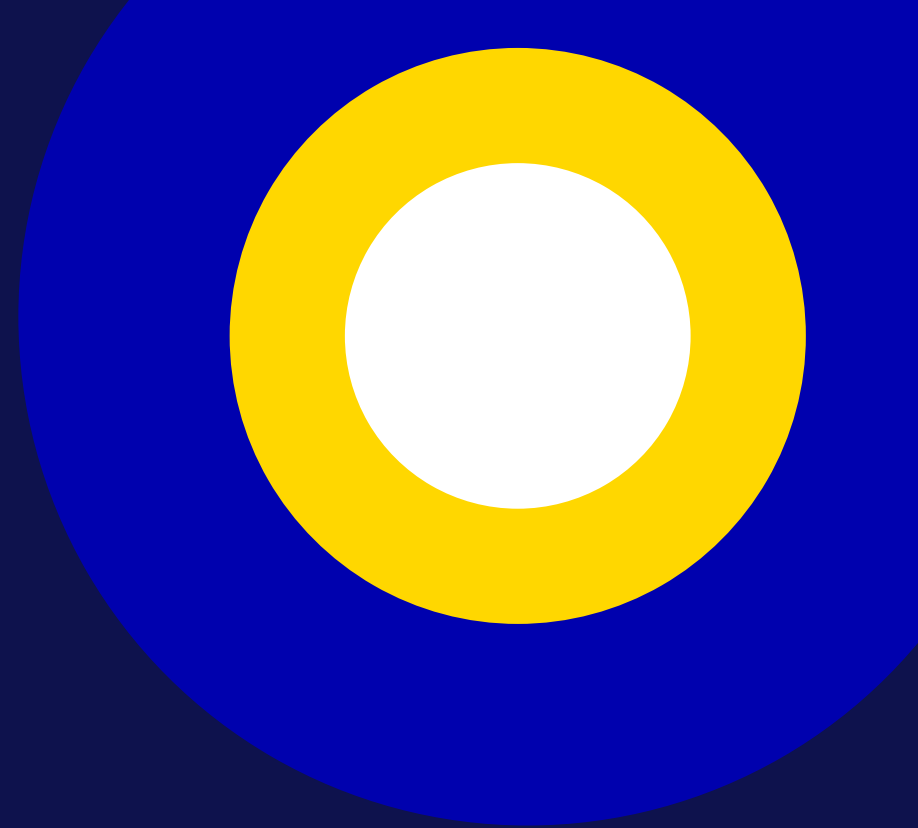


MILE HIGH CITY CHURCH INC.

New Convert Course

A slide-style textbook for teaching, study, and discipleship

MHC • mhcpent.org



Course Overview

Four lessons organized for clear teaching and guided study

LESSON ONE

- STUDY ONE: REPENTANCE
- STUDY TWO: SALVATION
- SANCTIFICATION
- JUSTIFICATION
- KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

LESSON TWO

- IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE
- IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER
- OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS
- EVIL ASSOCIATION

LESSON THREE

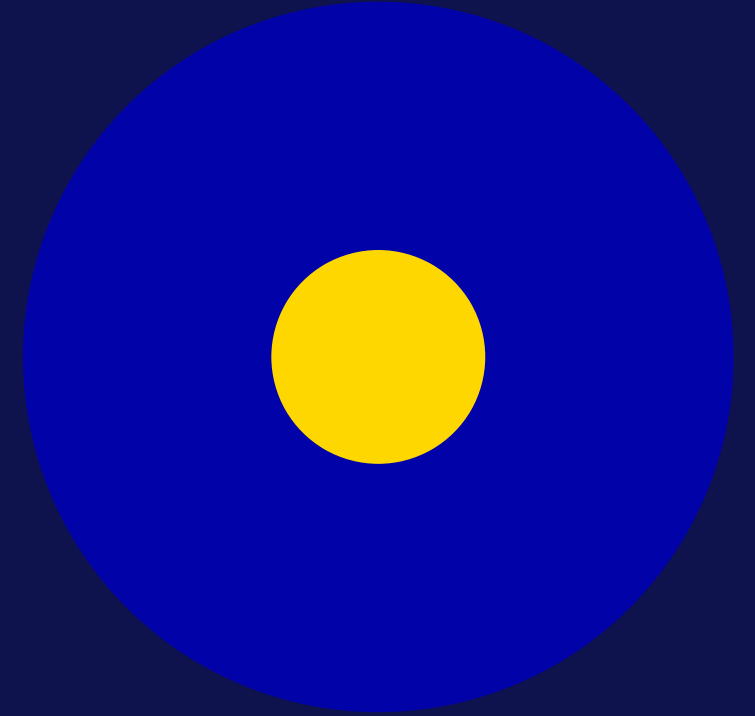
- WATER BAPTISM
- TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LESSON FOUR

- LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION:
- RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS:

LESSON ONE:

STUDY ONE: REPENTANCE



Mile High City Church Inc.

WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

MEMORY VERSE: ROM. 10:9

1. Not simple conviction of sin. The feeling of guilt and shame for sin because one has been found out or arrested.

2. Not being sorry for a wrongdoing.

3. Not reforming your life or trying to turn a new leaf or make a fresh start.

4. Not trying to be religious.

5. Not having a “head faith” – Rom. 10:9.

WHAT TRUE REPENTANCE IS

The dictionary defines repentance as “sorrow for a deed or regret”. “To feel regret for a deed or omission”, “To desire to change one’s life as a result of sorrow for one’s sin.”

1. It is a godly grief for sin – 2 Cor. 7:10.

2. Repentance involves the total personality – The total Person.

3. Repentance is a complete change of heart and mind. It involves the new way we FEEL and THINK about sin. This makes us turn from sin. This change of mind involves or intellect. The change of heart involves our emotions and will. Judas changed his mind and not his will.

