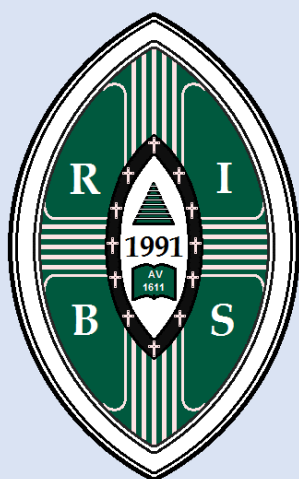


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Class Number

101

Class Title

Church Discipleship Guide

Prepared by

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.

Date

January 20, 1992; with additions October 2, 2020

Credits

0

Level

Level 1 – Saved and Baptized

Note to Instructor: This *Church Discipleship Guide* is also available in an easy-to-read booklet form available on our church website at www.HistoricBaptist.org.

CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

12 Lesson Program

Lesson Outlines



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N. S. Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

This syllabus is provided as a *Guide* to help teachers instruct New Believers for faithful church service. It can also be used to prepare students for the *Baptist International School of the Scriptures* program if that student is newly-saved or unfamiliar with Bible Doctrine.

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CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

CLASS 101 CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A Teaching Syllabus Suitable for Baptist International School of the Scriptures

N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.; Pastor, Historic Baptist Church, Wickford, Rhode Island 02852

January 20, 1992

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Scripture References

Matthew 28

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Luke 1

1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things

from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

Philippians 4

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit

thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

1 Timothy 1

4 Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

1 Peter 2:1-3

1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHP GUIDE

Bible Reading Chart

Jeremiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
Lamentations	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52								
Ezekiel	1	2	3	4	5															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48												
Daniel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
Hosea	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14						
Joel	1	2	3																	
Amos	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9											
Obadiah	1																			
Jonah	1	2	3	4																
Micah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7													
Nahum	1	2	3																	
Habakkuk	1	2	3																	
Zephaniah	1	2	3																	
Haggai	1	2																		
Zechariah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14						
Malachi	1	2	3	4																
Matthew	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
Mark	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Luke	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24																
John	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21																			
Acts	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28												
Romans	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
1 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
2 Corinthians	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16				
Galatians	1	2	3	4	5	6														
Ephesians	1	2	3	4	5	6														
Philippians	1	2	3	4																
Colossians	1	2	3	4																
1 Thessalonians	1	2	3	4	5															
2 Thessalonians	1	2	3																	
1 Timothy	1	2	3	4	5	6														
2 Timothy	1	2	3	4																
Titus	1	2	3																	
Philemon	1																			
Hebrews	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
James	1	2	3	4	5															
1 Peter	1	2	3	4	5															
2 Peter	1	2	3																	
1 John	1	2	3	4	5															
2 John	1																			
3 John	1																			
Jude	1																			
Revelation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22																		

Bible Reading Chart

Genesis	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50										
Exodus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50										
Leviticus	1	2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27													
Numbers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Deuteronomy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Joshua	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Judges	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21																			
	1	2	3	4																
1 Samuel	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2 Samuel	1	2	3	4																
	21	22	23	24																
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22																		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2 Kings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25															
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
2 Chronicles	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36				
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
Ezra	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
Nehemiah	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10										
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Esther	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42																		
Psalms	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Proverbs	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12								
Ecclesiastes	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8												
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8												
Song Of Solomon	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
Isaiah	61	62	63	64	65	66														

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Preface

A church discipleship guide is only of value when it is used to teach saved persons. A primary and a most important work of a saint is to teach a lost person how to be saved. When God's child does the work of a teacher he will not only witness to the lost with the goal of teaching them how to be saved, but he will be planning already to make disciples of those who believe on Jesus Christ.

There are many programs available to accomplish the task set forth by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as stated in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). Basically, the child of God (with church authority) is to a) teach the world the gospel of salvation, b) baptize those who believe, and c) teach those new believers to observe all the commandments of Christ. This is truly the work of God. This guide is designed to be used to help a teacher get a believer from a through c above. Of course, a teacher should always have church authority (approval) when fulfilling any or all of the Great Commission.

The author does not want any person to overlook the first work of the Great Commission, which is evangelism – teaching people how to be saved.

Basically, a teacher is to lead by example (teaching others to “observe,” Matthew 28:20). An important work of teaching and leading new believers is to be the example of one who witnesses to the lost with the intent of leading them to salvation in Christ and making them disciples of Christ.

The author suggests ten practical things a person can do to organize a lesson time with a new believer. These are merely some suggestions for those who may not know just where to start. Of course, one should allow the Holy Ghost to lead. These suggestions are listed as follows:

1. Begin the lesson with a word of prayer. Ask the Lord to help you, the teacher, to teach and the student to understand. Make sure you have set a time to end the lesson and be time conscious. Finish the lesson promptly. If you still have material to cover, teach it during the next lesson time or decide to pass over it.
2. Ask the student for a testimony of how the Lord has worked in his life recently or what the Lord is doing in his life now. Be an encouragement to the student as much as possible.
3. Briefly review the last lesson and see if the student's heart is still willing to fulfill the “do” part of the prior lesson.
4. Go over the next lesson. Have the student read the lesson verses in his Bible, New Testament, or John and Romans. Answer any questions he may have.

Those questions that you as the teacher cannot answer fully should be studied and reviewed before the next lesson. Make sure the student has understanding about the “do” part of the lesson.

Make sure as you teach the lessons that you do not give too much information at once to the new believer.

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Although truth is always truth, it is unwise to give a new believer more than he can handle, causing more confusion, or giving too much truth at one time where he “chokes.” Make sure the student is able to receive whatever you teach (1 Corinthians 3:1, 2). A new believer can always receive “milk,” but not necessarily strong “meat.”

5. Have a scripture verse for the student to memorize during the time between lessons. It would be good to select a verse that is related to the lesson just taught. For example, Luke 6:38 “Give and it shall be given unto you...” might be a good verse to memorize after lesson 7 on Faithfulness. The Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) might be a good verse to memorize after lesson 5 on Baptism.

If necessary, write the verse on a piece of paper for the student to carry with him. The verse should be reviewed before the next lesson. Make sure the student understands the verse and that it is somewhat short and simple to memorize, at least in the beginning.

6. Read a portion of scripture together. The passage should be explained briefly if there are any difficult areas. Make sure to choose a passage that will not be too difficult to explain. It is a good idea to read a passage that the student has had trouble with his devotions, or something in the next chapter of his Bible reading.
7. Have the student ask any questions that he may have. These will probably range from A to Z. Answer them to the student’s satisfaction. Encourage the student to write questions he has during the time between lessons. You as the teacher will probably have to do some study or review some of the questions with your Pastor.
8. Check to see that the student has been faithful in his daily devotions. When the teaching first starts the student should be provided with a prayer list and a Bible reading check-off list (see last page). Agree together on what book should be read first (probably the Gospel of John or the Book of Romans). The student should be encouraged to read his Bible and pray daily.
9. Check to see if the student has any needs. The Bible says to “by love serve one another” (Galatians 5:13). A good teacher will have a servant’s heart and be willing to help his brother any way he can. Helping includes encouragement, money, food, labor, time, fellowship, etc.
10. End each lesson in prayer. Give the student an opportunity to pray. Confirm the next lesson’s time.

A good Bible teacher will understand that all he does, whether spoken or in action, is teaching the student. The teacher’s personal testimony is very important. He should strive to be Spiritual at all times. What and how a teacher instructs the student will greatly influence what and how that student eventually teaches. The teacher should always keep in mind that he is teaching the student so that someday he will also teach. Be reminded of 2 Timothy 2:2:

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

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Now, as the Lord Jesus Christ gave us the commandment in Matthew 28:18-20, let us go forward with the plan, not only to win the lost for Christ, but also to make disciples of them.

