speaking ... what shall I profit you”
- “speech easy to be understood”
- “If then I know not the meaning”
- “pray that he may interpret”



# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 7. 1 Corinthians 14:1-33, 39-40

- “pray in a tongue ... my understanding is unfruitful”
- “men of strange tongues” { Isa.28:11; fulfilled when Assyria conquered Israel }
- “tongues are for a sign ... unbelieving”

# Seven NT Passages on Tongue-Speaking

## 7. 1 Corinthians 14:1-33, 39-40

- “Let all things be done unto edifying”
- “in turn; and let one interpret”
- “if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence”
- “speak to himself, and to God” (explains verse 2)

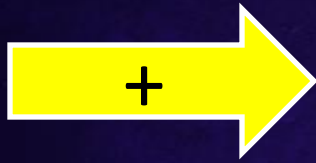
# 1 Corinthians 14: What Is the Goal?

Tongue  
Speaker

Interpreter  
Needed

Understand  
Necessary

Edification:  
the Goal



Verse 2,  
4, 5, 6, 9,  
13, etc.

Verse 5,  
13, 26, 27-  
28

Verse 2, 9,  
14-15, 19  
{16, 31}

Verse 3,4,  
5, 12, 17,  
26 {33, 40}

# Tongue-Speaking Then and Now

## Then

- Confirm the word
- Unrehearsed
- Known languages
- Understood
- Not for all

## Now

- Show you are saved
- Taught/rehearsed
- Unknown jibberish
- Not understood
- For all

# Tongue-Speaking Then and Now

## Then

- Will cease
- Not the most important gift
- Interp. desired
- For unbelievers

## Now

- Still present today
- Viewed as the important gift
- No interp. desired
- For believers

## Then

- Limited to 2 or 3
- Take turns
- Keep silent when no interpreter
- Women kept silent
- Orderly

## Now

- Unlimited in number
- Speak at once
- Do not keep silent when no interpreter
- Women speak
- Disorderly

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 10: Miraculous Gifts Today (Part 1)

# Faith Healers or Fake Healers?

- Several Pentecostal and Charismatic groups claim to 1) speak in tongues, 2) handle snakes, and 3) perform miracles of healing
- They say it is a sign that the Holy Ghost has come upon them to show God's power today



# Faith Healers or Fake Healers?

- Good fake healers follow four rules when possible: 1) pre-select the ones to be “healed,” 2) heal illnesses that cannot be objectively verified, 3) use trickery when possible, and 4) accuse the one who comes of not having enough faith when the “miracle” doesn’t work

# Faith Healers or Fake Healers?

- It must be remembered that false, deceiving miracles were performed in Bible times by false teachers and prophets (Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22; 2 Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:13; 16:14; 19:20)
- What is claimed today must be tested?

# Definition of Miracles

- What is a “miracle” (in the Bible)?
- A “miracle” is not simply an extraordinary, astonishing, or unusual act. A “miracle” is 1) a divine power that is 2) a supernatural act working outside the laws of nature (see Acts 8:9-13 for the difference in the two).

# Definition of Miracles

- Three main terms: miracles, wonders, signs (Acts 2:22)
- “Miracle” (Gr. δύναμις) = supernatural act of power, might, strength (Mt. 7:22; 11:20-23; 13:54; 14:2; Mk. 6:2, 5, 14; 9:39; Lk. 10:13; 19:37; Acts 2:22; 6:8; 8:13; 19:11; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28; 2 Cor. 12:12; Gal. 3:5; 2 Th. 2:9)

# Definition of Miracles

- “Wonders” (Gr. τέρας) = supernatural act producing a wonder (amazing, astonishing) effect on those who see it performed (Mt. 24:24; Mk. 13:22; Jn. 4:48; Acts 2:19, 43; 4:30; 5:12; 6:8; 7:36; 14:3; 15:12; Rom. 15:19; 2 Cor. 12:12; 2 Thess. 2:9; Heb. 2:4)

# Definition of Miracles

- “Sign” (Gr. σημεῖον) = supernatural act given to confirm, corroborate, or authenticate what has been said or done (Mt. 12:38; 16:1,4; Mk. 8:11; 16:17, 20; Lk. 11:16, 29; 23:8; Jn. 2:11, 18,23; 3:2; 4:54; 6:2, 14, 26, 30; 7:31; 9:16; 10:41; 11:47; 12:18, 37; 20:30; Acts 2:22,43; 8:6; 1 Cor. 1:22; etc.)