4. It is not having a “head faith” but a “heart faith”.

THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE

1. Jesus first sermon was: “REPENT, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” – Matt. 4:17.

2. John the Baptist’s first sermon was: “REPENT, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” – Matt. 3:2.

3. Peter preached REPENTANCE on the Day of Pentecost – Acts 2:38.

4. Paul preached REPENTANCE – Acts 17:30.

5. The Prophets of old also preached REPENTANCE – Eze. 14:6; Jer. 15:19.

6. Without repentance all men will perish – Lk. 13:3.

7. The Lord is still calling on all to repent – Rev. 2:5.

HOW TO REPENT

1) Have a godly grief for sin – 2 Cor. 7:10

2) Confess the known sins by name – Lk. 18:13.
1 Jn. 1:9.

3) Believe that once the sin is sincerely confessed, it is forgiven. 1 Jn. 1:9

4) Forsake the sin – Prov. 28:13. Jn. 8:11, Rom. 6:1.

5) Resolve to bear fruits of repentance – Matt. 3:8.

6) Make restitution where possible – Lk. 19:1-10.

7) REMEMBER where you have fallen from, REPENT from your sin and RETURN to the Lord – Rev. 2:5.

8) Continually examine your ways and RETURN to the Lord – Lam. 3:40.

NEW CONVERT COURSE

STUDY TWO: SALVATION

LESSON ONE:



STUDY TWO: SALVATION

INTRODUCTION: Salvation, the most important subject yet perhaps the most misunderstood in contemporary society.

WHAT SALVATION IS NOT

1 Salvation is NOT mere Bible knowledge i.e. ability to recite Bible passages, quoting verses etc. Though this is good, it cannot save anyone. Nicodemus was a Jewish teacher, but Jesus told him to be born again – Jn. 3:3-10.

2 Salvation is NOT PRAYER. The ability to pray and fast alone cannot save anybody.

Lydia was a Women's Prayer Group leader but was not saved – Acts 16:13-15. – Until Paul presented the gospel to her.

3 Salvation is NOT trying to be a good person. Cornelius was a good man but he was not saved until Peter came to share the Gospel with him – Acts 10:1-4, 44-48.

4 Salvation is NOT DENOMINATION – Belonging to this church or that church does not bring salvation; though belonging to a good Bible believing Church can help you understand salvation.

WHAT SALVATION IS NOT

PART 2

5 Salvation is not REFORMATION i.e. turning over a new leaf or making resolutions at the beginning of a new year. Remember that the mistakes in the pages will not be blotted when you turn over a new leaf.

6 Salvation is NOT Confirmation or Water Baptism i.e. being confirmed or baptized in water or reciting catechism without the born-again experience no one can be saved.

7 Salvation is NOT being born into a Christian home or having Christian parents. Though this is good, it cannot save anybody – Jn 1:13.

8 Salvation is NOT Church Attendance. Though church attendance is good, it cannot save anybody if the person does not accept Jesus Christ as his or her personal savior.

9 Salvation is NOT Isolation i.e. “Holier than thou” attitude, wearing of special religious dresses does not constitute salvation.

WHAT SALVATION IS NOT

PART 3

10 Being buried by a priest/pastor or in a church Cemetery does NOT attain salvation. Though the rich man was properly buried he went to hell – Lk. 16:19-23.

11 Salvation is NOT trying to be religious.

The Pharisees and others were religious, yet they killed Jesus.

12 Salvation is NOT Almsgiving – Cornelius gave alms to the poor, yet he was not saved – Acts 10:4; 44-48.

13 Salvation is NOT having theological degrees or being a zealous church member or chorister, etc. The Pharisees, Sadducees, Scribes had theological knowledge in Jesus' time, but they were not saved and killed Jesus.

WHAT SALVATION IS NOT

PART 4

14 Salvation is NOT doing good deeds. The Bible says our own righteousness (Good deeds) are like filthy rags – Is. 64:6; Eph. 2:2-10.

WHAT IS SALVATION?

Salvation is the rescue or deliverance from sin and from the wrath of God. Salvation is God's activities in bringing humans into a right relationship with Himself through Jesus Christ.

Salvation is the acceptance of one's sinfulness, repenting of those sins, believing and accepting Jesus Christ as one's Lord and personal savior.

Salvation is a complete change of mind (repentance) and committal of one's faith unto the Lord.

NB. Salvation is based on personal faith. No one can receive salvation on behalf of another.

THE NEED FOR SALVATION

All have sinned – Rom. 3:23; Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:12, 18-19.

The wages of sin is death – Rom. 6:23; Gal. 6:7; Heb. 2:2.

The agony of hell – Rev. 20:11-15.

HOW TO BE SAVED

Use the following A B C plan:

A Accept that you are a sinner and that you cannot save yourself, so you need Jesus.

B Believe on the Lord Jesus as your Lord and personal savior. Repent of your sins – Rom. 10:9-10.

C Confess with your mouth that Jesus is your Lord – Rom. 10:9-10. Invite Jesus Christ into your life and resolve to live for Him.

BENEFITS OF SALVATION

When someone is born again (saved); that person:

1. Has all sins been forgiven – Col. 1:14; 2:13.

2. Is justified by faith – Rom. 5:1; 3:24.

3. Is redeemed by the blood of Jesus – Rev. 5:9.

4. Has access to God's grace – Eph. 2:18; 3:13.

5. Becomes a child of God – Jn. 1:12; 1 Jn. 3:1.

6. Is added into God's family – Gal. 4:5; Eph. 2:19; Eph. 1:5.

7. Receives spiritual inheritance – Acts 26:18.

8. Has heavenly citizenship – Phil. 3:20.

9. Becomes an heir of God – Rom. 8:17; Gal. 3:29.

BENEFITS OF SALVATION

PART 2

10. Is a new creation – 2 Cor. 5:17

11. Is a servant of God – Rom. 6:22.

12. Becomes a priest of God – 1 Pet. 2:9

13. Is reconciled to God – Eph. 2:12-13; Rom 5:10.

14. Is sanctified – 1 Cor. 6:11.

15. Is accepted in the Beloved One – Eph. 1:6.

16. Is baptized into Christ's Body – Gal. 3:27; 1 Cor. 12:13.

17. Is saved by Christ Jesus – Acts 16:31.

18. Is buried and risen with Christ – Col. 3:3; Rom. 6:4.

19. Has Christ within him – Rev. 3:20; Col. 1:27.

BENEFITS OF SALVATION

PART 3

20. Possesses eternal life – Jn. 3:16; 10:28; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.

21. Has his/her name is recorded in heaven – Lk. 10:10; Phil. 4:3; Rev. 13:8.

22. Is seated with Christ in the heavenly realm – Eph. 2:6.

23. Receives a blessed hope – Tit. 2:13.

24. Has fellowship with the true God – 1 Jn. 2:3; Jn. 14:21.

25. Has mansions of glory– Jn. 14:2.

26. Is born again – Jn. 3:3, 5, 7; 1 Pet. 1:23.

27. Becomes the temple of God – 1 Cor. 6:19.

28. Is sealed by the Holy Spirit – Eph. 1:13; 4:30.

29. Jesus becomes his/her Advocate – 1 Jn. 2:1.

BENEFITS OF SALVATION

PART 4

30. Has victory over the world – 1 Jn. 5:4.

31. Is Christ's ambassador – 2 Cor. 5:20.

32. Is followed by goodness and mercy– Ps. 23:6.

33. Has peace with God – Rom. 5:1; Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7.

CONCLUSION: After receiving such a great salvation, we should keep on living a life of holiness so that the Lord's name shall be glorified because of us - Gal. 1:24; Jn. 2:29.

NEW CONVERT COURSE

SANCTIFICATION:

LESSON ONE:



INTRODUCTION

Newborn babies are first washed, but as they grow, they need to be washed to keep them clean. This is what sanctification is all about.

WHAT IS SANCTIFICATION?

1. Sanctification is seen as one time event and also as a process, whereby believers are being and becoming continually holy and acting in a Christ-like manner.
2. It is defined as “purification and freedom from sin to holy; to consecrate; to purify.
3. Sanctification is synonymous with separation, dedication, purification and consecration.

HOW SANCTIFICATION IS EFFECTED

1. Just as newborn babies are washed, so also when one is born of the spirit, (born again), one is instantly WASHED and SANCTIFIED – 1 Cor. 6:11.
2. The person is instantly sanctified by the blood of Jesus – Heb. 13:12.
3. We are sanctified by the Holy Spirit – 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Rom. 15:16; 1 Pet. 1:1-2.
4. We are sanctified by the Word of God – 1 Pet. 1:23; Jn. 17:1-7; Jn. 15:3; Ps. 119:9.

THE TWO PHASES OF SANCTIFICATION:

1. INSTANT SANCTIFICATION: This occurs the moment we are born again. We instantly become saints- 1 Cor. 6:11.

2. PROGRESSIVE SANCTIFICATION: As newly born babies need to keep on bathing even though they were bathed the moment they were born, so does the newly born again Christian ought to be. We have been sanctified the moment we were born again but we need to have a progressive or continuous sanctification. This is to keep on living holy lives – Phil. 1:6; Phil. 2:12.

❖ Though the flesh is in constant conflict with the spirit, we need to live and walk by the spirit to keep sanctified – Gal. 5:16-18.

❖ God is ready to keep us sanctified through and through. – 1 Thess. 5:23

THE TWO PHASES OF SANCTIFICATION:

PART 2

❖ Progressive or continuous sanctification is what Jesus meant when He said “A person who has had a bath (instant sanctification) needs only to wash his feet; his whole body is clean” – Jn. 13:10.

NEW CONVERT COURSE

JUSTIFICATION

LESSON ONE:



WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

- a) Justification is one of the many benefits of salvation one attains the moment one accepts Jesus Christ as one's personal savior.
- b) Justification is the act of God's free grace, wherein the sinner is declared free from guilt and penalty of sin because of his faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. By it, the righteousness of God is imputed unto us through Christ – Rom. 4:6; 10:4; 2 Cor. 5:21.
- c) Justification is to be accounted righteous before God. The sinner puts on the righteousness of Christ. God then sees the sinner righteous in the savior.
- d) Justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put their trust and faith in Jesus Christ are declared righteous in the eyes of God and are set free from guilt and punishment – Rom. 8:1; Jn. 5:24.

WHAT IS JUSTIFICATION?

PART 2

e) In justification the sinner's sins are as though cast away into an ocean never to be seen again. Micah 7:18-19. (JUST-AS-IF-NEVER-SINNED.)

NB. In summary, to be justified is to be declared righteous. It is a one-time experience and not a process like sanctification.

THE NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION:

By virtue of Adam's sins we all become sinners – Rom. 5:12, and therefore guilty before God with penalty of death on us. In fact, we were conceived in sin – Ps. 51:5.

Being sinners by birth therefore, the question arises as to how a man born of a woman could be justified before God? - Job 25:4. God said, He will not justify the wicked according to the law Ex. 23:7.

Rom. 2:13 says only those who shall obey the law shall be declared righteous. But the question is how can one keep the whole law before he is declared righteous?

Job asked how one could be declared justified before God – Job 25:5; 9:2. David emphatically said before God no man can be justified – Ps. 143:2. Our righteousness are like filthy rags. Isa. 64:6.

THE NEED FOR JUSTIFICATION:

PART 2

Paul also said: Under the law no man can be justified – Rom. 3:20; Acts 13:39; Gal. 2:16; 3:11.

GOD'S SOLUTION:

As God saw that the solution was beyond the level of man, He had to come in. He saw that man could not attain perfection as required by the Law so Jesus came to live the perfect life according to the Law, gained the righteousness and gave it as a free gift to all who would believe on Him – Rom. 3:24.

NB: Pilate, Herod, Judas all declared Him innocent.

WHAT JUSTIFICATION IS NOT:

1. It is not to be paroled, i.e. to be set free with certain restrictions like signing of bonds to be of good behavior to be put under house arrest.
2. It not merely pardon i.e. to be forgiven even though found guilty.
3. It means more than acquittal i.e. to be successfully defended legally against all charges.