N. Sebastian Desent, Pastor
Historic Baptist Church, Rhode Island
January 20, 1992

Note: These lessons can be used in conjunction with a John/Romans booklet to instruct new believers. We have available printed matter for each of the three stages of the Great Commission as follows:

Go and Teach All Nations Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Romans (Romans 16:25, 26)

Baptizing Them Church Discipleship Guide (New Believer's Guide)

Teaching them to Observe
All Things Whatsoever Christ
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Here is a Discipleship Illustration showing how the *Biblical Method of Reproduction* is the best way to redeem the time, also proving why Jesus commands this Method in the Great Commission:

A man can attempt to teach one person a day how to be saved, how to be baptized (and then baptize him), and then teach him to observe all the commandments of Christ – all in this one day – and after ten years of faithful *daily* work, he will have affected (taught) 3,650 souls. This is a tremendous and noteworthy work

On the other hand, if this man follows the *Biblical Model of Reproduction*, and trains a man all the above, but makes of him a *disciple* by his teaching and example, so that man does the same thing as his teacher (reproduces “after his kind,” see Genesis 1:11, 2 Timothy 2:2, etc.); and trains only two men a year, but these are faithful men who will teach others also; we find at the end of ten years there are 4,072 souls.

He will have generated more disciples, and these disciples will carry on the work of their teacher, regardless of whether the teacher is able to continue.

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The calculations to show how we arrived at the above numbers are these:

Scenario One:

1 man teaches 365 men per year for 10 years = $1 \times 365 \times 10 = 3,650$.

Hopefully, these 3,650 souls will be faithful men.

Scenario Two:

1 man teaches 2 men per year for 10 years = $1 \times 2 \times 10 = 20$

The 2 taught men teach 2 men a year for 9 years = $2 \times 2 \times 9 = 36$

The 4 taught men teach 2 men a year for 8 years = $4 \times 2 \times 8 = 64$

The 8 taught men teach 2 men a year for 7 years = $8 \times 2 \times 7 = 112$

The 16 taught men teach 2 men a year for 6 years = $16 \times 2 \times 6 = 192$

The 32 taught men teach 2 a year for 5 years = $32 \times 2 \times 5 = 320$

The 64 taught men teach 2 a year for 4 years = $64 \times 2 \times 4 = 512$

The 128 taught men teach 2 a year for 3 years = $128 \times 2 \times 3 = 768$

The 256 taught men teach 2 a year for 2 years = $256 \times 2 \times 2 = 1,024$

The 512 taught men teach 2 a year for 1 year = $512 \times 2 \times 1 = 1,024$

By adding $20 + 36 + 64 + 112 + 192 + 320 + 512 + 768 + 1,024 + 1,024$; you end up with 4,072 trained soul-winners who will train and disciple others. Each man taught only two men each per year.

Scenario three:

By simply doubling the men every year and adding previous year number we get this number (multiplying by three – tripling – every year). This is a man that puts a life-long burden into his disciples:

Year 1 = $1 + 2 = 3$

Year 2 = $3 + 6 = 9$

Year 3 = $9 + 18 = 27$

Year 4 = $27 + 54 = 81$

Year 5 = $81 + 162 = 243$

Year 6 = $243 + 486 = 729$

Year 7 = $729 + 1458 = 2,187$

Year 8 = $2,187 + 4,374 = 6,561$

Year 9 = $6,561 + 13,122 = 19,683$

Year 10 = $19,683 + 39,366 = 59,049$

After ten years the number is 59,049 soul-winners and disciples. If this were to continue (X 3) for another 10 years, we would have a number of 3,486,784,000 – 3.48 billion souls – or half the world's population in twenty years. One man could reach the world in a lifetime.

Best-case population estimates for world population around 200 AD show the population between 150 to 200 million people.

Starting in 32 AD with just 10 soul winners and doubling every year (and we know the Book of Acts show much more), we would have over 10 million in twenty years. Add five more years doubling and you reach 335 million people – way more than population estimates. Therefore, it is no strange thing that Paul writes in Romans 1:8: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of

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throughout the whole world.” Also, Romans 10:18: “But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world.”

If we say the Epistle to the Romans was written around 56 AD, that is approximately 34 years since the crucifixion. At the rate of expansion, the world was easily reached.

The above scenarios are theoretical, but practical enough for illustration. The second scenario assumes these 4,000+ men will continue to teach two a year, etc., etc., whether or not that first teacher continues. However, if a leader backslides and stumbles the men who follow, the work is severely hindered. *One sinner destroys much good* (Ecclesiastes 9:18). One can see how greatly the exponential multiplication will affect the world. This is what we have seen in the Book of Acts and world history. This is the Master Jesus’ method as found in Matthew 28:18-20.

Here is a chart showing the calculations for reference:

	SCENARIO 1			SCENARIO 2			SCENARIO 3			SCENARIO 4		
YEAR	START	ADD	CUMULATIVE	START	YEARS	PRODUCT	START	ADD	CUMULATIVE	START	ADD	CUMULATIVE
1	1	365	366	2	10	20	1	2	3	10	10	20
2	366	365	731	4	9	36	3	6	9	20	20	40
3	731	365	1,096	8	8	64	9	18	27	40	40	80
4	1,096	365	1,461	16	7	112	27	54	81	80	80	160
5	1,461	365	1,826	32	6	192	81	162	243	160	160	320
6	1,826	365	2,191	64	5	320	243	486	729	320	320	640
7	2,191	365	2,556	128	4	512	729	1,458	2,187	640	640	1,280
8	2,556	365	2,921	256	3	768	2,187	4,374	6,561	1,280	1,280	2,560
9	2,921	365	3,286	512	2	1,024	6,561	13,122	19,683	2,560	2,560	5,120
10	3,286	365	3,651	1,024	1	1,024	19,683	39,366	59,049	5,120	5,120	10,240
11	3,651	365	4,016	TOTAL		4,072	59,049	118,098	177,147	10,240	10,240	20,480
12	4,016	365	4,381	THE ABOVE REPRESENTS ONLY A TEN-YEAR PERIOD			177,147	354,294	531,441	20,480	20,480	40,960
13	4,381	365	4,746				531,441	1,062,882	1,594,323	40,960	40,960	81,920
14	4,746	365	5,111				1,594,323	3,188,646	4,782,969	81,920	81,920	163,840
15	5,111	365	5,476				4,782,969	9,565,938	14,348,907	163,840	163,840	327,680
16	5,476	365	5,841				14,348,907	28,697,814	43,046,721	327,680	327,680	655,360
17	5,841	365	6,206				43,046,721	86,093,442	129,140,163	655,360	655,360	1,310,720
18	6,206	365	6,571				129,140,163	258,280,326	387,420,489	1,310,720	1,310,720	2,621,440
19	6,571	365	6,936				387,420,489	774,840,978	1,162,261,467	2,621,440	2,621,440	5,242,880
20	6,936	365	7,301				1,162,261,467	2,324,522,934	3,486,784,401	5,242,880	5,242,880	10,485,760
21	7,301	365	7,666				3,486,784,401	6,973,568,802	10,460,353,203	10,485,760	10,485,760	20,971,520
22	7,666	365	8,031							20,971,520	20,971,520	41,943,040
23	8,031	365	8,396							41,943,040	41,943,040	83,886,080
24	8,396	365	8,761							83,886,080	83,886,080	167,772,160
25	8,761	365	9,126							167,772,160	167,772,160	335,544,320

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Introduction

NOTE: This program is designed for newly saved folks or for folks newly joined to the local Bible-believing Baptist church. These Bible-based ideas and order of teaching are considered to be important by the author in instructing those who have recently believed on the Lord Jesus Christ. The information contained in this booklet is intended to be used in any country. Translation is encouraged.

