

Rightly Dividing

THE
WORD OF TRUTH

Bible Study Course

Test Three:
Lessons 9-12



*T*hen said the Lord unto Moses, behold I will... prove them [and see] whether or not they will walk in my law. (Exodus 16:4)

*A*nd you shall remember all the way which the Lord your God led you...to humble you, and to prove you, to know what was in your heart – whether or not you would keep His commandments. (Deuteronomy 8:2)

*E*xamine me, O Lord, and prove me; try my reins and my heart. (Psalm 26:2)

How God's *True Church* is Unique

In Matthew 16:18, Jesus Christ proclaimed to His disciples that He would build *His Church* – and it would not be destroyed by the grave. His actual words in the *KJV* are: “...and the *gates of hell* shall not prevail against it” (emphasis added). You have studied in Lessons 10-12 why such a thing is impossible: All who are members of His Church will be given eternal life beyond this life in the flesh, and the second death will not have any power over them (1 Corinthians 15:50-58 and Revelation 20:6). In Revelation 19:5-9, He showed the Apostle John that He intends to *marry* His Church immediately prior to His con-quest of all the nations of the world in order to set up God's eternal Kingdom. The problem that you face is rather interesting: *How do you differentiate between the Church Jesus Christ is building and those who are the counterfeits – you know, those who claim to be His Church yet teach so many things He says are not according to the will of God the Father (Matthew 7:21-23)?* There are, after all, 32,000+ so-called “Christian” denominations who claim to represent Him. How can they *all* do so when they do not teach the same things – when they actually teach things that *contradict* one another? In short, are there some features of God's *True Church* that make it *unique* when compared to all others? Surely, if you desire to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:23, 24), you will want to know these features so you can become part of God's *True Church*!

Uniqueness Shown in the *Name*

God's True Church has always understood the importance of its *name*. *Name* is not only a means of personal identification, it also identifies its *source of authority* and its *purpose*. Jesus Christ is revealed as the Head of the Church (Ephesians 5:23) – which is the revelation of the source of its authority and purpose. Twelve times in the New Testament the Church is identified as “the Church of God” and, in one place, as “the Churches of Christ.” These references are as much references to the source of authority and purpose for its teachings as they are personal identity. Why is it important to understand this?

From the most ancient times, there has been the belief that the *name* produces an intended effect. For example: *Yahweh Elohim* identifies the God-being known in the Old Testament as the *Lord God* (Genesis 2:4). This name identifies Him as *the self-existent One*, as well as *One who will become increasingly known through self-revelation*. It is also an identification of the *Redeemer of mankind* and *Lord of the Covenants*. It also identifies Him as the *Master of creation*. In Acts 4:10-12, Peter identifies Him – that is, Jesus Christ, who was *Yahweh Elohim*

of the Old Testament – as the only “...*name* under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (emphasis added). It was typical that people were named by their outstanding characteristics – for example: *Jacob* (one who uses force and/or trickery to take advantage of others; a supplanter), when he repented, was renamed *Israel* (one who overcomes with God and men). Paul, in Philippians 2:9, says that another God-being gave Jesus Christ “...a *name* which is above every *name*” (emphasis added). So what does this have to do with the *name* of God's *True Church*?

While there are references to “the Church of God” and “the Churches of Christ,” John 17:11 has more to do with God the Father keeping those whom He has given to Jesus in the *attributes* and *characteristics* of God Himself – in harmony with His thoughts and ways (see Isaiah 55:8, 9 and Galatians 5:22-25) – than it does with having them specifically *named* with His identity. The Greek term translated as *church* in the New Testament is *ekklesia*. That term can be translated *assembly*, *congregation*, *church*, *gathering*, and *meeting*. What if a group wanted to call itself *The Congregation of God* or *God's Assembly*? Does it have to have the specific term *Church of God* in its name? No. If it is sup-

posed to be kept specifically in the *Father's* name, why isn't it referred to as *The Church of God the Father*? Why allow at least one reference in which it is referred to as *The Churches of Christ*? There are numerous churches of *God* and *Christ* that are not part of God's *True Church* simply because they have gone astray from God's *attributes* and *purpose*.

When *The Seventh Day Christian Assembly* was incorporated in 1994, we chose this name based on its identifying markers: (a) belonging to Jesus Christ, (b) observing the seventh-day Sabbath (Exodus 20:8-11; Mark 2:27,28), and (c) being an assembly of people living by and teaching what Jesus Christ Himself revealed and taught (Matthew 28:19, 20). Is Jesus Christ *God*? Yes. He is one of two members of *Elohim* revealed in scripture (see Matthew 1:23, John 1:1-3, and Philippians 2:5-11). What did Jesus Christ reveal and teach? Look at John 7:14-18. It is our firm conviction that we have the same responsibility that Jesus Christ had: *to preach and teach what God the Father has revealed to us through Jesus Christ*. Are we part of God's *True Church*? Most assuredly! Simply because of our *identity*? No. Because we strive to make His attributes, character, and purpose the mainstays of our lives.