MEANS OF JUSTIFICATION :

I. By Grace – Rom. 3:24

II. By God – Rom. 8:33

III. By the blood of Jesus – Rom. 5:9

IV. By Christ as prophesied - Isa. 45:25; Isa. 50:8; 53:11.

V. By Christ - Romans 8:30

CONDITIONS FOR JUSTIFICATION:

1. By Faith – Rom. 5:1; Jn. 5:24; Gal. 2:16; Rom. 3:30; Acts 13:38-39, Rom. 3:28; Gal. 3:11.

NB: Abraham was justified by faith, not by works – Rom. 4:2-3. The works he did were the results (outcome) of the faith he had – Jas. 2:21-23.

2. By Grace – Tit. 3:7; Rom. 3:24.

NB: It is by grace. It is neither works nor faith plus works. It is not church membership. It is also not self-righteousness like that practiced by the Pharisees Lk. 10:29. We do not work to be saved like the Jehovah's Witnesses believe, but we work because we are saved. We have been saved to save the unsaved. If works saves us, then how much work must one do before being justified? If works justifies us we will brag in heaven.

RESULTS OF JUSTIFICATION:

1. Peace with God – Rom. 5:1

2. Access into God's presence – Rom. 5:2

3. Assurance of glorification – Rom. 8:30

4. Right to divine inheritance – Tit. 3:7

5. Freedom us from condemnation – Isa. 50:89;
Rom. 8:1; 33-34.

6. Blessed and forgiven– Rom. 4:6-8; Ps. 32:1-2

NEW CONVERT COURSE

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

LESSON ONE:



KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

1. What three things about Jesus must we know? - 1 Cor. 15:3-4

2. What must we believe about Jesus? Who is He? - Matt. 16:16

3. How can we know that we have eternal life? - Jn. 20:31; 1 Jn. 5:11-13.

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

PART 2

4. We are not to fall short in our Christian life, how could this be? Phil. 4:13.

5. How can we know that we shall never perish? - Jn. 10:28; 3:16.

6. How can we know that our sins are forgiven? – 1 Jn 1:9

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

PART 3

7. When does God forgive us our sins? – 1 Jn. 1:9.

8. Which of our sins does God forgive? - 1 Jn. 1:9.

9. What do we become when we believe? – Jn. 1:12.

KNOW THAT YOU HAVE ETERNAL LIFE - MEMORY VERSE 1JN. 1:9

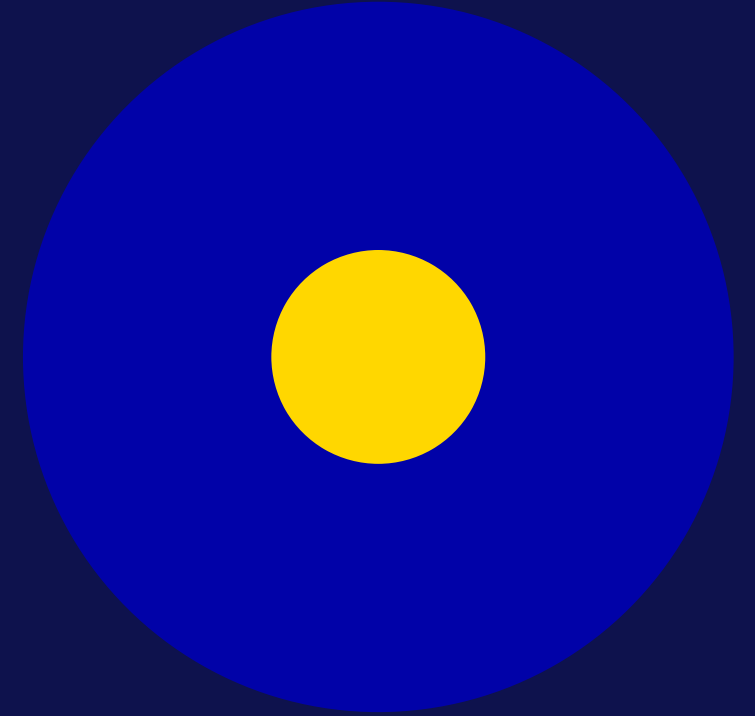
PART 4

10. How can one become a child of God? – Jn. 1:12.

NB What have you learnt about eternal life?

LESSON TWO

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE



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IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

MEMORY VERSE: 2 TIM. 3:16

1) Who wrote the Bible? Man or God? – 2 Pet. 1:21

2) Why should we study the Bible?

Read the following and show why you ought to read your Bible daily:

Joshua1:8.....
Psalm119:9.....

John 5:39.....

Acts 20:32.....
Romans10:17.....

Eph.6:17.....
.....

Tit.1:9.....
1Pet.1:25.....

IMPORTANCE OF THE BIBLE

Rev.1:3.....
.....

3) What is the Bible to the Christian?

a) Psalm
119:105.....

b) Psalm
119:103.....

c) Eph.6:17; Heb.
4:12.....

NB What have you learnt about the Bible?

NEW CONVERT COURSE

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

LESSON TWO



IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

MEMORY VERSE: 1 THESS. 5:17

1. Whom are we to pray to? - Matt. 5:6

2. When should we pray? - 1 Thess. 5:17

3. Who are we to pray for? – Tim. 2:1-4; James 5:6

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

PART 2

4. What are we to pray about? - Phil. 4:6, 19

5. In whose name should we pray? – Jn. 14:13-14

6. Why are some prayers not answered? – James 4:3; 1 Peter 3:7

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

PART 3

a) James 1:5-8.....

b) Isa. 59:2.....

c) Mk. 11:25-26.....

d) Psalm 66:18.....

e) 1 Peter 3:7.....

f) James 4:3.....

IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

PART 4

7. What happens if we fail to pray? – Matt. 26:41; 1 Peter 5:8.

NB What have you learnt about prayer?

NEW CONVERT COURSE

OVERCOMING TEMPTATIONS

LESSON TWO



INTRODUCTION:

The saying goes that “we cannot prevent birds from flying over our heads, but we can definitely prevent them from making nests in our hairs.”

Much the same way, no one can ever stop temptations from coming but we can learn how to handle temptations and come out victorious.

WHAT IS TEMPTATION?

It is defined as the act of tempting or inducement to do evil.