INTRODUCTORY VERSES:

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20

Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

Isaiah 28:9, 10

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Psalms 111:10

The author takes these verses as the principles by which to teach a new believer in Christ Jesus that which is helpful in his life. The author has set the order of this book according to these precepts. Not only what is to be taught is considered important, but the order of teaching is very important. To teach a new believer in Christ the deep things of the word of God without that person learning what God would have him do first is against God's system of teaching.

These lessons are designed to be used by a teacher who is teaching a faithful person who will eventually teach others himself (2 Timothy 2:2). A teacher of Godly things has no responsibility to teach a person who does not have the desire to be taught, but he is required by God to teach those who are willing to be taught.

The author understands there will be people who will not readily obey what the word of God teaches (such as tithing, baptism, attending church services faithfully, etc.). This guide is designed for those who will be

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

faithful and have willing hearts. This book is in no way presented to be the answer to carnal Christians, nor should it be used as such. This book is simply a guide by which a teacher can teach Biblical practices and principles to willing learners.

These lessons are designed as a guide: the teacher is more important than the guide. Any value in using the guide for self-study must be determined by each individual.

Various steps of “doing” are inherently part of each lesson (listed at the end of each lesson). The student should be “doing” as a result of what he has been taught in that particular lesson. The author suggests that the last lesson’s “doing” be reviewed before the start of each new lesson.

The student sets his own pace of teaching as a result of what he does. The teacher should be a person who has successfully fulfilled the things contained in the lessons and who is faithful doing the things described in the lessons. To have one teach that which he has not done (or is doing) is hypocrisy, which our Lord Jesus Christ has rebuked on numerous occasions (Matthew 7:5; Luke 12:1).

How the teacher teaches the student is his choice. How a teacher handles a situation where the student will not obey what he has been shown out of the Bible is not described in this book (nor should it be). It is up to the individual to handle each case as the Holy Ghost leads. This is only a guide for teaching with some practical applications.

The lessons are divided into twelve approximately one-week lessons. As the student is faithful to the lessons, the teaching can occur faster or slower depending on the teacher and the student. How faithfully the student obeys the precepts described in the word of God will determine how much understanding he will receive from the Lord.

There are three main divisions to the lessons, set up in accordance with the Great Commission of Jesus Christ as found in Matthew 28:18-20:

- I. What to teach All Nations
- II. About Baptism and Church Membership
- III. Teaching to Observe the Commandments of Jesus Christ

The Basic Lesson Format will be as follows:

- I. Subject Description
- II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject
- III. Comments, Questions, and Review
- IV. What the student should do

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The Lesson Index is as follows:

Lesson No. -----	Subject -----	Page -----
DIVISION I: Teach All Nations		
1.	Your Salvation	11
2.	The Precepts	14
3.	Personal Evangelism	16
4.	Your Two Natures and Christian Growth	18
DIVISION II: Baptism and Church Membership		
5.	Bible Baptism	20
6.	The Local Church	22
7.	Faith and Faithfulness	24
8.	The Bible and You	26
DIVISION III: Observing the Commandments of Christ		
9.	Love Commandment Doctrine	28
10.	Your Service and Ministry	30
11.	Personal Bible Study	32
12.	Teaching Others	34

A Brief Explanation of the Teaching Pyramid

The illustration of the Teaching Pyramid is for reference only. It should simply be used to show the levels of understanding a man progresses to spiritually as he obeys Jesus' commandments. Spiritual *understanding* comes with spiritual *progress* (Psalm 111:10). Spiritual progress comes with *obedience* to the commandments of Jesus Christ.

You will notice that with each upward progression, the size of each level decreases. This is why the shape of the illustration is a segmented pyramid (not a cube). There are fewer men at each upper level. Jesus is the Top. There is and will only be One who has full understanding and complete obedience – the Lord Jesus Christ! We, however, are being conformed to his image (Romans 8:29). We need to follow his example.

Every person is represented by one of the levels. The lowest level (bottom) represents the lost person. A person at this level has the least spiritual understanding (thus, at the bottom of the pyramid), but this level represents the majority of the people (thus, the largest block). For an individual to progress to the next level, he must obey the commandment to be saved (1 John 3:23; Acts 17:30; etc.).

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The level second from the bottom, then, represents those individuals who are saved, but who have not yet obeyed the commandment to be baptized. An individual at this level has more understanding than someone in the bottom level; and hence, the person in the above level can and should teach those in the bottom level how to advance (get saved).

The third level (identified as “1”) represents those who are saved and baptized. By obeying the commandment to be baptized the believer advances to this level and can then teach the lower two levels. He can and should teach others to be saved or baptized, depending on their level. This level is identified with the number “1” because it is here that the formal School of the Scriptures begins. This guide is used to bring a man to this level where formal training can begin.

We see then a practical use of the illustration. By identifying where a person is, we can determine what he should be taught next, and what he should be able to teach others. Accordingly, we should be careful not to teach someone a higher level than the one immediately above his current level. We can also illustrate this principle to the student. A student then understands (and we are all students) what he must do to progress spiritually (obey the commandments), and how to teach others. He also sees his need to *do* before he can *teach*.

The level at which training starts for the student is determined by the level of understanding the student has from his past history. This guide takes for granted the student is at the level second from the bottom (saved). Any person above this level can still benefit from this guide by learning what is inside and what he should be able to teach. The following levels are listed from the lowest level to the higher levels of understanding and teaching:

Bottom: The Lost – The Unsaved man

Second from Bottom: The Saved, but not Baptized

1. Saved and Baptized and under Church Discipleship
2. Associate Level
3. Graduate Level
4. Bachelor Level
5. Masters Level
6. Ph.D. Level
7. Post Ph.D. Levels

The student's level of work will include knowledge and understanding of lower level curricula and teaching, with the responsibility to teach others below his level. A lost man should be taught about salvation. A saved man who is not baptized should be taught about baptism and be baptized. A baptized believer should be taught some sort of new believer's course, and so on. A person at level 7 should be able to teach levels 1-6, etc. Teaching the right doctrine at the right level is God's way of teaching (Matthew 28:18-20; Isaiah 28:9-11).

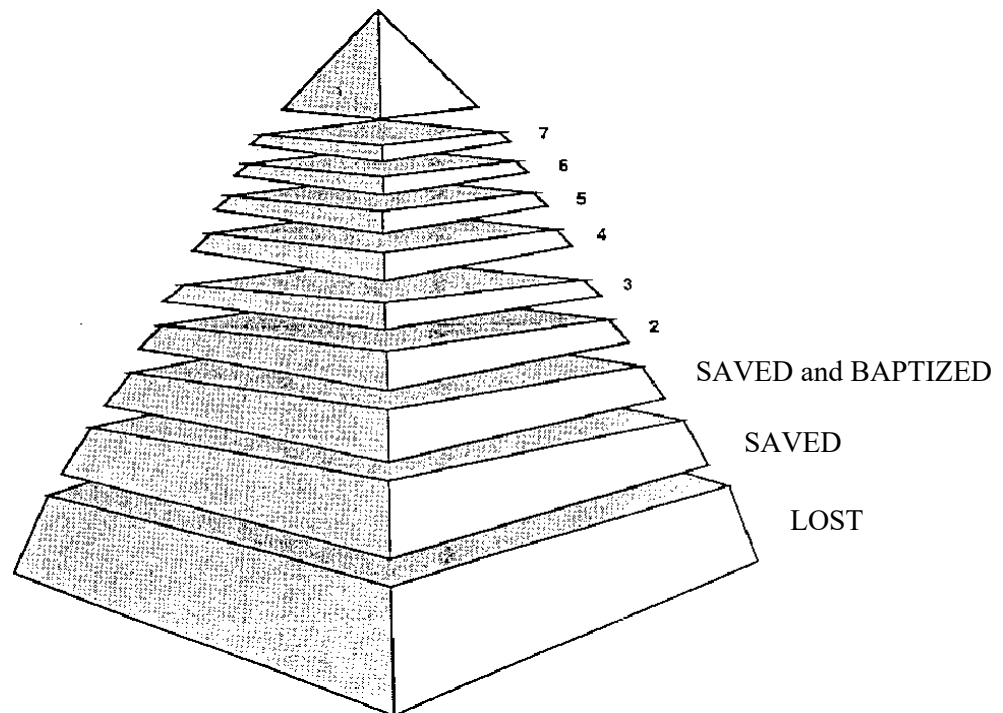
You should see, then, the purpose of this Church Discipleship Guide in the overall scheme. This guide is to be used to get a man from the second level to the third. From that point a different curricula are available for the student to follow. The *Baptist International School of the Scriptures Handbook* will explain these higher levels further to those interested. The handbook is available free for the asking, or in its self-publishing form at www.historicbaptist.org.

