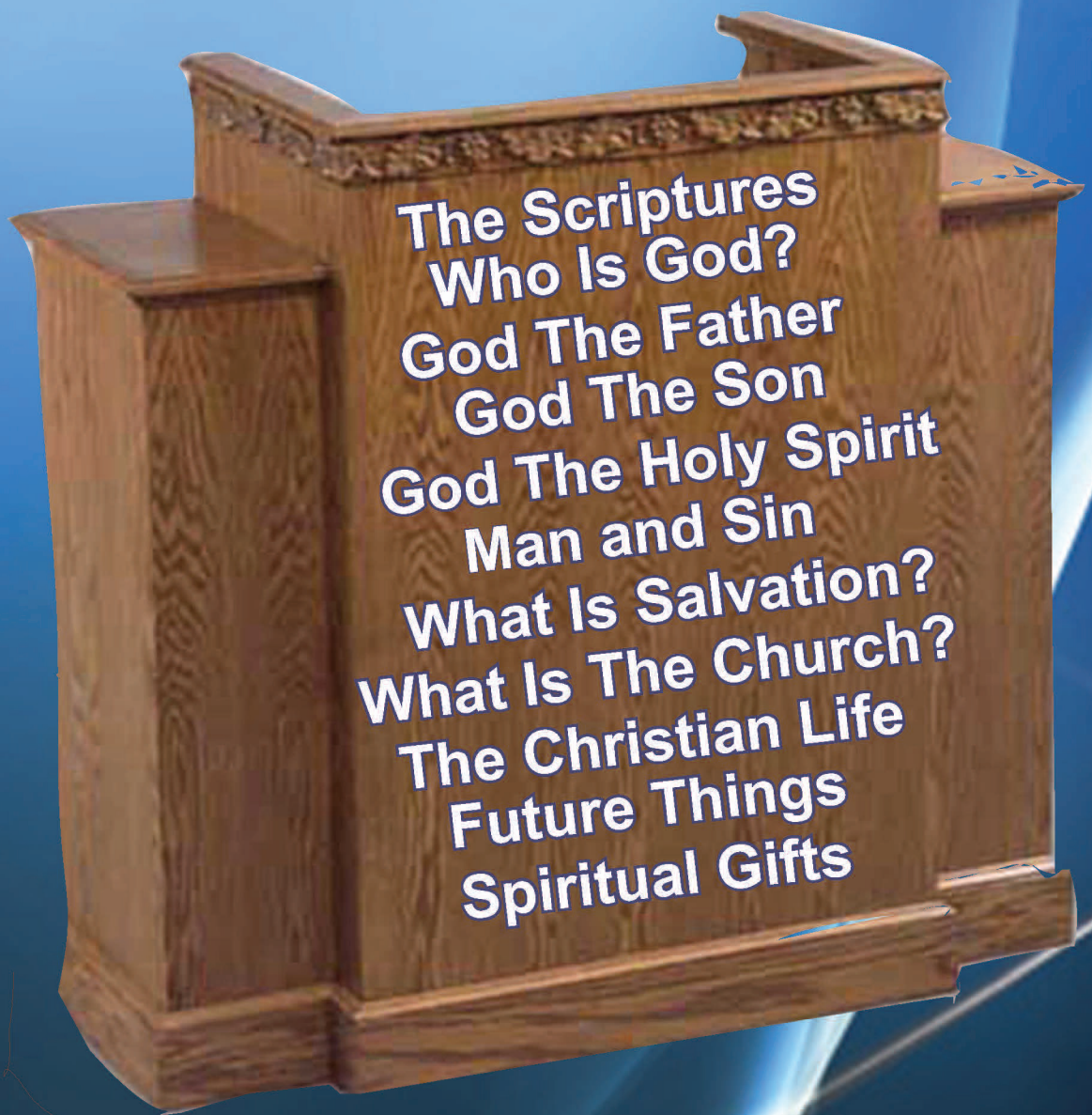


STUDIES IN BIBLE DOCTRINE



The Scriptures
Who Is God?
God The Father
God The Son
God The Holy Spirit
Man and Sin
What Is Salvation?
What Is The Church?
The Christian Life
Future Things
Spiritual Gifts

Pastor J. Paul Reno

STUDIES IN BIBLE DOCTRINE

By
J. Paul Reno
Pastor and Author

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DEDICATION

My dear wife who has prayed for me and assisted me in HIS work for nearly 50 years. Also I dedicate this to my five children who are serving our Lord in full time gospel work.