SOURCES OF TEMPTATIONS

a. Satan – Matt. 4:1

b. Evil association - Prov. 1:10

c. Friends – Matt. 16:22, 23

d. Relatives – Matt. 10:36

e. The flesh or our corrupt human nature – Jas. 1:14

NB: The flesh tempts us in 3 areas:

1. The lust of the flesh – 1 Jn. 2:16

2. The lust of the eyes – 1 Jn. 2:16

3. The pride of life – 1 Jn. 2:16

- Satan used all these means when he tempted Jesus and Adam.

MEANS OF TEMPTATIONS:

a. Through poverty – Prov. 30:7-9

b. Through prosperity – Prov. 30:7-9

c. Through worldly glory – Num. 22:17

d. Through discouragement and disappointments – Ps. 42:11; 1 Kgs. 19:4.

e. Through crave for power and position – Acts 8:18-20

f. Through love of money – 1 Tim. 6:10; Jn. 13:21-30

g. Through greed for possessions – Josh. 7:1

h. Through sex – e.g. David, Solomon, etc.

i. Through worldly pleasure – 2 Tim. 4:10

j. Through self-pity and false humility.

MEANS OF TEMPTATIONS:

PART 2

k. Through the 3 “Fs”. i.e. Female, Finance and Fame or the 3 “Ss” i.e. Sex, Silver and Self.

NB: The devil’s main purpose of tempting believers is to make them doubt and disbelieve God – Job. 2:9; Gen. 3:1-5.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION:

a. Never be over-confident in yourself, but trust in the Lord – 1 Cor. 10:12.

b. Know that God will never permit you to be tempted beyond your capacity – 1 Cor. 10:13.

c. Know that God is faithful to show you a way of escape – 1 Cor. 10:13.

d. Know that as Jesus was tempted like us, He is able to help you in your time of temptation – Heb. 2:18.

e. Know that as Jesus came out of temptations without sin, He is able to help you also to come out victorious – Heb. 4:15

f. Remember that going through any temptation is in itself not a sin. Jesus went through temptations without sin. It only becomes a sin when you yield. Heb. 4:15; Lk. 4:1-13.

g. Never create a good environment for temptations, i.e. visiting questionable places like discos, watching pornographic films, petting the opposite sex, moving with bad friends, etc. – Ps. 1:1-3. Never find yourself alone in a closed room with the opposite sex.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION:

PART 2

h. Know that Jesus is always interceding for you – Lk. 22:31, 32.

i. Know that though God tempts no man. He sometimes tests us to see the depth of our obedience to Him – Gen. 22:1; Jas. 1:2, 3.

j. Remember that the Lord knows how to deliver the godly from temptation – 2 Pet. 2:9.

k. The Lord has promised to deliver us from temptation – Ps. 91:7-8; Ps. 124; Prov. 3:10.

l. Know that the Bible does not promise us problem-free Christianity – Acts 14:22; 2 Tim. 3:12.

m. Consider trials as pure joy and persevere – Jas. 1:2-4.

n. Blessed is the man who perseveres under trials - Jas. 1:12.

o. Trials help refine our faith – 1 Pet. 1:6-7.

p. Don't be surprised when trials come – 1 Pet. 4:12-16.

HOW TO OVERCOME TEMPTATION:

PART 3

q. Resist the devil – Jas. 4:7.

r. Encourage yourself in the Lord – 1 Sam. 30:6.

s. Pray consistently – Rom. 12:12; Matt. 26:41; Matt. 6:13.

t. Flee from it – 2 Tim. 2:22; Prov. 4:14-15; 1 Cor. 6:18.

u. Quote the Word of God “It is written ...” – Matt. 4:10.

v. Always renew your mind with the Word of God – Rom. 12:1-2.

RESULTS OF TEMPTATIONS:

a. If yielded to, temptations lead to sin and the believer's testimony is weakened – 1 Tim. 6:9

b. If resisted, the Lord is glorified, and the believer grows stronger to resist other temptations. The person concerned grows in faith and maturity.

CONCLUSION: The Lord does not say temptations will not come our way, but He has promised a way out. Though we cannot stop evil thoughts from passing through our minds, we can definitely stop these thoughts from controlling our minds. We need to renew our minds with the word of God daily

OH GOD, LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

NEW CONVERT COURSE

EVIL ASSOCIATION

LESSON TWO



EVIL ASSOCIATION

MEMORY VERSE: 1 COR. 15:33

INTRODUCTION:

Whether we like it or not, we are influenced by the people and friends we move with. The Christian is therefore to select carefully his friends and people he moves with.

a. THOSE NOT TO MOVE WITH

1) Don't follow evil-minded crowd – Ex. 23:2. Remember that in God's sight, the majority is not necessarily always right.

2) Don't make treaty with wicked persons - Ex. 34:12

3) Do not WALK, STAND or WALK in the company of the wicked – Ps. 1:1. Remember that if you WALK on their path, you will one day STAND to watch and eventually end up SITTING with them. Prevention is better than cure.

4) Do not enter the path of evil men – Prov. 4:14.

5) Do not envy or desire evil men's company – Prov. 24:1-2.

6) Do not associate with fornicators, drunkards and idolaters – 1 Cor. 5:11.

7) Do not be yoked with unbelievers – 2 Cor. 6:14.

8) Shun the company of all who do evil – Ps. 6:8; Ps. 26:5.

a. THOSE NOT TO MOVE WITH

PART 2

9) Do not sit with deceitful persons or hypocrites – Ps. 26:4.

10) Avoid the company of criminals – Prov. 1:10-19.

11) Stay away from foolish men – Prov. 14:7.

12) Do not associate with a hot-tempered man – Prov. 22:24-25.

13) Do not fellowship with false teachers – 2 Jn. 10:11.

14) Have nothing to do with those who cause divisions and teach false doctrines in the Church – Tit. 3:10; Rom. 16:17.

15) Avoid the company of those who walk disorderly – 2 Thess. 3:6, 14.

16) Have nothing to do with evil doers – 2 Tim. 3:1-5.

b. THE RESULTS OF EVIL ASSOCIATION

1) It leads people astray – 1 Kgs. 11:1-3.

2) It brings God's wrath on people – 2 Chr. 19:2.

3) It brings disgrace to parents - Prov. 28:7.