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The Method of Advancement:

Please keep in mind the simple formula for advancement: *Do* what you have been taught, or better yet, as Jesus said, “teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” (Matthew 28:18-20).

With the above introduction finished we will now proceed with the lesson outlines.



THE BAPTIST INTERNATIONAL TEACHING PYRAMID

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Lesson 1: God's Salvation

(John 3:3; 16-18; 14:1-6; Romans 10:8-13)

I. Subject Description

- a. What Salvation is
- b. About Salvation
- c. How and Why it works
- d. Biblically how to be saved

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Salvation is the escape from Hell (John 3:16-18; Luke 12:5).
- b. Salvation is the promise of Heaven and eternal life (John 3:16; 14:1-3).
- c. Salvation is by grace through faith – it is a free gift (Ephesians 2:8-10).
- d. Salvation cannot be lost (John 10:27-30; Romans 8:38, 39).
- e. The blood of Jesus Christ pays for your sins (Romans 3:24, 25; 5:8, 9; Ephesians 1:7; Colossians 1:14; Hebrews 9:22; 10:19; 1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:7; Revelation 1:5, 6).
- f. There is only one way of Salvation: Faith in Jesus Christ (John 14:6). That is accomplished by believing with heart the Gospel (Romans 1:16, 17) of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel is the death, the burial, and the resurrection on the third day of our Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (read 1 Corinthians 15:1-6).
- g. How to be saved:
 - 1. Believe with the heart in the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
 - 2. Confess with your mouth that faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:8-10).
- h. What happens once you are saved and have become a New Creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17)? You have these things:
 - 1. Been Saved from hell (Romans 10:13).
 - 2. A Spiritual birth (John 3:3).
 - 3. A Sin cleansing (1 John 1:7).
 - 4. Security in Christ (Romans 8:35-39).
 - 5. The Sealing of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
 - 6. Found Satisfaction in your spiritual search (John 4:13, 14).
 - 7. A Sleep instead of death (1 Corinthians 15:51).
 - 8. A Soul that will never die (John 3:16)
 - 9. Been Set free from sin (Romans 6:17, 18).
 - 10. A Savior who loves you (Revelation 19:16).
 - 11. Strength to overcome (1 John 5:4).
 - 12. Safety against harm (Proverbs 21:31).
 - 13. Sanctification by God (Jude 1).
 - 14. Your Supplications heard in heaven (John 14:13, 14).
 - 15. A Sufficient Supply for all needs (Philippians 4:19).
 - 16. A Sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).
 - 17. Sainthood status (1 Corinthians 1:2).
 - 18. Spiritual discernment (1 Corinthians 2:11-14).
 - 19. A Sojourn on this earth (1 Peter 1:17).

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- 20. A Scheduled appearance before the Seat of judgment (Romans 14:10-12). This is not to determine salvation but what rewards you will receive for your labors (1 Corinthians 15:58).
- 21. A Savings account in heaven (Matthew 6:19-21).
(Note: A small book entitled “21 Things a Person Gets with Salvation” is offered free of charge by Historic Baptist Church – www.historicbaptist.org. This booklet details the above-mentioned things.)
- i. Biblical repentance in relation to salvation is a conscious change of mind and heart (Hebrews 4:12) to believe the Gospel.
- j. The word of God and the Holy Ghost are active in salvation (John 3:5; 1 Peter 1:26; Ephesians 5:26; John 20:31, 32).
- k. Although some folks may reject you because of your decision, continue to follow Jesus Christ (Matthew 19:29; Mark 8:35; 10:29, 30; Luke 9:24; 18:29, 30).
- l. Know the reason why Christ died for you: because God and Jesus both love you (John 3:16-18; Revelation 1:5, 6)).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. God loved the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die for sinners (John 3:16).
- b. Although you may have prayed and asked Jesus to save you, what really saved you was believing on Christ. You prayed as a result of believing on Christ – understand the difference.
- c. God’s plan: God is love. Because God is love, He must manifest His love to someone. God creates a recipient for His love. That recipient is mankind. The recipient must have a free will to truly accept God’s love and return His love. The recipient must have an alternate choice to exercise his free will. God created Lucifer, knowing that Lucifer would rebel, and be that alternate choice for men who choose darkness rather than light. Since God ultimately allowed sin to enter His creation, He, because He is righteous and just, paid for that sin. Hence, He died on the cross to pay for the sins of the world.
- d. One is saved by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. His sins are forgiven by faith in Christ.

IV. What the student should do

- a. Make sure you have believed with all your heart (Acts 8:37) in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- b. Make sure you have confessed with the mouth that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- c. Know that you are a child of God (even when you do not feel like one) and that you can never lose your salvation (John 1:12; 1 John 3:10).
- d. Know how and why you are saved.
- e. Pray that Jesus will help you grow now that you are a child of God.
- f. Memorize key verses to help seal the Salvation message (John 3:16; Romans 10:9, etc.)

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Lesson 2: The Precepts

(John 14:15; 15:12, 13; Romans 13:8-10)

I. Subject Description

- a. Precepts – what a precept is
- b. The importance of precepts
- c. What are the precepts that God has for you to obey
- d. The benefit of obeying the precepts

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. A precept is a commandment to be obeyed – the first and foremost commandments.
 - 1. Believing the Gospel is an example of a precept: Repent and believe the gospel (Mark 1:14, 15).
 - a) God commands folks to repent (Acts 17:30).
 - b) God commands folks to believe on the name of Jesus Christ (1 John 3:23).
 - c) The Gospel is to be obeyed (2 Thessalonians 1:8).
- b. A precept obeyed brings the blessings of God. A precept not obeyed brings condemnation (but not loss of salvation for who have obtained it through faith). The precepts are found in the Bible.
 - 1. There are rewards in heaven for your obedience.
 - 2. Obedience shows your love for Christ (John 14:15).
 - 3. Know the difference from the Old Testament commandments and the New Testament commandments.
- c. God's precepts bring life and happiness (God always has your best interest in mind when He gives you a precept).
- d. A believer's life consists of obeying God's precepts.
- e. Obeying the precepts brings understanding (Psalm 111:10; 119:100, 104).
- f. Keeping the commandments is the whole duty of man (Ecclesiastes 12:13, 14).
- g. The Great Commission includes teaching baptized believers to observe the Commandments of Christ.
- h. Here is a partial list of Christ's New Testament Commandments (Matthew 28:18-20):
 - 1. Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (Matthew 22:37, 38; Luke 10:27, 28).
 - 2. Love one another (John 15:12; 1 John 4:7, 8, 11; 19-21; Hebrews 10:24, 25).
 - 3. Be holy (1 Thessalonians 4:2-8; 1 Peter 1:15, 16).
 - 4. Do not leave your spouse (2 Corinthians 7:10, 11).
 - 5. Believe in Christ and live by faith (1 John 3:23).
 - 6. Be faithful to the house of God (Hebrews 10:22-25).
 - 7. Be a servant and have a servant's heart (Galatians 5:13).
 - 8. Be baptized (to be discussed under Lesson 5).
- i. Learning and obeying the precepts of God are the first steps in understanding God's Doctrine, obtaining Godly knowledge, and growing in Christ (Isaiah 28:9, 10). Biblical understanding comes by obedience to God's precepts.