Many churches' names have more to do with either their basic, underlying doctrine (Baptist, Methodist, Pentecost, Adventist, prophecy, four-square, unity, etc.), their type of governance (Congregation-al, Episcopal, Presbyterian, etc.), or their founder's name and his approach to the *gospel*.

Now, consider this point in relationship to the following points – not in isolation. In isolation, it is probably debatable. In relationship to the other points, it takes on added interesting meaning.

Uniqueness Shown in the *Message*

Do all so-called “Christian” churches preach and teach the same *gospel*? No. What message is God's Church *supposed* to deliver to the world? What message did Jesus Christ preach and teach? Mark 1:1, 14, 15 reads like this: “The beginning of the *gospel of Jesus Christ...*” (emphasis added). In other words, Mark was beginning to lay out the *good news* that Jesus Christ Himself preached and taught. In vv. 14, 15, he writes: “Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee preaching *the gospel of the kingdom of God...*” (emphases added). As you have been thoroughly taught in this Bible Study

Course, this gospel is the good news about the future setting up of the **Kingdom of God** to *conquer* and *rule* all nations on the earth and to bring peace and salvation to all generations of humankind who have ever lived. That message is most assuredly *unique* among the churches of the world who claim to represent Jesus Christ. Why?

Most preach a message *about* Jesus Christ, as opposed to the message He preached. They teach about the *person*, His love and forgiveness, and His call to accept that love and forgiveness in order to go to **heaven** to be with Him for eternity. In doing so, they, in actual fact, deny that the Kingdom of God will even exist on the earth – or, they say that it already exists *in the hearts* of those who have been “saved” or “born again” through repentance. Some even claim that the *Church* is the Kingdom of God.

Understanding the person of Jesus Christ, His love and forgiveness, and the salvation He brings are all very important, but they are all parts of His mission to set up God's Kingdom and bring that salvation to mankind through it. His Church is to be the **Bride** who will reign and rule with Him in effecting the godly governance that will make possible the salvation, peace, and prosperity of the Kingdom.

God's True Church teaches that *flesh-and-blood* cannot enter the Kingdom of God (John 3:3; 1 Corinthians 15:50) without being “born again” – that is, without undergoing a *second birth* in which one puts off the *flesh-and-blood* body and puts on an immortal, self-sustaining spirit body (John 3:4-8; 1 Corinthians 15:46, 51-54; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 John 3:1-3). How else could one inherit an **eternal reward**? If he cannot *live* for eternity, he cannot inherit an eternal reward. A 70-year average lifetime will come and go very quickly compared to eternal life! Most others teach that the **real person** is an *immortal soul* that goes immediately to heaven or hell upon the death of the physical body – some teaching that the soul is later re-united with a redeemed body. As we have seen from reputable, credible sources, these ideas about the immortality of the soul might be “Christian” doctrines, but they definitely are not **biblical** doctrines. The **biblical** doctrine is based on the *resurrection of the dead*.

The net effect of the false doctrines is that God's **truth** has been either set aside altogether or greatly suppressed (Romans 1:18). Paul rightly calls the purveyors of these false doctrines *masqueraders* and *pretenders* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15, *Moffatt*), *false apostles* (*KJV*), *counterfeit apostles*, (*The Jerusalem*

Bible), and *phonies* (*Living Bible*). They might do many things in the name of Jesus Christ, but He calls them His enemies (Matthew 7:21-23; 24:4, 5).

Uniqueness Shown in *Observance of God's Commanded Sabbaths*

While some observe the *weekly* seventh-day Sabbath, God's True Church is unique among Christian churches in its observance of all of God's commanded Sabbaths as recorded in Leviticus 23. We have studied through the significance of each holy day season in Lessons 11 and 12. In the event that any other "Christian" groups should observe the holy days, then you would have to consider their approach to doctrines and teachings and the other unique characteristics discussed here. The unique aspect of these Sabbaths is that the Lord God said that they would be a *sign* between Him and His people (see Exodus 31:13-17). There are two aspects of this that you must thoroughly understand.

The name *Israel* always identifies God's people. As shown in Genesis 32:28, the name applies to anyone who has *power* with God and men. This meaning is most assuredly shown in Romans 1:16 where Paul, speaking of the *gospel that Christ preached*, says: "...I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: *for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes....*" In that statement Paul expresses the meaning of the term *Israel* because it reveals that the True Christian has *power* with God and men through the true gospel of Christ.