4) It can lead to denial of Christ – Jn. 18:18, 25.

5) It can spoil good lives - 1 Cor. 15:33.

NB: How have you been affected by the advice of your friends? How do you think your life would have been without those pieces of advice? Is anyone instigating you into fornication, abortion, idolatry, divorce, etc.? Be careful of what advice you accept.

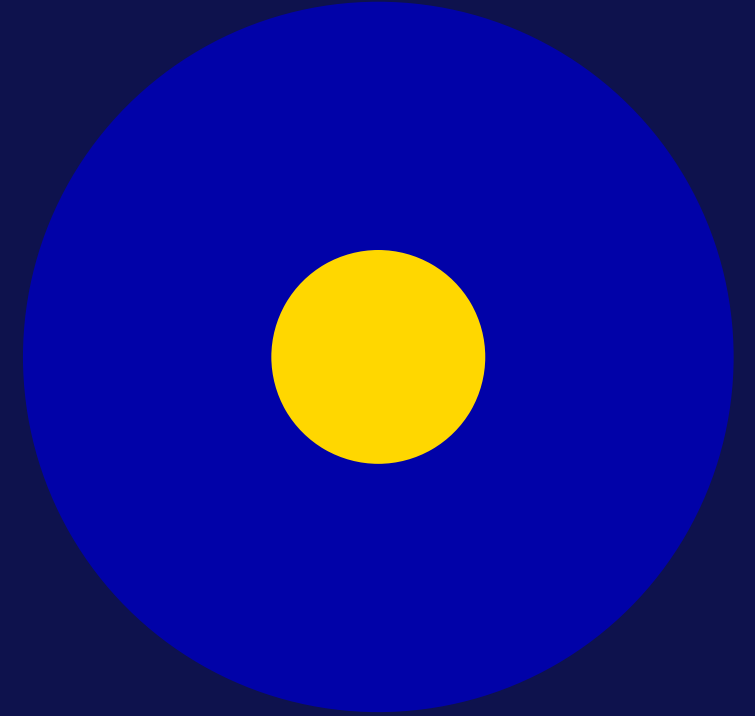
c. THE RIGHT COMPANY FOR THE CHRISTIAN

1. Be in the company of God-fearing people – Ps. 119:63.
2. Be in the company of the righteous – Prov. 2:20.
3. Be in the company of the wise in order to be wise – Prov. 13:20.

CONCLUSION: It is mandatory for Christians to keep the right friends. Jesus exhorts us in Matt. 5:29-30 to “gouge our eyes out if it causes us to sin”. It is therefore expedient for us to “gouge out” evil friends and be free enough to serve the Lord.

LESSON THREE

WATER BAPTISM



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INTRODUCTION:

Water baptism is one of the four main baptisms we must know about.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

1. Baptism is a sacrament by which a person is initiated into the Christian Faith by immersion in water. (Westminster Dictionary Of Theological Terms). 2. According to the New Webster's Dictionary, baptism is a sacrament (ordinance) by which a person is initiated into membership of the Christian Church.

WHY BAPTISM?

1. It is a command – Mk. 16:16; Matt. 28:9
2. It is a public identification with Christ.
3. It is a symbolic testimony of an inner cleansing that has already occurred – 1 Pet. 3:18-21
4. It signifies separation from the old life – 1 Cor. 10:1-2
5. To fulfil (or identify with) righteousness. Though Jesus never had any sins to be washed, He allowed Himself to be baptized. This signifies that He was identifying with righteousness – Matt. 3:15.
6. Through public baptism, Jesus was revealed and made manifest to Israel – Jn. 1:31.

WHY BAPTISM?

PART 2

7. It is a public testimony of our death to sin, of our severance (departure or separation) from sin's dominion and our pledge to live a new life through our faith and union with Christ – Matt. 3:8.

8. By going down into the waters of baptism, we have placed our trust in Christ testifying that through our union with Him, we have been buried with Him in His death. Our emergence from the waters signifies that we have been raised from death with Him – Rom. 6:3-4.

NB: We are baptized to live right – Matt. 3:8. After baptism, sin should not rule over us – Rom. 6:3-14.

WHO SHOULD BE BAPTISED?

Only those who repent believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and confess Him as their Lord and personal savior.

NB: It is our Pentecostal belief that as baptism should always be preceded by a confession of faith in Jesus Christ and infants cannot do that, we do not baptize children but dedicate them to the Lord – Lk. 2:22-24.

EXAMPLES OF BIBLICAL BAPTISM

1) Converts on the day of Pentecost – Acts 2:37, 38, 41

2) Repented Samaritans – Acts 8:12

3) Repented Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8:35-38

4) Repented Cornelius – Acts 11:17, 10:47-48

5) Repented Corinthians – Acts 18:8

6) Repented Ephesians – Acts 19:1-5

7) Repented Jailor's household – Acts 16:31-34

8) Repented household of Stephanus – 1 Cor. 1:16

9) Repented household of Crispus – Acts 18:8

10) Repented household of Lydia – Acts 16:14-15.

MODE OF BAPTISM:

There are three (3) main methods of water baptism.

a. Aspersation meaning sprinkling

b. Affusion meaning pouring

c. Immersion meaning dipping

As the word baptism comes from the Greek word “Baptizo” which means to submerge, dip or immerse, we Pentecostals believe in baptism by immersion as the most acceptable method as:

- Jesus was baptized in the river Jordan – Matt. 3:13

- Baptism is like a burial – Col. 2:12; Rom. 6:3-4

- John baptized where there was plenty of water – Jn. 3:23

CONCLUSION: It must be said that if a person does not repent and accept Jesus Christ as his/her personal savior and Lord, none of these methods or even combination of them can save him/her.

NEW CONVERT COURSE

TITHES AND OFFERINGS

LESSON THREE



INTRODUCTION:

In this study, we are going to look at why and how to give tithes. It is hoped that the study will make us understand the topic better and know the wonderful blessings derived from tithing and offerings and the consequence when we fail to fulfill it faithfully.

WHAT IS TITHING?

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Tithing is simply the act of giving a tenth of our resources to God in support of His work. (Gen. 28:22).