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III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. You were saved by obeying God's commandment to repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30; 1 John 3:23).
- b. Believing, repentance (change of mind), and confession of your faith with your mouth are not considered works (Ephesians 2:8, 9).
- c. No one obtains salvation by working for it (Titus 3:5-7).
- d. You should obey Christ's commandments because you love Him (John 14:15; 1 John 5:3).
- e. When you have difficulty understanding God's word or God's will in a certain situation then be busy obeying His commandments and He will reveal to you what you are looking to know (Psalm 111:10).
- f. Continuous prayer is key to improving your love relationship with Jesus. You should talk to Him continually.

IV. What the student should do

- a. Know what a precept is and the benefits of obeying them.
- b. Be willing in your heart to obey, to the best of your ability, the precepts of God as found in the Bible.
- c. Let God know that you are willing to obey His precepts.
- d. Start obeying today what precepts you know to obey.

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Lesson 3: Personal Evangelism

(John 3:16; 20:31; Romans 1:16; 10:9, 10; 16:25, 26)

I. Subject Description

- a. What is Evangelism
- b. Why do it
- c. How to do it
- d. How to lead a person to Christ

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Evangelism is preaching the Gospel to the lost.
- b. In the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) the church leadership is commanded to teach the Gospel to all nations – see also Mark 16:15; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Romans 1:16.
- c. The Romans Road: Romans 3:23; 6:23; 5:8; 10:9-13. Every believer should thoroughly memorize these verses.
- d. How to be saved: Believe with the heart in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Romans 10:8, 9) and confess with the mouth that faith. See also Acts 16:30, 31; 1 Corinthians 15:1-5.
- e. It is the will of God for you to tell others about Christ (1 Peter 3:15).
- f. It is always the individual's decision to accept or reject Christ - the Holy Spirit reproves of sin and shows Jesus Christ (John 16:7-15), but He will never FORCE a person to believe - it must be a free will choice for any person to believe on the Lord.
- g. Always give the gospel clearly (do not add to or take away from it) – 1 Corinthians 15:1-5; Acts 16:31. Use the scriptures to teach whenever possible (Romans 16:25, 26; 1 Peter 1:23).
- h. Every person must believe with his heart in the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and confess that with this mouth (if able) to be saved (Romans 10:8, 9).
- i. Some will believe, and some will not believe (Acts 28:24).
- j. The new believer should be taught and disciplined in the teachings of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. He that winneth souls is wise (Proverbs 11:30).
- b. Have compassion when witnessing (Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 9:36; 14:14; Mark 5:19; Jude 22, 23).
- c. The Devil will try to discourage you – overcome by faith (1 John 4:4; 5:4).
- d. Always remember, it is God who does the saving, not you or your wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:1-5).
- e. You should be a witness for Christ until He takes you home to glory.
- f. Some sow, some water, but it is God who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:6-15).
- g. Your life should match what your mouth says. Make sure you are a testimony and witness with 1) your LIFE, 2) your MOUTH, 3) your WORKS (life, lip, labour).
- h. Although it is very important what you say, it is more important what you do (Matthew 23:1-3).

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IV. What the student should do

- a. Know what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is and how to present it clearly.
- b. Memorize the Romans Road.
- c. Know how to help someone to believe on Christ.
- d. Look and pray for opportunities to be a witness for Christ.
- e. Always have some tracts or other material to leave with a person.
- f. Be willing to be used of God as a witness for Jesus Christ.
- g. Know your own testimony of how you got saved – tell others about it.
- h. Invite folks to come and hear Bible preaching at your church (Romans 1:17).

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Lesson 4: Your Two Natures and Christian Growth

(John 3:3-5; Romans 7:1-25)

I. Subject Description

- a. What is man?
- b. Every Believer has Two Natures
- c. The Battle
- d. The Victory

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Man is a triune creation – spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- b. Man is a sinner by nature, choice, and practice (Romans 5:12).
- c. Adam was created in God's image, but we are created in the image of fallen Adam (Romans 3:23; 5:12; Genesis 5:3).
- d. Before salvation, a man is dead in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1-5).
- e. Man cannot save himself (John 14:6).
- f. The Holy Spirit quickens the believer in Christ – every believer is now sealed with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13).
- g. The spirit of man is made alive when he believes on Christ (Ephesians 2:1).
- h. A saved man is new creature in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17).
- i. A saved man now has two natures – the old and the new.
- j. The Old Man will want to sin and disobey God.
- k. The New Man will want to be holy and obey God.
- l. These natures war against the soul for control (1 Peter 2:11).
- m. The nature you yield to will have the control over the soul.
- n. How to get the New Man in Control:
 - 1. Confess and forsake sin (1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13).
 - 2. Hide the word of God in your heart (Psalm 119:11).
 - 3. Read your Bible and pray every day.
 - 4. Avoid all appearances of evil – habits, books, places, people, things, etc. (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Lot vexed his righteous soul in Sodom (2 Peter 2:7, 8).
 - 5. Cultivate love and faith.
 - 6. Be busy obeying the precepts of God.
 - 7. Reckon yourself dead unto sin (Romans 6:11).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Because you are saved there will always be the battle between the flesh and the spirit (Romans 7:1-25).
- b. You overcome the carnal man by faith (1 John 5:4).
- c. If you live in the Spirit then walk in the Spirit (Galatians 5:25).
- d. Do not use your liberty in Christ to do wrong (Galatians 5:13).
- e. Identify the fruit of the Spirit and the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-23).
- f. Keep the Spirit in control over the flesh. The one you "feed" will be the stronger.

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- g. You “feed” the Spirit by praying, reading your Bible everyday (Matthew 4:4); confessing and forsaking sin, being faithful in church services, and denying self).
- h. You “feed” the flesh by indulging sin, slothfulness, and fleshly desires. Do not indulge the lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17)
- i. If a man purge himself of fleshly works and desires, he will be a vessel unto honor, meet (acceptable) for the Master’s use (2 Timothy 2:21).

IV. What the student should do

- a. Know the that your flesh is weak and cannot be trusted.
- b. Focus on Christ and strive to do right always.
- c. Give up any sinful practices by confessing and forsaking them – be sanctified wholly (1 Thessalonians 5:23).
- d. Maintain a heart that wants to do right before God.
- e. Be faithful to church services and apply to yourself immediately what God says through the preacher.
- f. Pray for strength to walk in the Spirit.
- g. Know what the fruit of the Spirit is and what are the works of the Flesh (Galatians 5:19-26)
- h. Do not give place to the devil, occasion to the flesh, or appearance of evil; but rather flee youthful lusts, resist the devil, and he will flee from you (Ephesians 4:27; Galatians 5:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; 2 Timothy 2:22; James 4:7).

This concludes the First Division.