# Design of Miracles

- Miracles performed were for the express purpose of confirming (validating, endorsing) the words that were spoken by the preacher
- See Mk. 16:20; Jn. 20:30-31; Ac. 2:22; Heb. 2:3-4; see 1 K. 17:17-24 for an OT example of a miracle confirming the word

# Miracles Confirm the Words

Passage	Message	Confirmation	Response
John 2:22	Spake	Raised	Believed
John 2:23	His name	Signs	Believed
Mk. 16:15-20	Gospel	Signs	Believe/bapt.
Acts 4:19-32	Speak word	Sign/Wonder	Believed
Acts 8:5-12	Preached	Miracles	Believed
Acts 13:7-12	Hear - word	Blind	Believed
Acts 14:2-3	Speak boldly	Sign/Wonder	Believed



# Miracles Confirm the Words

Passage	Message	Confirmation	Response
Rom. 15:18ff	Preached	Sign/Wonder	Obedient
1 Cor. 1:4-7	Testimony	Confirmed/ Gift	Called upon
1 Cor. 2:4-5	Preaching	Spirit/Power	Faith
1 Thess. 1:5ff	Gospel	Power/Spirit	Received
Heb. 2:1-4	Salvation	Confirmed/ Sign/Wonder	Give heed

# Miracles: Then and Now

<b>4 Features</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>Now</b>
Definition	Supernatural	Natural
Design	Confirmation	Spirituality
Duration	Will cease	Ongoing
Demonstration	Holy Spirit gifts	Man-made talents

# Teach Our Neighbors



Lesson 10: Miraculous Gifts Today  
(Part 2)

# Duration of Miracles

- Miracles were performed to confirm the words spoken by Jesus, the apostles, and NT prophets (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:3-4). Once their word was confirmed, there was no more need for the miracles. God works today through his providence, but this is different from the miracles performed in the NT era.

# Duration of Miracles

1 Corinthians 13:8-12

Miraculous	Knowledge of God's will
Prophecies, tongues, knowledge – done away	
1. In part - done away	1. That which is perfect
2. Child - put away	2. Man
3. Darkly	3. Face to face
4. Know in part	4. Know fully

# The Temporary Nature of Miracles In Corinth and Ephesus

Corinth	Ephesus
“Gifts” (12:4,9,28,30,31)	“Gifts” (4:7-8)
“No schism in the body” (12:25)	“Joined and knit together” (4:16)
“One body, many members” (12:12,14,18-20,27)	“Whole body, every part” (4:16)

# The Temporary Nature of Miracles In Corinth and Ephesus

Corinth	Ephesus
“Apostles, prophets, teachers” (12:29)	“Apostles, prophets, pastors and teachers” (4:11)
“Prophecies, knowledge” (13:8)	“Prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers” (4:11)
“They shall cease, done away” (13:8-10)	“until” (4:13)

# The Temporary Nature of Miracles In Corinth and Ephesus

Corinth	Ephesus
“that which is perfect is come” (13:10)	“the perfecting of the saints” (4:12)
“child” (13:11)	“children” (4:14)
“man” (13:11)	“man” (4:13)
“put away childish things” (13:11)	“grow up” (4:15)



# The Temporary Nature of Miracles In Corinth and Ephesus

Corinth	Ephesus
“I know fully”	“the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God” .... (4:13)
“love” (13:1-7,13)	“love” (4:15-16)
“the church may receive edifying” (14:5, 12, 17,26)	“building up of the body of Christ” (4:12, 16)

# Duration of Miracles

- “Perfect” (Gr. τέλειος) does not mean sinless or without fault; but, the total, complete, finished, and brought-to-an-end will of God
- Use of “perfect” in the NT to mean the complete will of God (Rom. 12:2; Jas. 1:25) and complete with the will of God (Col. 4:12)