In Galatians 6:16, Paul called the New Testament Church *the Israel of God*. He made a distinction between *physical Israel* and *spiritual Israel* in Romans 9:6 when he said that not all of those called *Israelites* are, in fact, *Israelites*. In saying this, he was not saying that some were merely pretenders. In fact, those of other nations who converted to the religion of Israel were *adopted* into Israel and considered to be *Israelites* – much the same as immigrants are called *Americans* once they have completed the requirements for citizenship. The Lord God established the rules by which citizenship would be granted to the non-Israelite *stranger*. He laid it out in Exodus 12:48 with regard to observing the Passover: "And when an alien lives among you and desires to observe the Passover to the Lord, let all the male members of his family be circumcised...[and] *he shall be like a native of the land...*" (emphases added). If you read all of Romans 9, you

will see that the *Israelite* appellation, according to Paul, is applied to those who live by the faith held by Abraham himself (see Galatians 3:7-9)!

It would stand to reason, then, that *spiritual Israel* is also identified, in part, by their observance of God's Sabbaths. You have studied the Old and New Covenants in lessons 4/5, so you should be familiar with how God's True Church came to be the recipient of the New Covenant and what that involves. You should also be aware of the fact that the basis of God's covenants is connected inextricably to the Ten Commandments – the fourth of which specifically commands the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. Since Jesus Christ did not come to do away with the Law, then the holy days of Leviticus 23 – which include the weekly seventh-day Sabbath – are also in force for *spiritual Israel*. You cannot summarily dismiss the means by which God identifies His people.

Uniqueness Shown in *Fidelity to God's Word*

Read carefully the following doctrinal statement by a major "Christian" denomination regarding the purpose and authority of the word of God as represented in the Holy Bible:

The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. It has God for its author, salvation for its end, and *truth, without any mixture of error, for its matter*. It reveals the principles by which God judges us; and therefore is, and will remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds, and religious opinions should be tried. (Herschel H. Hobbs, *The Baptist Faith and Message*; Convention Press: Nashville; 1971; p. 18; emphases added)

In and of itself, there is nothing erroneous in this statement with which most "Christian" denominations would disagree.

Here is another statement from a *minority* "Christian" denomination:

We believe in the plenary [full] and verbal inspiration of the Bible. As the Word of God; that it is authentic in its matter, authoritative in its counsels, *inerrant* in the original writings, and the only *infallible* rule of faith and practice. Ex. 4:2; II Sam. 23:2; Psa. 12:6; 139:7-12; II Tim. 3:16; II Pet. 1:20, 21. (Daniel Kauffman, Ed., *Doctrines of the Bible*; Mennonite Publishing House: Scottdale, PA; 1928; p. 142; emphases added)

Again, there is nothing erroneous here with which other “Christian” denominations would argue. As a matter of fact, both doctrinal statements are based on the assertion of the Apostle Paul that “All scripture [which, at that time, consisted only of the Old Testament] is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness...” (2 Timothy 3:16).

So, why would God’s True Church be *unique* in its *fidelity* to God’s word? Let me frame this discussion around a group of scriptures that we discussed in several different ways in the books you can download from our website and the Bible Study Course. Pay very close attention to the *warnings*:

1. Deuteronomy 4:2 – “You shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall you diminish anything from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you.”

2. Deuteronomy 12:29-31 – (Read all of it; I’ll make note only of v. 32.) “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it; you shall not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”

3. Proverbs 30:5, 6 – “Every word of God is pure: He is a shield to them that put their trust in Him. Do not add to His words, lest He reprove you, and you be found to be a liar.”

4. Revelation 22:18, 19 – “For I testify unto every man that hears the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this

book: And if any man shall take away from the words of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

5. Deuteronomy 8:3; Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4 – “And He humbled you, and allowed you to hunger, and fed you with manna, something previously unknown to both you and your forefathers, that He might make you know that *man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord*” (emphasis added).

There are dire warnings stated here. Why would I resort to these scriptures? It’s really very simple: It is one thing to *declare* your *belief* in the Word of God and its *infallibility* and its being *without any mixture of error*, but it is quite another thing to actually *practice* that through the years. How would Jesus Christ treat this situation? Would He be rigid in His enforcement of the warnings, or would He take the attitude that you are okay as long as you are serious and you claim faith in Him? Let’s see.

Matthew 15:1-9 and Mark 7:1-13 discuss a situation in which Jesus passes judgment on some Jews who relied more on *religious traditions* than on the word of God. They were thoroughly convinced that they were serving the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – the God of the scriptures. Their basic problem was that they had either *added to* or *diminished from* God’s word. Many Bible commentators even misread this situation and claim that Jesus Himself *wiped out whole sections of God’s laws about clean and unclean meats* (see Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14). Jesus’ summary judgment was twofold: (a) they had made *void* [empty, powerless, ineffective] God’s commandments by their traditions – even though their traditions were done in God’s name; and (b) they worshiped God in vain by teaching as *doctrine the commandments of men*. If you compare this to Matthew 7:21-23, then you can see very plainly that *sincerity* and *the use of the name of Jesus Christ* do not automatically put you in the good graces of the God of *truth* (see John 4:23, 24).