CLASS 101 – CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

Lesson 5: Scriptural Baptism

(John 1:31; 4:1, 2)

I. Subject Description

- a. What baptism is
- b. What baptism does
- c. What it means when you are baptized
- d. Who should baptize
- e. Who should be baptized

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Immersion is being submerged in water.
- b. Scriptural Baptism is the immersion of a believer, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, performed by one duly authorized by a New Testament church (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 8:38, 39).
- c. Baptism is an act of obedience (Matthew 28:18-20).
- d. Baptism does not aid in salvation; neither does it wash away sin (Ephesians 2:8, 9; Acts 16:30, 31; compare Romans 1:16 with 1 Corinthians 1:17). Baptism merits no saving grace.
- e. Baptism pictures the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ in “watercolors” (Romans 6:1-10).
- f. Baptism is commanded by Jesus Christ and his apostles (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 10:48).
- g. Scriptural Baptism is done in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:18-20).
- h. Baptism comes after believing on the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41; 8:37).
- i. Baptism adds you to the local church doing the baptism (Acts 2:41-47; 1 Corinthians 12:12-18).
- j. When you are baptized you are identifying with Christ and publicly stating that you are His disciple and that you will be faithful to Him (Romans 6:1-7; 1 Peter 3:21).
- k. Baptism should be performed by a man with authority from a local New Testament Bible-believing Baptist church (Matthew 11:30; 21:25).
- l. Only those who have believed in Jesus Christ with all their heart should be baptized (Acts 8:37).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Every believer should be baptized in a Biblical manner (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 2:41) by a person with proper authority.
- b. A person (usually the pastor of the church or another church-approved man) gets his authority to baptize from the local church – the body of Christ. Every person who was baptized in the New Testament was baptized by a person with the authority to do so given to them by God or the church:
 - 1. John the Baptist’s baptism was from heaven (Mark 11:30).
 - 2. Jesus’ disciples baptized (Jesus did not – John 4:1) by the authority given them from Christ. They were Christ’s disciples (His church).

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3. Paul was baptized by Ananias (a disciple at Damascus – Acts 9:10-18) who was sent by God to baptize Paul.
4. Paul was sent out from the church at Antioch by the Holy Ghost – the Holy Ghost working through the local church (Acts 13:1-4).
5. Paul baptized with authority from the local church at Antioch (1 Corinthians 1:16; Acts 13:1-3).
6. Peter (a baptized disciple of Christ – John 4:1, 2) also baptized. He was of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 2:41-47).
7. Philip baptized; and he was a deacon from the church in Jerusalem (Acts 6:6; 8:26; 38).
- c. The church baptizing the candidate is responsible to disciple and minister to that individual.
- d. The person who is baptized, becomes a member of that church, and is responsible to serve in that church, be faithful, and to obey those in authority in the church (Hebrews 13:17).
- e. A person who will refuse baptism and church membership will not be led by God to further service until he submits and obeys God in the matter of baptism and church authority (Ephesians 3:21).
- f. He who is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much (Luke 16:10, 11).

IV. What the student should do

- a. Understand what Scriptural (Biblical) baptism is and what it means. Know the difference between believer's immersion and scriptural baptism.
- b. Believe in Jesus Christ with all your heart.
- c. Determine in your heart to honor God in baptism.
- d. Speak to the pastor about being baptized.
- e. Be baptized in a local Bible-believing Baptist church.

Note: The teaching should not proceed further unless the student has been baptized, has agreed to do so, or the teacher is led by God to proceed.

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Lesson 6: The Local Church

(John 10:16; Romans 16:1, 4, 5, 16, 23)

I. Subject Description

- a. What the local church is
- b. The local church's responsibility
- c. Work under the local church
- d. The church's offices and practices

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. The local church was started by Christ during His earthly ministry (Matthew 16:18; 18:17).
- b. The church has been described as "a local body of baptized believers who have covenanted themselves together to carry out the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ."
- c. Every reference to the church in the New Testament is to a local group of believers (including those references in Ephesians and Matthew – which can also be applied in an institutional sense, but never in a universal sense).
- d. Jesus Christ started His church with baptized believers and He Himself was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17; John 1:35, 36).
- e. Every believer should be a member of a local church (Ephesians 5:25; Hebrews 10:25).
- f. The primary mission of the local church is to carry out the commandments of Jesus Christ which include:
 - 1. Carrying out the Great Commission.
 - 2. Administering the ordinances of the church.
 - 3. Ordaining men and starting churches worldwide.
- g. Glory is given to God in the church (Ephesians 3:19-20).
- h. A Christian's ministry should always be under the authority of a local church (1 Timothy 3:15).
- i. The local church has two offices: the office of a bishop and the office of a deacon (1 Timothy 3:1, 8-10).
- j. The local church has two ordinances: Baptism and the Lord's supper (also called communion). See Matthew 28:18-10; 1 Corinthians 10:16; 11:22-34.
- k. The local church is the pillar and ground of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15).
- l. The local church is the habitation of God through the Spirit. God works through the church's membership, to accomplish the work of God, each member doing his job in unity with the other members (Ephesians 2:19-22; 4:3).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. The local church is important because it is the God-chosen institution to do the work of Jesus Christ until He comes (Ephesians 4:15-32; 5:23, 24).
- b. As a member of the local church you have a responsibility to support it in every way.
- c. God provides the pastor (bishop) as the leader (or under-shepherd) of the local church. Because the pastor is chosen of God for that office, God reveals to him the necessary things to direct the church faithfully.

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- d. It is your duty as a member to work with your pastor and brethren to make the work of the Lord joyful for everyone.
- e. Your giving should be to and through your local church.
- f. Why is an Independent Bible-believing Baptist church a true New Testament church of Jesus Christ?
 - 1. It meets the New Testament criteria for a New Testament church.
 - 2. It takes the Bible as the sole rule for faith and practice.
 - 3. It is the pillar and ground of the truth (doctrinally sound).
 - 4. Baptist lineage goes back to Jesus Christ and the church that He built. A church is first organized with believers who have been baptized with authority from an already existing church.
 - 5. It has Biblical baptism.
 - 6. It is Biblical in its name “Baptist” – as in *John the Baptist*.
 - 7. It is faithful to the Great Commission and preaches the true Gospel by grace through faith.

Note: For a Free copy of a little booklet *Why I am Baptist*, please contact Historic Baptist Church, or print your own copy at www.HistoricBaptist.org.

IV. What the student should do

- a. Be faithful to all services at your local church.
- b. Never condemn the local church or work contrary to it.
- c. Support the church in every way possible.
- d. Look for an area of service in the church that God is leading you to.
- e. Discuss your desires for service with the pastor.
- f. Ask your pastor to recommend ways in which you could better serve the Lord through the local church.

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Lesson 7: Faith and Faithfulness

(John 6:69; 10:26; 14:1-6; 20:31; Romans 1:17; 5:1; 10:17)

I. Subject Description

- a. What is faith
- b. Your responsibility to live by faith
- c. Being faithful
- d. Giving by faith and being faithful in your giving

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. What faith is, is defined in Hebrews 11:1-3.
- b. The just shall live by faith (Romans 1:17).
- c. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world (1 John 4:4).
- d. Have faith in Christ (1 John 3:23).
- e. Do all things by faith (Hebrews 11:6).
- f. Be faithful in all things (1 Corinthians 4:2). Faith produces works (James 2:17, 18)
 - 1. Prayer and Bible reading (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Matthew 4:4).
 - 2. Church attendance
 - 3. Giving
 - 4. Service to the Lord
 - 5. Loving one another
 - 6. Spiritual Growth
 - 7. The ministry you have in your local church
- g. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17).
- h. Look to Christ in times of need or discouragement (1 Samuel 30:6; Philippians 4:19).
- i. Your faith and love is measured by your giving of yourself, time, talents, and resources:
 - 1. Three types of monetary giving: Tithes, offerings, and alms.
- j. A sure promise of God: Give and it shall be given unto you (Luke 6:38).
- k. True saving faith will always manifest itself in good works. Disobedient children of God will be chastised by the Lord so as to bring forth good fruit (Matthew 7:17-20; James 2:14-24; Hebrews 12:6-11).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Your giving is a measurement of your love.
- b. If you have surrendered your all to Jesus then tithes and offerings will be a joy to give (1 John 5:3).
- c. Your service also will be a joy.
- d. Doubt is the grave of faith.