- Mathematically, it is a tenth – Gen. 28:22.

- Scripturally, a law – Deut. 14:22.

- Morally, a debt – Mal. 3:8.

- Spiritually, a blessing – Mal. 3:10.

- a. It is an arrangement between God and His people Lev. 27:30-32.

- b. It is given in support of the Lord's work – Num. 18:21; Heb. 7:5.

- c. It is one of the ways through which we lay up treasures in heaven – Matt. 6:19-21.

- d. Tithes and offerings are given as a reciprocation for the spiritual things we receive – Rom. 15:25-27.

WHAT IS TITHING?

e. By implication, an offering is given for fellowship in the gospel and as a gift which yields spiritual fruit– Phil. 4:14-17 (LB).

f. For provision of meat (resources) in the Lord's House – Mal. 3:8-10.

g. The Ministry of Christ is based on GIVING and RECEIVING, but God says “It is more blessed to GIVE than to RECEIVE” – Lk. 6:38. As an example:

1) God the Father loved so He gave – Jn. 3:16

2) God the Son also gave His life - Jn. 10:11; Gal. 1:4; Eph. 5:2

God the Son has also given us peace, victory, grace, salvation, hope, healing, eternal life, all our needs, etc. – Phil. 4:19.

3) God the Holy Spirit has also given gifts to the Church – 1 Cor. 12:1-11

4) Adam the first man gave a rib in order to have a wife – Gen. 1:21-25

WHAT IS TITHING?

PART 3

NB: What can we GIVE to God in reciprocation for these? While we cannot serve God AND money, we can serve God WITH our money.

In accounting, we debit the receiver and credit the giver. This principle also holds good in tithing. The giver's spiritual account is credited to whilst the receiver's spiritual account is debited to. We must always learn to give so as to have a better credit account with God – Heb. 13:16.

HOW DID TITHING COME ABOUT?

1) Abraham started it – Gen. 14:18-20.

2) Jacob continued it – Gen. 28:22.

3) Moses ordained it – Lev. 27:30-32; Deut. 14:22-29; Deut. 12:17.

4) The succeeding generations continued it 2 Chr. 31:5; Mal. 3:10; Neh. 10:37-39.

5) Jesus Himself confirmed tithing – Matt. 23:23 (LB).

NB: There is a school of thought, which teaches that tithing died with the law. This is not true as tithing started long before the law was given. – Gen. 14:18-20.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN PEOPLE FAIL TO GIVE TITHES?

1. Poverty, curse and misery result – Mal. 3:9.
2. Your life is exposed to satanic attacks and problems – Amos 4:10.
3. God's ministers turn to farming or do other jobs – Neh. 13:10.
4. God's protection is withdrawn, and the people face business and financial problems – Mal. 3:11.

WHY SOME PEOPLE FAIL TO GIVE TITHES

a. They feel they are too poor to give. Some also feel that their earnings are so small that the 90% left would not be sufficient for their needs and wants. However, poverty is no excuse for not giving. Those who continue to use poverty as an excuse will continue in poverty, for if you do not give, you are robbing yourself of the wonderful blessing derived from giving. The Macedonians were poor, yet they gave and even gave more than they could – 2 Cor. 8:1-3.

b. Some feel the amount of money involved is too much to be used in paying for “nothing bought”. Though we have bought nothing, we are obliged to give in appreciation for what God had helped us to acquire – Deut. 32:6a.

1. The Lord has helped us to make our farms produce bountifully by sending rains, manuring the soil, caring for the crops, multiplying the yields, the strength and care He gives to the farmer and the worker. Are we not supposed to reciprocate by giving God His due share?

WHY SOME PEOPLE FAIL TO GIVE TITHES

PART 2

2. To traders, The Lord gives wonderful travelling mercies, guides them and brings about an increase in their businesses. Yet, in spite of all these, some people feel they are paying for “nothing bought”.

c. FORGETFULNESS (PROCRASTINATION): Some try to accumulate it and say: “I will send it next week,” and that is all. At times the accumulated amount becomes too much, and Satan tells you it is too big and that; there is a more pressing need somewhere.

To arrest this situation, send in your tithes the very day you have it. Be it a Wednesday or Friday service, you just wrap it in a piece of paper. The elders checking the offerings will know that all monies wrapped up in papers are for tithes. Or better still, send in your tithes every Sunday rather than wait till the end of the month.

CHILDREN AND TITHING:

The children must be taught how to tithe so that when they grow, they will not depart from it – Deut. 6:5-7; Prov. 22:6; Deut. 29:29; Gen. 18:19.

REWARDS IN TITHING:

Blessing:

a. In our Business – Mal. 3:11-12; Prov. 11:24-25.

b. Good Health – Ps. 41:1-3.

c. Good Investment – Prov. 19:7; Matt. 6:19-21.

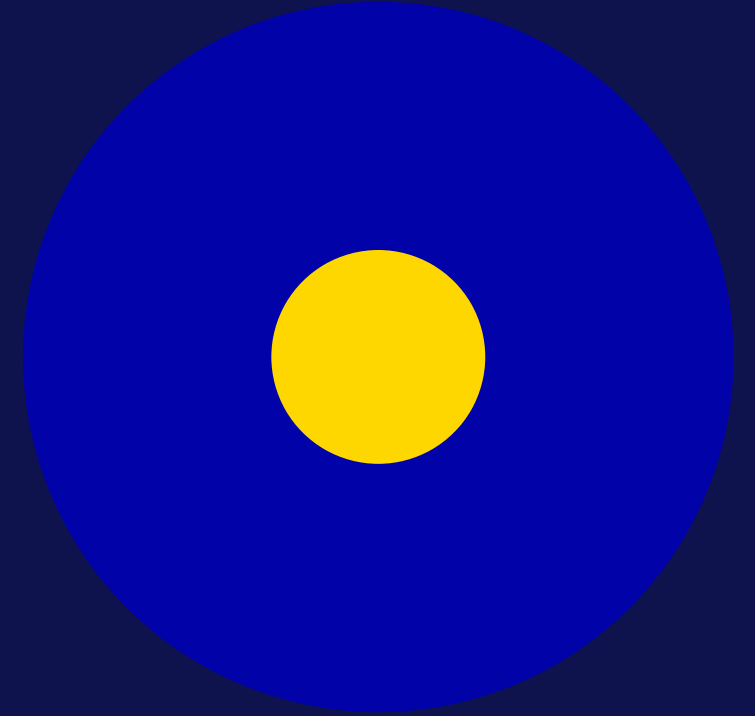
Example: i. Abraham was much blessed and prospered – Gen. 14:18-19.

ii. Jacob was blessed and prospered - Gen. 35:15.