# Demonstration of Miracles

- Miracles were supernatural “gifts of the Holy Spirit” (Heb. 2:4), not natural talents of men
- Spiritual “gifts” (Gr. χάρισμα) were miraculous, supernatural empowerments (Rom. 12:6; 1 Cor. 1:7; 12:4, 9, 28, 30, 21; 1 Pet. 4:10)

# Demonstration of Miracles

NT Times	Today
1. At times random	1. Pre-selected
2. Complete healing	2. Sometimes partial
3. Objectively verified	3. Subjective verification
4. At times extraordinary (raising dead)	4. Always ordinary
5. Never turned away	5. Turn away some
6. Never failed	6. Sometimes fail

# Miracles: Then and Now

<b>4 Features</b>	<b>Then</b>	<b>Now</b>
Definition	Supernatural	Natural
Design	Confirmation	Spirituality
Duration	Will cease	Ongoing
Demonstration	Holy Spirit gifts	Man-made talents

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 11: Oneness Pentecostals (Part 1)

# The Godhead

- Is Jesus God? Is the Holy Spirit God? Is there one God, or are there three gods? Does the Bible teach the Trinity? Some religious persons say “Yes”, others say “No”. What does the Bible say about the Godhead?

# The Godhead

- It is important to study the Godhead for at least three reasons. First, it is important, like Jesus, to be able to instruct others about the proper nature of deity. Jesus taught others that the Christ was more than just the son of David (human); he was also Lord (deity) (Mt. 22:41-46).



# The Godhead

- Second, it is important, like John, to be able to answer any error concerning the proper nature of deity (1 John 4:1-3). Third, it is important to simply know what the Bible says about the Godhead.

# The Godhead

- There are several verses in the Bible that speak of the three members of the Godhead and it would be good for us to understand them (Matthew 28:19; Luke 1:35; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4-6; Titus 3:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20-21; Revelation 1:4-5).

# The Godhead

- What do the words “Trinity” and “Godhead” mean? The English word “Trinity” means the state of being three. This word is not in the Bible, but the doctrine is. (Remember, the word “Bible” is not even in the Bible, and yet we agree that it is an acceptable word to use to describe what is in the Bible.)