Pastor J. Paul Reno

SAMPLE PAGES

PREFACE

The following notes have been developed over a period of 45 plus years of pastoring. They are the result of 60 years as a Christian and reading my Bible, learning from over 80 Bible teachers, and teaching common people. They will bear similarities to others and their writings. I have benefited from their labors. I greatly appreciate what has been done and wish I had the eyesight and time to retrace my studies and give credit where it is due.

May God get praise and glory from what proves helpful. I take responsibility for that which is in error. May we all aim to follow the motto, "The Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible."

Pastor J. Paul Reno

SAMPLE PAGES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

STUDIES IN BIBLE DOCTRINE	1
DEDICATION	3
PREFACE	5
TABLE OF CONTENTS	7
CHAPTER 1: THE SCRIPTURES	55
II Tim. 3:15-17	55
Five purposes of Scriptures	55
II Pet. 1:16-21	56
I Pet. 1:9-12	56
I Thess. 2:13	56
Matt. 22:29	56
II Pet. 3:15, 16 – Wrong attitude or use of Scriptures brings destruction	56
Rev. 22:18, 19	56
Matt. 15:1-6	57
Luke 16:29-31	57
Luke 24:25-27	57
Luke 24:44-49	57
John 5:39, 45-47	57
I Cor. 2:9-14	57
Heb. 1:1-3	57
Consider the Bible:	58
Amos 8:11, 12	58
Jer. 23:30	58
II Cor. 2:17	58
I Pet. 1:23, 25	58
Matt. 7:15-20	59

Psm. 119:89.....	59
Psm. 119:160.....	59
Psm. 138:2.....	59
Matt. 5:18.....	59
Mark 13:31 (also Luke 21:33).....	60
Luke 16:17.....	60
John 10:35b.....	60
John 17:17.....	60
Psm. 119:140.....	60
Psm. 12:6, 7.....	60
Consider the versions:.....	60
Eph. 6:17.....	61
Psm. 119:9.....	61
Psm. 119:11.....	61
Psm. 119:63.....	61
Psm. 119:72.....	61
Psm. 119:105.....	61
Psm. 119:126.....	61
Psm. 119:126.....	62
RULES OF BIBLE INTERPRETATION.....	62
II Tim. 2:15.....	62
Mark 7:9, 13.....	62
Jer. 23:36.....	62
II Cor. 4:2.....	62
Heb. 4:2.....	62
II Pet. 3:16.....	63
I Tim. 6:20.....	63
I Pet. 1:11.....	63
II Pet. 1:20.....	63
James 1:22.....	63

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Luke 24:25.....	64
Eph. 6:17.....	64
Rev. 1:20.....	64
Mark 4:1-20	64
Daniel 8:1-27	64
Gal. 4:22-31.....	64
John 5:46, 47	65
WAYS TO LEARN FROM THE BIBLE.....	65
CONSIDER YOUR DESIRES AND ATTITUDES:.....	65
I Pet. 2:2.....	65
Rom. 15:4.....	66
Psm. 119:10	66
Psm. 119:103	66
I Thess. 4:11	66
WE MUST TAKE TIME TO HEAR FROM GOD:.....	66
Psm. 119:147, 148	66
WE SHOULD HAVE A PLAN:	66
Psm. 119:18, 27, 28	66
Psm. 119:15	66
Psm. 119:11	67
Psm. 119:7.....	67
LET GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACH YOU:	67
John 14:26.....	67
I John 2:27.....	68
CHAPTER 2: WHO IS GOD?	69
GOD	69
I Cor. 2:9-16	69
Heb. 11:5, 6	69
Rom. 10:17.....	69
Rom. 1:18-32	69