God’s True Church is unique in its willingness to abandon any religious tradition and practice that is at odds with God’s Word. When any given understanding and belief is examined and found to be in-

correct, incomplete, or in any way in need of deeper examination, God's true ministry, asking for the leadership of the Holy Spirit, will undertake sufficient study and examination to make sure that such understanding and belief is fully supported by God's Word. As a rule, most established churches with long histories of their own traditional beliefs and practices are quite reluctant to go against those traditions – greatly resisting any movement to change them in spite of their claims to *follow the Bible* as their *ultimate authority*. How is this found to be true?

What is the context of Deuteronomy 12:29-31? It is God's warning not to mix and mingle *paganism* into His truth. This was a constant problem with Israel – which ultimately led the Lord God to divorce her (see Ezekiel 16). To put pagan beliefs and practices into God's revealed truth is to *add to His Word*. To do away with the Law of God, as so many teach in Traditional Christianity, is to *diminish from His Word*. Nowhere in scripture is there any revelation about the pagan *Christmas* and *Easter*. *Both were adopted from paganism and syncretized into "Christianity."* Christmas has nothing to do with the actual birth of Jesus Christ, and Easter has nothing to do with His resurrection. ***Both are widely known to have been adopted from paganism.*** The same is true of the concept of *the immortality of the soul* and many other concepts adopted from paganism.

Jeremiah 10 is a crushing indictment of those who would presume to do such things. Jeremiah was inspired to summarize this indictment by pointing out two undeniable facts: (a) the ones who have led God's people astray have been the *pastors* (v. 21), and (b) it was not very difficult for them to do so because the *people* do not have it *in themselves* – for one reason or another – to know and understand the path their lives should take to true righteousness (v. 23; see also Jeremiah 17:9, 10). So, our modern religious "Babylon" is nothing more than the fulfillment of Jesus' prophecy in Matthew 24:4, 5 – that is, *many will come in His name and deceive many*. Doing that is made increasingly more difficult when people learn what it means to live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.

As Kierkegaard put it in his work *Sickness Unto Death*:

We see how necessarily our Self is rooted and grounded in Him who created it, so

that the knowledge of our Self does not lie within our own power, but that in order to measure the extent of the same, we must press forward into the very heart of God Himself, who alone can determine and resolve the whole mystery of our nature. [Quoted in Emil Brunner's *Man in Revolt* (translated by Olive Wyon; New York: Charles Scribner's Son, 1939), Epigraph, p. 1.]

God's concern, as expressed in the scriptures quoted above, was that Israel would investigate the pagan practices of their neighbors and violate the first three Commandments (see Exodus 20:1-7). He was concerned about any type of *syncretization* – the joining of various concepts that are *mutually contradictory* into a *superficial unity* that is not logical or otherwise critically examined. Yet, Traditional Christianity has ignored this fact in the face of what God's Word reveals about what such things did to the heathens and to Israel (see also Leviticus 18:24-30, 1 Corinthians 10, and 2 Corinthians 6:14-18). Fidelity to God's Word is a great indicator of *uniqueness*.

Summary

When you put together these four indicators of uniqueness (name, message, Sabbaths, and fidelity to God's word), you have at your disposal the means by which you can more specifically identify God's *True Church*. This gives you a great advantage when having to deal with 32,000+ so-called "Christian" denominations that differ significantly in their doctrines and practices.

While the surface value of their statements seems to show great similarity, one would rightly wonder why, if they *seem* to be so similar, they don't simply merge into one great, powerful spiritual organism. After all, many of them lustily sing "Onward Christian Soldiers!" – the second verse of which suggests such a thing:

Like a mighty army moves the Church of God; Brothers we are treading where the saints have trod; *we are not divided, all one body we; One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.* (verse 2; Sabine Baring-Gould and Arthur Sullivan; emphases added)

If you look at the reality, they *are divided, not one* in body, hope, doctrine, and charity. The song itself is an echo of Paul's admonition to the Ephesians: "There is *one* body, and *one* Spirit, even as you are called in *one* hope of your calling; *one* Lord, *one* faith, *one* baptism, *one* God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (4:4-6). It is incumbent upon you to know how to find that *one body* that constitutes God's *True Church*. From the time Jesus Christ proclaimed that He would build *His Church* (Matthew 16:18) to this present day, God has always had a faithful group which He has used to perpetuate and propagate His truth.

Becoming part of God's *True Church* is not a coincidental matter. Some believe that it is scattered among the congregations of the 32,000+ "Christian" denominations – people who are sincere and zealous in their faiths. No, it doesn't work like that because they still would *not* be *one* in faith and doctrine. Membership in the True Church is initiated by God's calling (John 6:44) and is sealed when the person accepts that calling, repents, is baptized by complete immersion, and has hands laid on him by one of God's true ministers (Acts 2:38). One is expected to "count the cost" (Luke 14:28; Romans 9:15, 16) because the expectations laid upon him are great – and adherence to God's *truth* is mandatory (see John 4:23, 24). Since membership is initiated by God's calling, it has never been the main emphasis of God's Church to evangelize for the sole purpose of increasing its membership. God adds to His Church the numbers He chooses (Acts 2:47). It is here that *you* receive *your* ultimate test. How so?