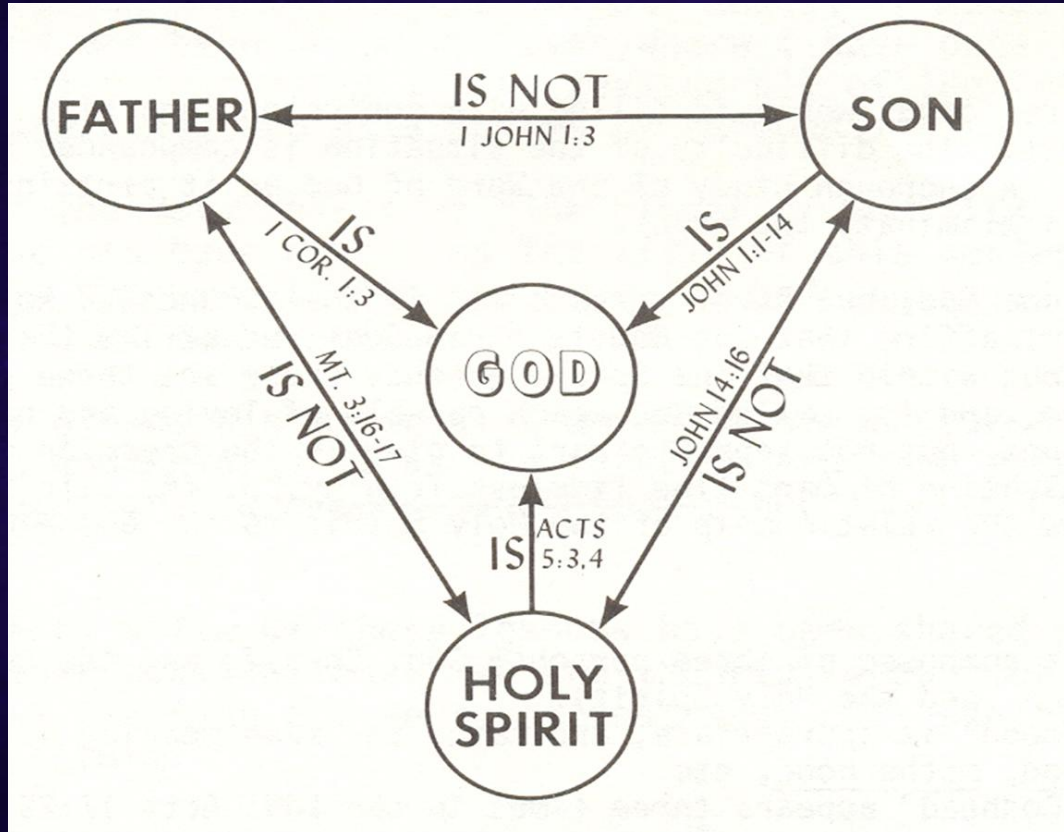
# The Godhead

- The Hebrew for “God” is *El* or *Elohim* meaning strength or mighty. The Greek word for “God” is *theos* meaning the person of God (Matthew 1:23; etc.). The Greek word for “Godhead” or “divine” is *theios* meaning the quality of being deity; divine (Acts 17:29; 2 Peter 1:3,4).

# The Godhead

- Another Greek word for “Godhead” is *theotees* meaning the essence of deity (Colossians 2:9). The Greek word for “divinity” is *theiotees* meaning the attribute of deity (Romans 1:20).

# The Godhead



# The Godhead

- When you take time to examine these scriptures you will find three truths about the Godhead. First, there is unity in the Godhead. There is one Godhead (Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah 45:5; James 2:19).

# The Godhead

- Second, there is individuality in the Godhead. There is one Godhead in three persons. There is one deity made up of three persons just like there is one humanity made up of many persons (Lk. 3:21-22; Jn. 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:14; Acts 7:55-56).



# The Godhead

- Third, there is divinity in the Godhead. There are three persons who are fully divine, same in nature and essence. How can this be? Well, think of water. The one substance of water (H<sup>2</sup>O) can exist in three forms as a solid, a liquid, and a vapor. Think of the sun. Our one sun can be light, heat, and energy.

# The Godhead

- In the same way, the Father is “God” (1 Corinthians 1:3), the Son Jesus is “God” (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:8), and the Holy Spirit is “God” (Acts 5:3-4). Three beings in one Godhead.

# The Godhead

- Some religious groups would deny one or more of these Bible truths. For example, there are those who would deny the unity of the Godhead. They would say that there are many gods (polytheism, tri-theism, Mormonism).

# The Godhead

- There are others who would deny the individuality of the Godhead. They would say that there is just one person who is divine (Gnosticism, Monarchianism, Sabellianism, Marcellianism, United Pentecostals, “Jesus Only” or “Oneness” Pentecostals).

# The Godhead

- And, there are still others who would deny the the divinity of the Godhead. They would say, for example, that Jesus and the Holy Spirit are not God (Subordinationism, Arianism, Jehovah's Witnesses, Unitarians). Jesus was just a man and the Holy Spirit is just a "force".

# The Godhead

- The Bible says that God is “one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). How can God be “one” and three at the same time? The answer is found in the use of “one” in the Bible.

# The Godhead

- “One” is used in some passages to refer to unity, not the numeral one (see Matthew 19:5-6; John 10:30; 17:22; Acts 4:32; 1 Corinthians 3:8; 6:16; Ephesians 2:14; 5:31). Deuteronomy 6:4 teaches that God is “one” in unity, not “one” in number.

# Teach Our Neighbors



Lesson 11: Oneness Pentecostals  
(Part 2)



# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- Oneness Pentecostals (UPC and APC) believe that baptism must be performed “in Jesus’ name” (a particular formula to be pronounced)
- Matt.28:19 and Acts 2:38 are (mis)used to prove that the name “Jesus” must be said over one at baptism

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- Matthew 1:21, John 5:43 and John 14:26 are put together to prove that “Jesus” is the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit
- This doctrine allegedly came by latter-day revelation in 1914 (*Think It Not Strange: A History of the Oneness Movement*, St. Louis: Pentecostal Publishing House, 1965, pp. 53-55)

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- “Jesus instructed us to baptize ‘in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.’ In other words, He told us to baptize in the name (singular) that fully reveals God in His redemptive manifestations and work.”