- e. Your desire to give will increase as your faith and love increases.
- f. Tithe: a debt you owe. Offerings: a seed you sow. Alms: A blessing you bestow.
- g. Be faithful until Christ comes.
- h. Remember, without faith it is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

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IV. What the student should do

- a. Be faithful in the areas listed above.
- b. Have a great desire to be faithful to God.
- c. Be committed to live by faith.
- d. Be committed to the giving of tithes, offerings, and alms if you are not already.
- e. Strive to be faithful in every area of service.
- f. Pray that God will increase your faith and faithfulness to Him.
- g. Ask folks to pray that God will increase your faith and your faithfulness.
- h. Realize the commandment and the blessings of tithing by reading and meditating on the following verses related to tithing and first-fruits:

References for Tithing:

Tithing before the Law:

Genesis 4:3, 4; Genesis 14:20; Genesis 28:20-22

Tithing During the Law:

Leviticus 27:30-32; Deuteronomy 14:22; Malachi 3:8-12; 2
Chronicles 31:5, 6; Nehemiah 10:35-37; Proverbs 3:9, 10

Tithing in the New Testament:

Matthew 23:23; Luke 6:38; Luke 11:42; Hebrews chapter 7

The Law is holy, just, and good:

Romans 7:12, 22, 25; Exodus chapter 20

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Lesson 8: The Bible and You

(John 8:31; 14:24; 17:17; Romans 10:17)

I. Subject Description

- a. What is the Bible
- b. What is its purpose
- c. Why read the Bible
- d. How to benefit from reading the Bible
- e. Know the word of God

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. The Holy Bible is the word of God.
 - 1. The Bible contains 66 books (39 O.T./27 N.T.)
 - 2. The Bible is without error or contradiction (Proverbs 30:5, 6).
 - 3. The Bible is given by inspiration (2 Timothy 15, 16).
- b. Why the King James Bible?
 - 1. There are two manuscript lines: corrupt and preserved. The King James comes from the preserved line. All of the modern versions since 1881 and Catholic versions have been influenced (corrupted) by the corrupt manuscripts.
 - 2. The King James Bible has been attacked by the Devil more than any other book, and it has withstood the attacks victoriously. It is a proven Book.
 - 3. The majority of manuscripts (95-99%) agree with the King James Bible. The other 1-5% are corrupt manuscripts from which the other versions are translated. These corrupt manuscripts do not even agree among themselves.
 - 4. The KJV is the Book that God uses and has used to lead thousands to faith in Christ and cause great revivals in many places.
- c. The Bible reveals God's plan, purpose, prophecy, and way of salvation to man.
- d. Reading the Bible will help you grow and be strong in the Lord (Matthew 4:4).
- e. Read the Bible every day and read it through periodically – line upon line (Isaiah 28:9, 10).
- f. God teaches the reader as he reads line upon line if he also is obeying the precepts (Psalm 119:100).
- g. The things of God are spiritually discerned (1 Corinthians 2:14). You must rely on the Holy Spirit for understanding.
- h. Memorize the portions of scripture that are a blessing to you (Psalm 119:11). Doing this will help one resist sin.

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Make sure you have a King James Bible (not a “New King James Bible”).
- b. Reading other versions will weaken the Christian and add confusion.
- c. God's word (wisdom) is plain to them who understand (Proverbs 8:8, 9).
- d. What may appear to be an error or contradiction is really not an error – you have just not studied the passages sufficiently.
- e. Read your Bible in humility while believing it is truly the word of God.

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IV. What the student should do

- a. Get a King James Bible
- b. Read it every day – line upon line. Read the Bible through about once every year. Never stop reading it. Meditate in the word of God day and night to be successful (Joshua 1:8). Please refer to the Bible Reading Chart located on page 6.
- c. Know that there is no person who understands everything in the Bible. Do not be discouraged if you read things that you do not understand. This happens to every person.
- d. Bring your Bible to church and read the verses that are referred to during the preaching and teaching services.
- e. As you read your Bible pray that God will show you something, and then apply what He shows you.
- f. Memorize the books of the Bible in order.
- g. Here is a good way to think about the passages of scripture that you read: Ask yourself:
 1. What did the passage mean to those people involved/mentioned in the passages?
 2. How does the passage show Jesus Christ?
 3. How can I apply the passage practically to my life today?

(Note: A little exercise to identify departure texts – that is, verses that are commonly corrupted in the modernist versions of the Bible – can be done by using the Textual Comparison Chart available from Historic Baptist Church or www.historicbaptist.org.)

This concludes the Second Division.

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Lesson 9: Love Commandment Doctrine in Practice

(John 13:34, 35; 14:15, 21; 15:10-17; Romans 13:8-10)

I. Subject Description

- a. Review of Love Commandment Doctrine
- b. Putting it in practice
- c. Realize the benefits

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. To love God and your neighbor are commandments of God (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27; 1 John 3:23).
- b. They are the greatest commandments (Matthew 22:34-40)
- c. You are commanded to teach others to observe the commandments of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:20; Acts 1:1).
- d. You do not have an option, you must love (John 13:34; 15:12).
- e. Love is shown by action and word (1 John 3:18; Ephesians 2:10; 4:15).
- f. Speak kindly and carefully (James 3:8).
- g. By love serve one another (Galatians 5:13).
- h. Love and charity fulfill the law (Romans 13:9, 10; Galatians 5:14).
- i. Charity covereth the multitude of sins (1 Peter 4:8).
- j. The maturity of a Christian is shown by love (2 Peter 1:7).
- k. Read 1 Corinthians chapter 13.
- l. Love and faith are the answers to most of your problems in this life (1 Corinthians 13:8).
- m. Love your enemies (Luke 6:27, 35).
- n. God's love toward us is not based upon our performance. We should love others in like manner – unconditionally.
- m. Your love for God is shown by your love for your neighbor (1 John 4:20)
- o. Loving your neighbor is called the Royal Law (James 2:8).
- p. Knowledge puffs up, but charity edifies (1 Corinthians 8:1).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. If you have a problem, pour love on it.
- b. If you are offended by another person, pour love on the person.
- c. The area you will always need to work most upon is loving God and loving your neighbor.
- d. True giving is a measure of your love (John 3:16).
- e. If you love Christ keep His commandments (John 14:15).
- f. Love is the Beam on which all the work of God hangs (Matthew 22:40; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

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IV. What the student should do

- a. Determine to love God and your neighbor.
- b. Pray that God will help you increase your love.
- c. By love serve others.
- d. Show your love by service.
- e. Find someone who is unlovable, and then love that person.
- f. Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world (1 John 2:15, 16).
- g. Know this: Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13).
- h. Love your enemies. Pray for them that despitefully use you (Matthew 5:44).

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Lesson 10: Your Service and Ministry

(John 8:12; 12:26; Romans 6:18; 7:6, 25; 12:1, 7; 15:8, 25)

I. Subject Description

- a. How to find your area of work
- b. Be faithful
- c. Enlarging your area of service
- d. God's leading

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Be faithful to the written will of God as found in the Holy Bible:
 - 1. Church attendance
 - 2. Prayer
 - 3. Giving
 - 4. Bible reading
 - 5. Confessing and forsaking sin
 - 6. Commandments of Christ
 - 7. Service
- b. Beware of the leaven of hypocrisy (Luke 12:1)
- c. God rewards faithfulness and gives greater responsibilities to the faithful as they are faithful in the things God has already given (Luke 16:10, 11).
- d. When you are unable to fulfill an obligation talk to your pastor about it as soon as you know.
- e. Do not quit (Luke 9:62). Do the work until it is finished, or until your pastor moves you.
- f. The Lord recognizes the work you do for Him – you need no other recognition (Matthew 6:2-5, 16).
- g. Pray for God's leading continually.
- h. Be faithful to what God leads you to do – especially the things that are bitter. That is where your true character is shown.
- i. The greatest among you shall be your servant (Matthew 23:11).
- j. Every service and ministry should have at its heart world evangelism.
- k. Be faithful in the least and God knows you will be faithful in much (Luke 16:10)
- l. One must follow the *written word* before God will lead him into special service, when he will be led by *Jesus the Word*.
- m. No man is ready for separated service until he has learned to follow the leadership of the Holy Ghost in liberty.
- n. It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful (1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 1:12).