Re-read the three scriptures at the beginning of this lesson. The focus of these scriptures is that God will set before you a challenge regarding His thoughts and ways in order to find out *if there is a heart in you to be obedient*. The heart of all scripture is the revelation of God's *truth* and His expectation that anyone who wants to come to salvation will diligently search it out and live by it. If you won't willingly do that, then you put at risk the perpetuation of your life beyond death and the grave. Access to things like this Bible Study Course are part of the preaching and teaching that constitute God's *calling*. Is there a heart in you to accept that calling? I'll be more than glad to speak to you about your decision.

Just one more thing. There are some other characteristics that are suggested by scriptures. Put these in context with the four areas of uniqueness

discussed above. First, it was never expected that the *firstfruits* would ever become any type of great mega-church. For examples, you have statements by Jesus Christ and Paul about the expected relative size of the Church: (a) Jesus Christ said in Luke 12:32: "Fear not, *little flock*; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom"(emphasis added); (b) Paul wrote in Romans 11:5: "...At this present time there is also a *remnant* according to the *election* of grace" (emphasis added) – which suggests that the major part of Israel had been set aside for God to deal with later (read the entire chapter to get the sense of this). So, the *firstfruits*, apparently, will be a *small group* of true believers. Indeed, we have studied in Lesson 11 that the Pentecost harvest is the early, *small* harvest.

Second, in John 15:20 and 17:14, Jesus describes His Church as being a *persecuted Church*. A small indicator of this would be found in, perhaps, the reaction you have had to suggestions that you should observe the seventh-day Sabbath and the holy days of Leviticus 23 – in addition to the suggestion that you should quit observing holidays like Christmas, Easter, Valentine's Day, and Hallowe'en. No Christmas trees and lights and other decorations! No Easter bunnies and egg hunts! No cute little Cupids and hearts! No trick-or-treating! *What would your family and friends think of that? What could happen to your job if you refused to work on Friday night and Saturday? What would it be like to be part of a minority religion?* If they persecuted Jesus Christ, they will persecute you!

If you are set aside in God's truth (John 17:17, 19) and are obedient to the same (John 17:6), then you should expect people to react to that – to the fact that you would prefer that above the 32,000+ group of denominations that make up Traditional Christianity. *Counting the cost* does not mean that you can take it or leave it. It means that you have to prepare for whatever comes over the long-haul. *God will find out if there is a heart in you to be obedient to His truth. Prepare yourself for that test.*

Test Directions

This test is rather straightforward. There is nothing in it to "trick" you; however, there might be situations presented that will call for some intuitive thought and critical thinking skills. It is designed to

help you assess how well you have understood the concepts taught. Relax. Take your time.

You may use your Bible, but answer as many as you can without the aid of your study notes. Once you have done that, you may go back and use your notes and Bible to answer the more difficult questions. The objective is to do it as much from memory as possible.

Before you begin, make sure that you are free from distractions. Make sure you are comfortable and have plenty of light. You might even want to keep something to drink nearby. If you would rather take it in sections, as opposed to going straight through, that's fine. You set the goals and complete them accordingly.

For the most part, the test is true/false and multiple choice – but don't let that lull you into a false sense of confidence. In cases where you might have two answers that, in one way or another, are correct, choose the *better* answer of the two. With regard to the true/false situations, if a statement is not *completely* true, then you must mark it *false*.

There are 100 questions. Subtract the number you miss from 100 in order to get your grade. You should strive to score at least 70%.

Have fun! I hope that it is a challenge to you.

Directions: *It is always a good idea to read through a test before you begin to answer it. Next, read each problem carefully and completely before deciding upon an answer. Then, mark the letter that represents the correct answer. If you make a mistake, try to erase it completely.*

Lesson 9

1. Anytime the laying on of hands is employed, it is always with an open hand.

A. True B. False

2. Jesus Christ instituted the laying on of hands.

(A) True (B) False

3. Laying on of hands represents some future event or benefit. (A) True (B) False

4. It is dangerous to consider the sacraments and rituals that God has instituted and revealed to us as being unnecessary, stupid, weird, inconveni-

ent, or primitive. (A) True (B) False

5. Jesus instituted the blessing of little children as a ritual in His Church.

(A) True (B) False

6. In using his hands to invoke or distribute God's blessings, God's minister makes a gesture of:

(A) generosity (B) grace (C) love
(D) none of the above (E) A, B, C

7. The principles of the doctrine of Jesus Christ are:

(A) the doctrines *about* Jesus Christ;
(B) the doctrines constructed by the original apostles; (C) the only doctrines allowed to be taught about Jesus' *gospel*; (D) the beginning, or elementary, doctrines that form the foundation of true Christian doctrine.