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- “What is this name? ... In short, the supreme name that reveals God – the name by which we know the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost – is Jesus. By invoking the name of Jesus then, we fulfill the command of Matthew 28:19.”

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- “The apostles understood that Jesus was the redemptive name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. They did not merely repeat those three titles, but they invoked the name to which those titles referred. The other preachers in the New Testament church ... adhered to the same baptismal formula.”

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- “There are no contradictions in the Word of God. The New Testament teaches that we must be baptized ‘in the name’ of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and that name we are to invoke at baptism is Jesus.” (*Why We Must Be Baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost*, FDS, Tract 6156, Word Aflame Press, no date)

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- In several cases nothing is said, following “baptize” (Mk. 16:16; Ac.2:41; 8:12-13,36,38; 9:18; 10:47; 16:15,33; etc.)

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- In some cases, different words follow the word “baptize” (ASV):
  - in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:38)
  - into the name of the Lord Jesus (Acts 8:16; 19:5)
  - in the name of Jesus Christ (Acts 10:48)



# Three Greek Prepositions

- “Baptize” is used in the NT with three different Greek prepositions:

Epi = on, over (basis of the thing considered)

Eis = into, unto (motion toward an end)

En = in (the sphere, or medium of the thing)

# Three Greek Prepositions

- The Greek epi is used in Acts 2:38, “baptized ... in the name...” (ASV)
- Baptism is on the basis of who Jesus Christ is (vv. 22-37)

# Three Greek Prepositions

- The Greek eis is used in Matthew 28:19, “baptizing them into the name...” (ASV)
- Baptism places one into a relationship with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:16[38]; 19:3,5; Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 1:13,15; Gal. 3:27)

# Three Greek Prepositions

- The Greek en is used in Acts 10:48, “baptized in the name of Jesus Christ” (ASV)
- Baptism is done by means of (within the realm of )the authority of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18)

# Three Greek Prepositions

- “Name” in the NT often stands for:
  - A proper name (Matt. 1:21)
  - All that a person represents (Mk. 6:14; 1 Jn. 3:23; see Prov. 22:1)
  - Power or authority (Lk. 24:47; Acts 3:6; 4:7,9,10,12,18; 5:40; 9:27-28; 16:18; 1 Cor. 5:4; Eph. 1:21; Col. 3:17; 2 Thess. 3:6)

# Baptism Requirements

## Requires

- Proper subject: believer
- Proper element: water
- Proper mode: immersion
- Proper design: for the remission of sins
- Proper authority: in the name of Jesus Christ

## Does Not Require

- Specific age
- Specific place
- Specific time
- Specific baptizer
- Specific formula

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- One may orally state what he is doing in baptism (“I now baptize you into the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit”), but there is no specific formula of wording to be said (“I baptize you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ”)

# Baptism In the Name of Jesus

- In each case of conversion in Acts, the one being baptized is told what to do, but the one doing the baptizing is not told what to say. Acts tells us what was done in baptism (“What must I do?”), not what was said in baptism.



# Two Questions for UPC

- Where in the NT are we told what the baptizer said?
- Do you have a preaching “formula” (Acts 9:27, 29) or a doing “formula” (Col. 3:17)? If not, why not?

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 12: Mormonism (Part 1)

# Joseph Smith

- Joseph Smith, Jr., was born on December, 23, 1805 in Sharon, VT. By 1815, the Smith family had moved to Palmyra, NY., and then on to Manchester, NY. Smith's mother was a fortune-teller and Smith was a "money digger" who looked for buried treasure.

# Joseph Smith

- The Smith family also lived in a time and place where religious revival among Methodists, Presbyterians, and Baptists was very great. There were many charismatic persons, travelling preachers, revival meetings, and mass conversions in the area.

# Joseph Smith

- Smith became cynical of all the religious rivalry and division that he witnessed. In 1820, when Smith was 15 years old, he claimed that as he read James 1:5 and prayed for wisdom, two “Personages” appeared to him (called the “first vision”): God and Jesus.