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Your pastor will agree with your idea of the area of service if your service is the Lord's will.
- b. Always seek your pastor's blessing when starting a new area of service.
- c. If you do not know what to do to serve, ask your pastor for an area to work in.

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- d. God makes sure you will be faithful in the least things before He will give you greater areas of responsibility.
- e. What you do for Christ make sure you are doing it BY LOVE to SERVE.
- f. Never criticize others – that is self-righteousness and pride.
- g. Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful. (1 Corinthians 4:2).

IV. What the student should do

- a. Be faithful in that which you know to be faithful in – prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, church visitation, personal evangelism, giving, etc.
- b. Pray to be used by God in a greater way.
- c. Always increase faithfulness – never decrease.
- d. Regularly increase your offerings to God.
- e. Be submissive and servant-like in all that you do.
- f. Check with your pastor regularly and ask if he can recommend areas where you can improve your service or be used elsewhere.
- g. If you have found your calling continue to be faithful in it, but always be willing to be moved as the Lord leads.
- h. Always be willing to give up anything worldly for the greater gain (Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 6:12)

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Lesson 11: Personal Bible Study

(John 5:39; 17:17; Romans 15:4)

I. Subject Description

- a. When to start studying
- b. How to study
- c. Why study
- d. Benefits of studying

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Before you start studying your Bible you should make sure of the following (Isaiah 28:9, 10):
 - 1. You have been faithful in obeying the precepts of God.
 - 2. You have read your Bible through twice (line upon line, line upon line). Study without first doing this can produce error.
 - 3. Make sure you are faithful in the area of service God has called you to.
 - 4. Make sure you have confessed and forsaken the sins that so easily beset the believer (Hebrews 12:1).
 - 5. Do not be carnal (1 Corinthians. 3:1).
- b. Know how to study:
 - 1. Here a little, there a little
 - 2. The things of God are spiritually discerned, and you must compare spiritual with spiritual (1 Corinthians 2:11-16).
 - 3. Rely on the Holy Ghost for teaching (John 16:13-15).
 - 4. Rightly divide the word of truth – put each truth in its proper perspective.
- c. When you find an area of unfaithfulness or a commandment you have not been faithful in then change immediately – always apply what you have been taught.
- d. Study to shew thyself approved unto God (2 Timothy 2:15).
- e. Be weaned from the milk: study the simple things first, then go on to more difficult studies.
- f. Be willing to teach others.
- g. Here are some first things to study (Hebrews 6:1-3):
 - 1. Repentance from dead works.
 - 2. Faith toward God.
 - 3. Doctrine of Baptisms.
 - 4. Laying on of hands.
 - 5. Resurrection of the dead.
 - 6. Eternal judgment.

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III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Inductive vs. the deductive methods of study:
 - 1. **Inductive:** Start with an idea and study the Bible to determine the idea's validity. Modify, add to, or delete from the idea as the Bible determines the truth related to the subject. Always be willing to adjust your ideas to line up with the Bible. Prove or disprove your ideas without prejudice – God's word is always true (Romans 3:4).
 - 2. **Deductive:** Do not start with an idea to prove or disprove, but simply study the Bible facts related to the subject. Allow the word of God to form your facts. You will find both these methods used during your study of the Bible.
- b. Submit to the King James Bible as the authority and ultimate truth, not Greek or Hebrew expositors, commentators, or lexicons (these were written by men and are useful, but not as your final authority). Be careful. Many commentaries and lexicons were published to uphold a particular agenda of error.
- c. Use a reliable dictionary for words you do not fully understand. The Bible should be the ultimate definer of words. Check where the same word is used elsewhere in the Bible to get a better understanding of words.
- d. When God says something, believe Him. Do not twist His words just because you do not agree with Him. God is always right. Let God be true and EVERY MAN a liar if it has to come to that (Romans 3:4).
- e. Know your applications of scripture:
 - 1. Historical
 - 2. Doctrinal
 - 3. Spiritual
 - 4. Prophetic
- f. Know the profit of scripture (2 Timothy 3:16, 17):
 - 1. Doctrine
 - 2. Reproof
 - 3. Correction
 - 4. Instruction in righteousness
 - 5. That you, as a man of God, may be perfect
 - 6. Thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

IV. What the student should do

- a. Always use a King James Bible. God will not show you truth in another version if you throw out the King James Bible.
- b. Be actively conscious of words (every word is pure). Check words in other passages and look for the Biblical spectrum of meaning.
- c. Take what God says as He said it.
- d. Never doubt the King James Bible (Matthew 4:4; John 17:17; Romans 14:23).

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Lesson 12: Teaching Others

(John 3:2; 14:26; Romans 12:7)

I. Subject Description

- a. Why teach
- b. How to teach
- c. When to teach
- d. Who to teach
- e. What to teach

II. Biblical Teaching on the Subject

- a. Teaching is commanded by Christ (Matthew 28:18-20).
- b. You either teach or you are a babe in Christ (Hebrews 5:12-14).
- c. Teach using truth – thy word is truth (John 17:17).
- d. Rely on the Holy Ghost when teaching (1 Corinthians 2:13).
- e. Teach the right things at the right time. Teach the things in the right order (Matthew 28:18-20; Isaiah 28:9, 10).
- f. Be willing to teach continuously. Be used of God.
- g. Teach any person who wants to be taught (at work, at school, at home, etc.).
- h. Your life should be a lifestyle of teaching (as Christ taught everywhere He went).
- i. Teach others what God has taught you. Teach others to “observe” the commandments of Christ (Matthew 28:20). Teach by example.
- j. Teach those who are willing to be taught and who are faithful (2 Timothy 2:2; Hebrews 4:2).
- k. Teach those who will teach others (2 Timothy 2:2).
- l. Teach primarily what the student should do. Teach the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) as found in the Holy Bible.

III. Comments, Questions, and Review

- a. Always use the Bible.
- b. Teach according to God’s plan – precept, line, here a little, there a little.
- c. Do not be a hypocrite – always make sure you are teaching primarily by example, then words.
- d. Teach those that are faithful to the teaching and do what they have been taught.
- e. Always be willing to be taught.
- f. Do not sell what you teach (Proverbs 23:23).

IV. What the student should do

- a. Realize you should always be learning.
- b. Do not hide what God has taught you – find another person to teach.
- c. Continue to learn and teach until Jesus comes.
- d. Have a servant’s heart at all times.
- e. Do what you teach and do what you are being taught.

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- f. If you have any questions or confusion, discuss these things with your pastor.
- g. Always have church approval when teaching.

This Concludes the Third Division.

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CONCLUSION

This concludes the Discipleship Guide for new believers. Discipleship under Christ, through the local church, should always continue for both the student and the teacher. Every good teacher is a student. Every good teacher should be ready to teach other new believers. Every good teacher teaches truth by example, being an example to others.

As folks witness and lead people to faith in Jesus Christ, it is my hope that these new believers will be disciplined according to the commandment of our Savior. May God bless your work for Him.

I invite you to tell me your comments. Please write me with any comments, suggestions, or questions you may have.

God bless you.

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Revised and Corrected, S. O. S. Edition

This Church Discipleship Guide since its initiation has been used to get believers to a level so they can start the *Baptist International* Associates Level curriculum. However, this guide does not have to be used in conjunction with that curricula, and churches can use it as they wish.

However, to insert this syllabus into the B. I. program, we have designated it as Class 101 *Church Discipleship Guide*.

We have by God's grace used this guide with success and do recommend it to teaching churches everywhere. Success has been measured two ways: first, new believers are strengthened, and secondly, those who are not fully surrendered to the Lord are made manifest.

As God blesses his work,
N. Sebastian Desent, Ph.D., Th.D., D.D.
October 2, 2020