CONCLUSION: The Lord's blessing has been on all who gave tithes in the Bible days (Gen 14:18-19, Gen 35:15) and He is still doing so today. Tithing is an obligation for all Christians, but offering are given by free will. As it is more blessed to give than to receive, every Christian longing for God's blessing must cultivate the habit of giving. Matthew 4:24-25 says we shall receive the same measure as we give.

LESSON FOUR

LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION:



Mile High City Church Inc.

LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION:

Holy communion is one of the two sacraments (ordinance) accepted and practiced by Protestants. The other is Water Baptism.

WHAT IS HOLY COMMUNION?

The Holy Communion or Lord's Supper celebrates the death of Christ, His presence with the church and His future kingdom (reign). It was instituted by Jesus (1Cor.11:23-26) at the last supper, the last meal which Jesus shared with His disciples before His crucifixion.

WHY CELEBRATE HOLY COMMUNION?

1. It is one of the institutions established by Jesus Christ – Matt. 26:26-29
2. We partake of it in obedience to the Lord's command – 1 Cor. 11:24
3. It is in remembrance of Christ's death for us – 1 Cor. 11:24
4. We partake of it in anticipation of His return – 1 Cor. 11:26
5. To confirm our fellowship with Christ and other believers – 1 Cor. 10:16.

PREPARATION TOWARD HOLY COMMUNION:

Preparation demands self-examination - 1 Cor. 11:27-28; 2 Cor. 13:5; Ps. 26:2; Ps. 139:23; Lam. 3:40

WHY SELF EXAMINATION?

1. It is a command – 1 Cor. 11:27-28

2. To partake in any unworthy manner brings weaknesses, sicknesses, and even death –

1 Cor. 11:29-30

NB: It should be an examination that finds sins, that are then confessed and forsaken them.

HOW TO EXAMINE YOURSELF:

You may ask yourself the following questions:

1. Do I really believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?

2. Am I really born again into the family of God?

3. Is there any un-confessed sin in my life?

4. Am I entertaining any pride, self-pity, hatred, laziness, grudges, and covetousness in my life?

HOW TO EXAMINE YOURSELF:

PART 2

5. Is there any area where I am disobeying the Lord?

6. Do I have clean thoughts?

7. Have I kept my promises?

8. Have I been witnessing consistently?

HOW TO EXAMINE YOURSELF:

PART 3

9. Have I been faithful in my prayer and Bible studies?

10. Have I been faithful to my family?

11. Have I been faithful in paying my tithes and offering?

12. Do I readily repent of my sins? NB. Confession without repentance is a mockery.

HOW TO EXAMINE YOURSELF:

PART 4

13. Do I love the Lord with all my heart, soul and strength? – Lk 10:27

14. Do I love my neighbor and fellow believers? - Jn. 15:12

15. Have I forgiven those who have sinned against me? - Matt. 6:14-15

NB: Adequate preparation should be made before partaking of the Lord's Supper. It must not be taken lightly, as it strengthens our fellowship with the Lord and fellow believers.

NEW CONVERT COURSE

RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS:

LESSON FOUR



RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHURCH MEMBERS:

Every Church member being a child of God, and a member of God's family must know his or her responsibilities so as to help build the Church (the family of God).

a. TO LIVE CONSECRATED LIVES -1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Thess. 5:22; 1 Thess. 4:3-7; Tim. 2:19; Rom. 6:12-13; 12:1-2; 14:16.

b. TO WIN SOULS – Acts 8:4; Acts 1:8.

It is the primary duty of every Church member to be a soul winner. The Pastor as a shepherd is to nurture and train the Church members to win more souls. Members must identify and use their gifts.

c. TO HONOUR, RESPECT AND SUPPORT THE PASTOR AND CHURCH LEADERS

- Respect and hold them in high esteem – 1 Thess. 5:12-13
- Obey and submit to them – Heb. 13:17; 1 Cor. 16:16
- Accord them double honor and support the Pastor well – 1 Tim. 5:17-18
- Support your Pastor with physical things – 1 Cor. 9:7, 9-14; Tit. 3:13; Deut. 14:27; Deut. 18:1-5; Deut. 12:19

d. TO ATTEND CHURCH SERVICES REGULARLY – Heb. 10:25

e. TO SUPPORT THE CHURCH FAITHFULLY IN TITHING AND OFFERINGS

- Do not rob God of tithes and offerings – Matt. 3:10

- Give God the tithes that are due to Him – Lev. 27:30-32

- Don't repay God with unfaithfulness and ingratitude – Deut. 32:6

f. TO PRAY FOR THE PASTOR AND CHURCH LEADERS – Rom. 15:30; Heb.

13:18; Col. 4:3; 1 Thess; 3:1; 5:25; 2 Cor. 1:11; Eph. 6:18-19.

NB: Don't be in the habit of speaking evil of your Church leaders – 1 Chr. 16:22.

g. TO VISIT ONE ANOTHER, LOVE ONE ANOTHER, HELP ONE ANOTHER,

LOVE IN HARMONY AND UNITY – 1 Thess. 5:14; Heb. 12:14; Jas. 1:27; Matt. 25:35-40

NB:

- Know that there is no room for “passenger” Christians – 2 Tim. 2:20.
- Any Church that expects the Pastor to do everything is only preparing him for his early grave.
- God does not require a man to have one, two or five or any particular number of talents. God requires that a man be faithful with whatever talents he has.

LIFE QUESTION: WHAT WOULD THE CHURCH BE IF ALL THE MEMEBRS WERE LIKE YOU?