# Joseph Smith

- God said to Joseph: “This is my beloved Son, hear Him” (taken from Mt. 17:5). Jesus told Smith that the religions of Smith’s day were wrong and not to join a religion, but to restore the Lord’s church.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1823, while praying on another occasion, Smith claimed that the angel Moroni (a resurrected prophet) appeared to him three times and told him about some buried gold plates that contained “the fullness of my gospel” (D.&C. 35:17).

# Joseph Smith

- These two plates were supposedly sealed in A.D. 421 and buried near Palmyra, N.Y. (Early Mormon followers were told about the appearance of this angel, but not the earlier appearance of God and Jesus.)



# Joseph Smith

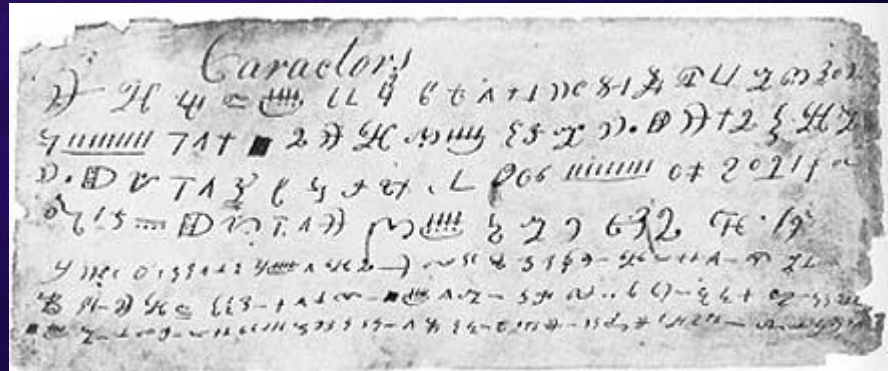
- In 1827, Smith claimed that he was finally given these plates and the Urim and Thummin (taken from Ex. 28:30) to translate them.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1828, Smith copied the ancient characters that were on the plates and sent them by Martin Harris to a Prof. Anthon in New York who verified that they were correct. However, Anthon later denied his verification and said the story about the plates was a “hoax upon the learned”.

# Joseph Smith

- The characters on the plates were supposed to be in “Egyptian, Chaldaic, Assyriac, and Arabic” (also called “reformed Egyptian”, Mormon 9:32).



Characters transcribed from the golden plates of Moroni

# Joseph Smith

- In 1828, Smith began to translate the plates into English with “the gift and power of God”. As the story goes, Smith put a seer stone into a hat and put his face into the hat. He saw a piece of parchment with the ancient language on it and the English translation under it.

# Joseph Smith

- He first read the translation to Harris. Later, he read to his wife Emma, and in 1829, a local school teacher, Oliver Cowdery, joined the translation team. Cowdery would repeat the message to Smith and it would disappear if it was correct.

# Joseph Smith

- The next portion of the message would appear until the translation of all the plates was complete. In 1830, the Book of Mormon (hereafter, BOM) was first published and in 1838, the angel allegedly came back for the plates and Smith delivered them up to him and they were taken to heaven.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1830, Smith also claimed to be the prophet and organizer of the one true church. In the beginning, they called themselves the “Church of Christ”. Smith was the “prophet, seer, and revelator” of the church and also its first president.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1831, Smith and his converts moved to Kirtland, OH. All personal property and assets were turned over to the church. In 1834, the church was officially called the “Church of the Latter-day Saints.”



# Joseph Smith

- Smith also wrote Doctrine and Covenants (1835) at this time and The Pearl of Great Price. A temple was completed in Kirtland, OH., in 1836. In 1837, Smith opened his own bank which went under within weeks.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1835, Smith claimed to translate an ancient papyrus and published it under the title, “the Book of Abraham” (found in the Pearl of Great Price). This book is accepted as scripture in the LDS church. This papyrus was lost for many years and then found in 1967.