Psm. 14:1-3.....	70
Gen. 1:1.....	70
John 17:3.....	70
ETERNAL	70
Gen. 21:33	70
Ex. 3:13, 14.....	70
Deut. 33:27	70
Psm. 90:2	70
Psm. 102:24-27	71
Heb. 1:10-12	71
Isa. 44:6	71
Isa. 57:15	71
GOD IS SPIRIT	71
John 4:23, 24	71
Luke 24:39	72
John 1:18.....	72
John 14:7-10	72
GOD HAS ALL KNOWLEDGE (OMNISCIENCE)	72
Rom. 11:32-36.....	72
I John 3:20	72
Psm. 147:4, 5.....	72
Psm. 139:1-4.....	72
Prov. 15:3.....	73
Acts 15:18	73
GOD NEVER CHANGES (IMMUTABILITY)	73
Mal. 3:6.....	73
James 1:17.....	73
Num. 23:19	73
Heb. 6:13-20	73
Heb. 13:8.....	73

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Jonah 3:9, 10	73
Gen. 6:5-7.....	74
EXAMPLE.....	74
GOD HAS ALL POWER (OMNIPOTENCE)	74
Matt. 19:16-26.....	74
Jer. 32:27, 17.....	74
Gen. 17:1.....	74
Job 42:1, 2	75
Dan. 4:35.....	75
Rev. 19:6.....	75
EXAMPLES OF HIS POWER:	75
GOD IS ALL PRESENT (OMNIPRESENT).....	75
Main residence in heaven, but spirit being everywhere.....	75
Psm. 139:7-11	75
I Kings 8:27	75
Jer. 23:23, 24.....	76
Matt. 18:20	76
John 14:23	76
Acts 17:24-28	76
John 20:17	76
Results:.....	76
GOD IS HOLY.....	76
I Pet. 1:16	76
Isa. 6:3-7.....	76
Rev. 4:8.....	77
Heb. 12:14.....	77
Lev. 11:43-45	77
I John 1:5.....	77
Psm. 99:9.....	77
John 17:11	77

Acts 3:14	77
Eph. 4:13.....	77
Rom. 1:4	78
Hab. 1:12, 13	78
GOD IS A TRINITY	78
I John 5:7	78
I Cor. 13:12.....	78
Matt. 28:19, 20.....	79
UNITY	79
Deut. 6:4, 5	79
Isa. 44:6	79
John 10:27-33.....	80
I Tim. 2:5.....	80
Mark 10:17, 18.....	80
THREE IN ONE.....	80
Gen. 1:26, 27	80
Gen. 3:22	80
Gen. 11:6, 7	80
Psm. 2:7, 12.....	80
Isa. 7:14	80
Isa. 9:6, 7	81
Isa. 6:8	81
Isa. 48:16	81
Matt. 3:16, 17.....	81
John 14:16-36.....	81
II Cor. 13:14.....	81
CHAPTER 3: GOD THE FATHER	83
SEPARATE PERSONHOOD AND TITLE	83
Matt. 28:19.....	83
I John 5:7	83

TABLE OF CONTENTS

John 14:16, 26	83
Titus 3:3-6.....	83
I Cor. 15:24.....	83
Eph. 2:13-18.....	83
I John 2:1	83
I John 2:22, 23.....	83
Mark 1:10, 11	84
Acts 10:38.....	84
FATHER OF THE SECOND MEMBER OF THE TRINITY	84
John 8:28, 29	84
John 17:1-5.....	84
Hebrews 1:1-2	84
Hebrews 1:5-9	84
II Cor. 1:3, 4.....	84
Gal. 4:4.....	85
John 3:16	85
Matt. 8:29.....	85
Eph. 1:3, 4.....	85
Col. 1:19.....	85
FATHER (SPIRITUAL) OF THE SAVED	85
Matt. 23:9.....	85
John 1:12, 13	85
Rom. 8:15-17	85
I Pet. 1:3-5	85
II Pet. 1:2-4.....	86
John 20:17	86
I John 1:3	86
I John 3:1-3.....	86
II Cor. 6:17, 18.....	86
Contrast: John 8:44	86

Matt. 13:38.....	86
Eph. 2:2, 3.....	86
CREATOR	87
(MENTIONED OVER 100 TIMES IN SCRIPTURE)	87
Gen. 1:1.....	87
Neh. 9:6.....	87
UNSEEN.....	87
Col. 1:15.....	87
John 1:18.....	87
John 14:7-9	87
INVOLVED IN OUR SALVATION	87
John 3:16.....	87
Gal. 4:4, 5.....	87
Isa. 53:6, 10, 11	88
Col. 1:12-14.....	88
Heb. 9:14.....	88
HAS A WILL	88
Eph. 1:11	88
Isa. 14:26, 27	88
Isa. 46:9-11.....	88
Dan. 4:35	89
Rom. 8:28-31.....	89
John 6:37.....	89
II Thess. 2:13, 14	89
CHAPTER 4: GOD THE SON.....	91
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST	91
LORD.....	91
Rom. 14:9	91
I Cor. 12:3	91
Matt. 26:21-25	91