8. One could not become skilled in God's true word of righteousness without knowing these basic doctrines. (A) True (B) False

9. Which of the following things is *not* performed with the laying on of hands? (A) good luck (B) blessing (C) healing (D) ordination (E) gift of holy spirit

10. Jesus never encountered situations where he was unable to perform mighty works.

(A) True (B) False

11. One's attitude cannot interfere with God's will and power. (A) True (B) False

12. Name two incidents in which Jesus' method for healing seems bizarre or grotesque.

A. _____

B. _____

13. What did Paul send to sick people whom he could not personally visit?

14. Every man, woman, and child in Israel was a practicing priest in Israel's religious cult.

(A) True (B) False

15. The *priesthood of the believer* doctrine is correct – according to specific New Testament scriptures. (A) True (B) False

16. What is the true meaning of the statement that Israel would be *a nation of priests* (Exodus 19:5, 6; read also Hosea 4:6)?
17. As a result of Israel's failure to fulfill its part of the "marriage" covenant, the True Church has been offered the same unique position and relationship that was offered by God to Israel. (A) True (B) False
18. According to Peter, into what is the True Church being built?
19. All members of the True Church have the same spiritual gifts. (A) True (B) False
20. The True Church is presently "married" to Jesus Christ. (A) True (B) False
21. According to 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16, 17, what three things describe the True Church?
 A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
22. Christ has completed the building of His Church. (A) True (B) False
23. List four responsibilities of God's true ministers and why they are charged with these responsibilities.
 A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____
24. What must the believer have in order to actually belong to Jesus Christ? How does the believer acquire it? When?
25. List the four purposes for laying on of hands.
 A. _____
 B. _____
 C. _____
 D. _____
26. What the Bible means by the term *death* is merely the separation of the soul from the body. (A) True (B) False
27. When Paul said that the *spirit body* did not come first, he essentially showed that the doctrine of the immortality of the soul is a false doctrine. (A) True (B) False
28. Ezekiel told us that the *soul* that sins shall surely *die*. This demonstrates that man is not an immortal soul. (A) True (B) False
29. Paul showed in more than one place that man is *mortal*, and in order for him to have life after *death*, he must be raised from *death*. (A) True (B) False
30. What does God give to the True Christian that serves as a *guarantee* that He will raise him from the dead? _____
31. From what two things is the resurrected person set free when he is *redeemed* from the grave?
 A. _____
 B. _____
32. All of creation groans for its deliverance from the *bondage to corruption*. (A) True (B) False
33. If there *were* any such thing as an immortal soul, it would have *eternal life* if it were made to burn *forever* in hellfire. (A) True (B) False
34. The *death* about which God warned Adam was merely spiritual separation from God. (A) True (B) False
35. John 3:16-18 shows that the unrepentant will be condemned to *destruction beyond recovery*. (A) True (B) False
36. The term *sleep* is a euphemism for _____.
37. What does it mean for a dead person to *give up the ghost*? _____
38. Is that expression a reference to an *immortal soul*? (A) Yes (B) No
39. While Jesus' body was hanging on the cross and lying in the grave, Jesus was actually alive in the spirit preaching to the disembodied souls of the Old Testament saints. (A) True (B) False

Lesson 10

26. What the Bible means by the term *death* is merely the separation of the soul from the body. (A) True (B) False

40. What two types of resurrections from the dead did Jesus name?
 A. _____
 B. _____
41. Where did Job want to be put until God's wrath is passed? _____
42. Will it ever be possible for those in the first resurrection to die again? (A) Yes (B) No
43. How long of a time will separate the first and second resurrections? _____
44. What *reward* will those in the first resurrection receive that others will not receive?
45. When one is changed from flesh to spirit, it is the time of his being *born again*.
 (A) True (B) False
46. When Paul said that we "earnestly desir[e] to be clothed with our house which is from heaven," he was saying that our eternal reward is to go to heaven. (A) True (B) False
47. When Traditional Christianity uses the expression "absent from the body, present with the Lord," they *wrongly* assume that one *immediately* goes to heaven when he dies.
 (A) True (B) False
48. *Firstfruits* is an **ordinal number** that *does not* allow for any subsequent numbers.
 (A) True (B) False
49. *Secondfruits* **do not** come as the result of a resurrection from the dead. (A) True (B) False
50. Those who are not brought to eternal life will be destroyed – ***burned to ashes and left neither root nor branch***. (A) True (B) False
51. When God commanded that the seventh day should be kept holy, His intention was that *one day out of seven* was to be a day of rest. (A) True (B) False
52. Most in Traditional Christianity who observe Sunday as the weekly Sabbath agree that there is no specific command in the New Testament to change the Sabbath from the seventh day to the first day. (A) True (B) False
53. Prejudice toward the Jews never played a part in the change of the Sabbath rest.
 (A) True (B) False
54. The process of changing the day of the Sabbath rest was accomplished during the years *immediately after* the death of Jesus Christ.
 (A) True (B) False
55. The Roman Catholic Church claimed to have had the ***infallible*** authority to make such a change. (A) True (B) False
56. Any who disagreed with the Catholics were shut out from Christ, threatened with eternal damnation, and labeled as prophets of the Antichrist.
 (A) True (B) False
57. The Catholics say that the Protestants agree with their *authority* to make changes in God's commandments because the Protestants observe Sunday. (A) True (B) False
58. God put "lights in the firmament":
 (A) merely for light
 (B) merely for decoration
 (C) merely so man could understand the passing of days, months, seasons, and years
 (D) for the purpose of giving man a special timepiece for determining *sacred seasons*.
59. Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Paul were all *Jews*. (A) True (B) False
60. The *law* found in the Old Testament is more properly called *Jewish* law because God gave it only to the *Jews*. (A) True (B) False
61. The Sabbath law was actually in effect before God revealed the Ten Commandments and other