# Joseph Smith

- When Egyptologists translated this papyrus, they found that it was a funerary text known as the “Book of Breathings”, and had nothing to do with Abraham. The so-called “Book of Abraham” was simply a product of Smith’s imagination.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1837, Smith fled by night to Missouri subject to arrest and thousands of dollars in debt. In 1838-39, the Mormon wars took place among those who opposed Mormonism.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1839, Smith escaped from jail and went to Commerce (Nauvoo), IL. More battles against Mormons erupted over the next few years.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1843, Smith was fooled by some men with a set of fake brass plates called the Kinderhook Plates (see History of the Church, 5:372). He started to “translate” them, but they were later shown to be bogus after his death.

# Joseph Smith

- In 1844, Smith was put in jail for destroying a printing press and a paper called the Nauvoo Expositor that printed anti-Mormon articles. On June 27, 1844, Smith died (Mormons say as a “martyr”) using a six-shooter in a gun battle with an angry mob while he was in jail at Carthage, IL.

# Joseph Smith

- His followers would later be divided into different groups: one group, led by Brigham Young, one of the “Twelve Apostles” of the LDS church, moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, in 1847. This group became known as The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (see [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) and [www.mormon.org](http://www.mormon.org)).



# Joseph Smith

- The other group, located in Independence, MO, was known as the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from 1872 to 2001. Today, they are known as the Community of Christ (see [www.cofchrist.org](http://www.cofchrist.org)).

# Joseph Smith

- Numerous splinter groups like Church of Christ Temple Lot and various “fundamentalists” groups have formed since 1844. Some groups want to still practice the polygamy that was abandoned in 1890 by the LDS church.

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 12: Mormonism (Part 2)

# The Book of Mormon

- The Book of Mormon (hereafter, BOM) contains 15 books: 1 Nephi, 2 Nephi, Jacob, Enos, Jarom, Omni, The Words of Mormon, Mosiah, Alma, Helaman, 3 Nephi, 4 Nephi, Mormon, Ether, and Moroni.

# The Book of Mormon

- These books contain the story of the Jewish Nephites who migrated from Palestine and inhabited the American continent between 600 B.C. and A.D. 400. Mormon was a Nephite leader and the father of Moroni. There were fights between the Lamanites (dark-skinned) and the Nephites (white-skinned) in America.

# The Book of Mormon

- The Nephite's records were supposedly written on golden plates and buried at Hill Cummorah by Moroni, the last living Nephite, c. A.D. 421. Moroni later appeared to Smith in 1823 and told him where to find these plates so he could be translated them into the BOM.

# The Book of Mormon

- The BOM calls a person a “fool” who believes the Bible only (2 Nephi 29:1-12; see also 28:29). In 1833, Smith even wrote his own “inspired revision” or translation of the KJV Bible (D.&C. 73:3-4). It is called the “Inspired Version” (<http://www.centerplace.org/hs/iv/default.htm>). He added 19 verses to Isaiah 29!

# The Book of Mormon

- Smith called the BOM “the most correct of any book on earth ... and a man would get nearer to God by abiding by its precepts than by any other book” (A Compendium of the Doctrines of the Gospel, page 273).



# The Book of Mormon

- Mormons follow the teachings found in the KJV Bible (some of it), the BOM, Doctrines and Covenants (originally called the Book of Commandments) and The Pearl of Great Price. Only the Bible is considered to have corruptions. Mormons are also instructed to accept the teachings of their living apostles and prophets.

# The Book of Mormon

- According to the First Presidency, the “most reliable way to measure the accuracy of any biblical passages is not by comparing different texts, but by comparison with the Book of Mormon and modern-day revelations (First Presidency Letter, May 22, 1992).

# Why We Do Not Follow The Book of Mormon

- The BOM lacks true, eye-witness testimony.
- The BOM (like Mohammed's Koran, Mary Baker Eddy's Science and Health, and Ellen G. White's Great Controversy, etc.) is dependent upon the author's claim of latter-day (continuous) revelation (2 Nephi 29:9-10; D.&C. 124:129).

# Why We Do Not Follow The Book of Mormon

- The BOM contains statements that contradict the Bible.
- The BOM contains statements that contradict other statements in the BOM.
- The BOM claims to cover a period from 600 B.C. to A.D. 421.

# Why We Do Not Follow The Book of Mormon

- The BOM contains absurdities.
- The BOM (early editions) contains grammatical errors and substantial additions.
- The BOM writers admit to possible error and imperfections (1 Nephi 1:2-3; 19:6; Mormon 9:31-33; Ether 12:23-24).