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Matt. 7:21-23	91
Isa. 43:11	92
Isa. 33:22	92
JESUS	92
Matt. 1:21	93
John 14:13-15	93
CHRIST	93
Matt. 24: 4, 5	93
John 1:20, 25	93
John 4:24-26	93
Matt. 16:16, 17	94
PRE-EXISTENCE	94
Micah 5:2	94
Isa. 9:6	94
John 1:1-4	94
John 1:14, 15	94
John 8:56-59	94
John 17:5	95
Phil. 2:5-11	95
Col. 1:15-19	95
Rev. 1:8	95
DEITY	95
DIVINITY	95
Deity	95
IMPORTANCE	96
John 1:12	96
I Cor. 15:17-19	96
HIS CLAIMS	96
Luke 22:66-23:2	96
John 10:30-33	96

STUDIES IN BIBLE DOCTRINE

John 10:36-39.....	96
John 14:7-11	96
BIBLE TEACHING	96
Matt. 16:16, 17.....	96
Matt. 28:18-20	97
Mark 2:5-11.....	97
John 1:1-3	97
John 17:1-3.....	97
John 20:27-29.....	97
Acts 3:12-15.....	97
Acts 7:57-60.....	97
Rom. 9:1-5.....	98
II Cor. 13:14.....	98
Col. 1:13-19.....	98
Col. 2:8, 9	98
I Tim. 2:3-5	98
I Tim. 6:14-16	98
II Tim. 4:1.....	98
Titus 2:13.....	98
Heb. 1:1-10	99
Rev. 1:17, 18.....	99
Rev. 1:17:18 –	99
Isa. 44:6 –	99
Isa. 48:11, 12 –	99
Isa. 41:4 –	99
Rev.22:12-15 –	99
Rev. 1:8 –	100
INCARNATION.....	100
Gen. 3:14, 15	100
Gal. 3:16.....	100

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Gen. 21:12 –	100
Gen. 49:10 –	100
Acts 2:29, 30.....	100
Psm. 69:7-9	101
Isa. 7:14.....	101
Isa. 9:6.....	101
Matt. 1:18-23.....	101
Luke 1:26-35, 46, 47	101
John 1:14	101
John 3:13	102
John 8:41	102
Gal. 4:4, 5	102
Phil. 2:6, 7, 8	102
Col. 4:14.....	102
I Tim. 3:16	102
Heb. 2:9	102
Heb. 2:14	103
Heb. 2:16-18.....	103
I John 4:1-3.....	103
THE SINLESS LIFE OF JESUS	103
Isa. 53:9.....	103
I Pet. 2:22	103
Matt. 27:3, 4.....	103
Matt. 27:19	103
Mark 1:23, 24	103
Luke 9:29.....	103
Luke 23:41, 27.....	104
John 1:4, 5	104
John 3:19-21.....	104
John 8:12	104

John 8:46.....	104
John 14:30.....	104
John 18:38.....	104
John 19:4-6.....	104
Acts 3:14	104
Acts 4:27, 28.....	105
II Cor. 5:20, 21.....	105
Heb. 1:8, 9.....	105
Heb. 5:9.....	105
Heb. 7:26-28.....	105
I Pet. 1:19.....	105
I Pet. 2:21-24	105
I Pet. 3:18.....	106
I John 1:5	106
I John 3:3	106
I John 3:5	106
SUBSTITUTIONARY DEATH.....	106
Gen. 2:17	106
Gen. 3:21	106
Gen. 4:1-5.....	106
Gen. 22:7, 8.....	106
Exodus 11.....	107
Leviticus	107
Psm. 22:1, 7, 8.....	107
Psm. 22:14-18	107
Psm. 69:7-9.....	107
Isa. 52:13; 53:12	107
Zech. 13:6	107
Matt. 16:21-23	107
Luke 24:25-27.....	108