Lesson 11

51. Explain why God is not *duplicitous*.
52. Was Jesus Christ being *duplicitous* when He said that He had not come to abolish God's law?
 (A) Yes (B) No
62. The Sabbath law was actually in effect before God revealed the Ten Commandments and other

- laws to Israel at Mt. Sinai. (A) True (B) False
64. During their 40 years of wandering before they reached Mt. Sinai, what did God give to the Israelites to prove to them which day is the seventh-day Sabbath? _____
65. *Sabbath* symbolism represents both a condition and a _____.
66. List the seven holy days – other than the weekly Sabbath – listed in Leviticus 23.
67. Briefly state the symbolism of the Passover.
68. Which person fulfilled the symbolism in the Passover lamb? _____
69. *Passover* and *Unleavened Bread* are the same seven-day feast. (A) True (B) False
70. What does *leaven* represent? _____
71. By ascending to the Father on the first day of the week after His resurrection, Jesus Christ fulfilled the symbolism in the _____ offering.
72. What is the difference between *ben ha arbayim* and *ba erev*?
73. How many days are counted from the wave-sheaf offering to Pentecost? _____
74. What does Pentecost symbolize?
75. When will the symbolism of the Pentecost harvest be fulfilled? _____
- Lesson 12**
76. The symbolism in God's holy days shows that those who are to receive salvation must get it done *before* Jesus Christ returns.
(A) True (B) False
77. God has planned a process of salvation that will span eternity. (A) True (B) False
78. The Fall Holy Day season reveals three periods of _____.
79. Which of the following are symbolized in the Feast of Trumpets?
(A) The resurrection of the firstfruits
(B) The return of Jesus Christ
(C) The punishment of the wicked through seven trumpet plagues
(D) The conquest of the nations by Jesus Christ and His saints
(E) all of the above
(F) Only B and C
80. What two significant events occur with the blowing of the seventh trumpet?
81. The *Lord's Day* referred to in Revelation 1:10 is a specific reference to Sunday.
(A) True (B) False
82. According to prophecies in Isaiah, how long does the *Lord's Day* actually last? _____
83. The prophesied *Lord's Day* overlaps the coming tribulation period during its last 360 days.
(A) True (B) False
84. God sold the soul of Jesus Christ to Satan in exchange for the souls of mankind.
(A) True (B) False
85. Both goats set aside as sacrifices on the Day of Atonement were symbols of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. (A) True (B) False
86. Only Satan is responsible for your sins because he is the one who deceived you to sin.
(A) True (B) False
87. God made Jesus Christ to be sin for us. In doing this, He allowed an innocent man to suffer for sins He did not commit. (A) True (B) False
88. By suffering as an innocent victim, Jesus Christ did away with God's law – nailing it to the cross. (A) True (B) False
89. What is the significance of the Feast of Tabernacles relative to the Israelites?
90. Give two reasons why it is important to us that God caused the Israelites to dwell in *booths* during their journey to the Promised Land.

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|--|---|
| 91. The journey to <i>the Promised Land</i> is proof that God wants us to live in heaven with Him.
(A) True (B) False | 7. D |
| 92. The Feast of Tabernacles focuses on two things:
A. _____
B. _____ | 8. A
9. A
10. B |
| 93. The Feast of Tabernacles symbolizes the time when God will finally establish the city He promised Abraham. (A) True (B) False | 11. B
12. Mark 7:31 and John 9:1-38 |
| 94. The human body is presently a <i>temporary dwelling</i> that must be replaced with an <i>eternal dwelling</i> . (A) True (B) False | 13. Anointed cloths
14. B |
| 95. What does the Last Great Day represent? | 15. B |
| 96. Why is it <i>last</i> and <i>great</i> ? | 16. The entire nation had a corporate responsibility to maintain themselves as a holy nation. |
| 97. The Last Great Day marks the end of _____. | 17. A |
| 98. When Satan is released, he deceives _____. | 18. a spiritual house |
| 99. How does God ultimately punish Satan? | 19. B |
| 100. Will the lake of fire last <i>forever</i> ? Explain.
_____ | 20. B |

Test Answers

Once you have completed your test and are satisfied with the answers you have selected, compare them with these answers. There will be no short explanatory notes for each answer in this test because the answers are pretty straightforward. I hope that this has been a good experience for you and that you have learned both before and during the test. Best wishes on your results!