# Why We Do Not Follow The Book of Mormon

- The BOM claims that the Bible is not complete.
- The BOM claims to be “Another Testament of Jesus Christ” (see the front cover of the BOM and D.&C. 84:57).

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 13: Mormonism (Part 1)

# Basic LDS Doctrines

- God: he came from another planet as a man; he achieved the status of God and is one of many Gods
- Jesus: the son of Mary who was married to God; a spirit-brother to the Devil; was married to Mary, Martha, Mary Magdalene; had children of whom Joseph Smith is a descendent



# Basic LDS Doctrines

- Holy Spirit: uncertain as to whether or not the H.S. is a person
- Men/women: you come as a spirit-being from other planets (you have no memory of this) to earth to become fleshly individuals and live; you achieve Godhood after you die and are resurrected

# Basic LDS Doctrines

- Sin: the sin of Adam and Eve was a good thing. It allowed them to leave the garden and progress through learning and it allowed them to have children (2 Nephi 2:22-25).
- Salvation: : mankind earns a particular eternal destination based upon his good deeds.

# Basic LDS Doctrines

- Eternal Rewards: there are three kingdoms of glory (misusing 1 Cor. 15:40) - telestial, terrestrial, celestial (which itself has three degrees)
- Polygamy: three phases – 1) Joseph Smith alone (1831-39), 2) Smith and his followers (1840-44), 3) Brigham Young popularized it (1844-90) until it was banned in 1879 (U.S.) and 1890 (Mormons)

# Basic LDS Doctrines

- Racism: Smith and early Mormons practiced racism and prejudiced against blacks until 1978.
- Temple rituals: secret rituals take place in the temple that are not to be spoken of; baptism for the dead; celestial marriage and sealing; non-Mormons are not allowed in the temples, only in the church buildings.

# Basic LDS Doctrines

- LDS Church: follow the 13 Articles of Faith in addition to the BOM; use bread/water for the L.S. each Sunday; top leader is called the President (added later after Joseph Smith); they maintain 12 Apostles at all times; “elders” are young, unmarried men; “deacons” are young boys of 12 years old; church officials are divided into two priesthoods – Aaronic and Melchizedek

# Teach Our Neighbors



## Lesson 13: Mormonism (Part 2)

# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be caring/concerned/compassionate – have a love for the lost that will take you to them (Prov. 11:30; Mt. 9:36-38; Rom. 9:1; 10:1)
- Be sacrificial – give up some personal time to “go” and talk with others (Isa. 6:8; Mk. 16:15; Acts 8:4, 26; 20:24; 1 Cor. 9:20-24)

# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be urgent – do not delay or procrastinate; “go” now (Jn. 4:35; Ac. 9:20; Jude 22-23)
- Be courageous – do not fear to speak (Ezek. 3:9, 18; Phil. 1:14); do not be ashamed (Rom. 1:14-16); do not be cowardice (Ac. 4:29; 28:31; Eph. 6:19)



# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be prayerful – pray each day for open doors of opportunity to speak with someone; use your time wisely (Col. 4:3-6)
- Be unified – team up with another Christian to do personal work together (Mk. 6:7; Lk. 10:1; 1 Cor. 3:5-6)

# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be intentional – find a specific person (friend, co-worker, neighbor, classmate, etc.) this week to talk to (Jn. 1:41-45; Ac. 16:13)
- Be knowledgeable – know the basics of the person's religion (Acts 17:17-18) and the basics of scripture (Acts 2:17ff; 1 Tim. 2:3-4)

# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be convincing/convicting – seek to constrain, persuade, and reason as you talk to the person (Lk. 14:24; Acts 2:40; 17:2-4)
- Be open/truthful/honest – speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15); speak all the truth (Acts 20:20,27)

# Your Personal-Work Plan

- Be ready – prepare yourself to say something when the time comes (Acts 7:1; 21:40; 23:1; 24:10; 26:1; 28:23; 1 Pet. 3:15)
- Be regular/consistent/constant – when you finish with one “prospect”, find another and keep going (Acts 5:42; 13:51; 18:6; 28:28)