- | | |
|------|---|
| 1. A | 21. (A) God's husbandry (B) God's building (C) God's temple |
| 2. B | 22. B |
| 3. A | 23. (A) the perfecting of the saints (B) the work of the ministry (C) the edifying of the body of Jesus Christ (D) to prevent members of Christ's body from being deceived by false teachings |
| 4. A | 24. The holy spirit – acquired by the laying on of hands after repentance and baptism |
| 5. B | 25. Blessing, healing, ordination, and gift of the holy spirit |
| 6. E | 26. B |
| | 27. A |
| | 28. A |

- | | |
|--|--|
| 29. A | 55. B |
| 30. The holy spirit | 56. B |
| 31. Sin and finiteness | 57. A |
| 32. A | 58. A |
| 33. A | 59. A |
| 34. B | 60. D – While A, B, and C are reasons, the term <i>merely</i> sets them apart as the <i>only</i> reason. |
| 35. A | 61. B |
| 36. Death | 62. B |
| 37. He breathes his last breath. | 63. A |
| 38. B | 64. Manna |
| 39. B | 65. Place |
| 40. Eternal life and damnation | 66. Passover, Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets, Day of Atonement, Feast of Tabernacles, and Last Great Day |
| 41. In the grave | 67. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ |
| 42. B | 68. Jesus Christ |
| 43. 1,000 years | 69. B |
| 44. Rulership with Christ | 70. Sin |
| 45. A | 71. Wavesheaf |
| 46. B | 72. <i>ben ha arbayim</i> = the period of time between sundown and dark (the appearing of the stars)
<i>ba erev</i> = the time it takes the sun to disappear below the horizon once it sets |
| 47. A | 73. 50 |
| 48. B | 74. The firstfruit harvest |
| 49. A | 75. At the first resurrection |
| 50. A | 76. B |
| 51. God does not tell us one thing and do another. | 77. A |
| 52. B | |
| 53. B | |
| 54. A | |

78. Judgment
79. E
80. The first resurrection and Jesus Christ becomes King of kings and Lord of lords
81. B
82. 1 prophetic year (360 days)
83. A
84. B
85. A
86. B
87. A
88. B
89. God made them dwell in *temporary dwellings*
90. It was an *example* to us today, and it is a *prophetic warning* to us so we won't act like the Israelites did.
91. B
92. The 1,000-year kingdom and the *temporary nature* of all that is part and parcel to this present world.
93. B
94. A
95. The second resurrection and the opportunity of the unsaved masses to know and understand God's truth so they, too, can be saved.
96. It is the *last and greatest* harvest of this kind.
97. *The ministry of reconciliation.*
98. Gog and Magog
99. He will burn him to ashes in the lake of fire.

100. No. Once it burns up all of the evil from this present evil world, it will have no more fuel. It will not exist in the New Heaven and New Earth that are created after the Last Great Day.

an open letter from

The Pastor

This completes the twelve-lesson and three-test Bible Study Course. I sincerely hope that it has been very useful to you in coming to understand God's word in a way that you have never understood it before. Please keep it in a notebook with your notes and go back to it on a regular basis to refresh your memory and to continue to learn the lessons.

When you have completed everything to your satisfaction, you may write, call, or email me for a certificate of completion. My new email address is tsdca@hughes.net. I will get that printed and sent to you as quickly as possible.

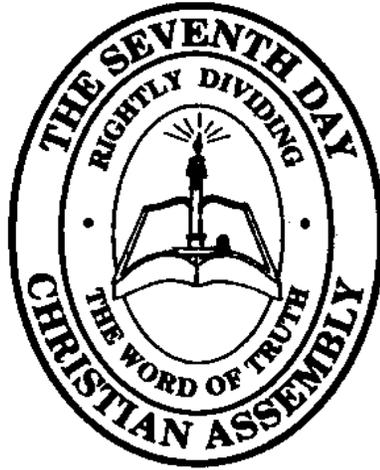
In the meantime, if you are able to join us in our In-Home Bible Studies on the second and fourth Sabbaths of each month, call me for directions. It would be a genuine pleasure to have you join us. If there is any way I can assist you with further understanding about biblical questions, please, by all means, contact me.

Please let me know how this Course has helped you in your search for God's truth and understanding.

In Christ's Service,

Larry E. Ford, Pastor

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It is published by The Seventh Day Christian Assembly, Inc.
as a free educational service in the public interest.



Straight Talk . . . Plain Truth

Larry E. Ford, Pastor
4929 Ga. Hwy. 33 South
Doerun, GA 31744
(229) 777-0741
tsdca@hughes.net

Contributions to help defray the costs of publication and mailing are gratefully accepted.

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