TABLE OF CONTENTS

John 10:11	108
John 10:17, 18.....	108
John 12:23, 24.....	108
John 12:31-33.....	108
I Cor. 2:8.....	108
Acts 2:22-24	109
Rom. 4:24, 25.....	109
Rom. 5:6-8.....	109
Rom. 8:31, 32.....	109
I Cor. 5:7	109
I Cor. 6:20.....	109
I Cor.15:3, 4.....	109
Gal. 3:13, 14	110
Heb. 2:9, 14-18.....	110
Heb. 9:25-28.....	110
I Pet. 1:10-12.....	110
I Pet. 1:18-20.....	110
I Pet. 2:24	110
I Pet. 3:18	110
I John 2:2	110
Rev. 5:8-12.....	111
Rev. 13:8.....	111
JESUS' BLOOD – THE WORK IT DOES.....	111
Acts 20:28.....	111
Rom. 5:8, 9.....	111
I Cor. 10:16.....	111
Eph. 1:7.....	111
Eph. 2:8-13.....	112
Col. 1:20.....	112
Heb. 9:12	112

Heb. 9:14.....	112
Heb. 10:19	112
Heb. 13:12	112
Heb. 13:20	112
I Pet. 1:2.....	113
I John 1:7	113
I John 5:8	113
Rev. 5:9.....	113
Rev. 12:11.....	113
Acts 5:28	113
Heb. 10:29	113
Rom. 3:25	114
Heb. 12:24	114
Rev. 7:14.....	114
Matt. 27:4 – Teaches that Jesus' blood was " <i>innocent blood</i> ." No guilt could there be found. In this, it is different from any human blood.	114
Acts 20:28 and I John 1:7	114
I Pet. 1:19.....	114
JESUS' BURIAL	114
I Cor. 15:1-4.....	115
Rom. 6:1-6.....	115
Matt. 12:38-40	115
Eph. 4:7-11	115
Luke 16:19-26.....	115
Col. 2:14, 15.....	116
Col. 2:12, 13.....	116
Heb. 2:14, 15	116
Gen. 22:8	116
Acts 2:25-31.....	116
Luke 23:43	117

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I Pet. 3:18-20	117
Heb. 9:12, 23-28	117
– John 20:17, 18 – Jesus asked not to be touched as He hadn't yet ascended.	117
– Matt. 28:9 – A short time later Jesus allowed Himself to be touched and held.	117
– John 20:27 – Jesus now invites Thomas to touch Him.....	117
Mark 14:3-9	117
Luke 23:46	118
JESUS' RESURRECTION	118
I Cor. 15:1-4	119
I Cor. 15:5-8	119
Acts 1:1-3.....	119
John 20:14-20.....	119
John 20:26-29.....	119
John 21:1, 9-14.....	119
Luke 24:13-16, 30	119
Luke 24:36-45	120
Acts 1:3-11.....	120
Acts 2:22-24	120
Acts 20:7	120
Rev. 1:18.....	120
Matt. 28:5, 6.....	120
Luke 24:12.....	120
John 20:9	121
I Cor. 15:12-19	121
I Cor. 15:20-23	121
RESULTS OF JESUS' RESURRECTION.....	121
Acts 13:26-38	121
Acts 17:30-32	121
Rom. 1:4.....	121
Rom. 7:4.....	121

Rom. 14:9	121
I Cor. 15:22	121
II Cor. 4:14	121
Eph. 1:19, 20.....	122
Col. 3:1	122
Heb. 7:25.....	122
I Pet. 1:3, 4.....	122
Rev. 1:18.....	122
Acts 20:7 etc.....	122
John 16:7 (20:22 and Acts 2)	122
ASCENSION OF CHRIST	122
Mark 16:19, 20.....	122
Luke 24:49-53.....	122
Acts 7:54-59.....	122
JESUS' PRESENT MINISTRY.....	123
John 14:16.....	123
John 14:20.....	123
Matt. 16:18.....	123
Rom. 8:34	123
Eph. 1:22, 23.....	123
Eph. 4:7-11	123
Eph. 5:25-27	123
I Tim. 2:5.....	124
Heb. 2:18.....	124
Heb. 2:17.....	124
I Pet. 2:25.....	124
I John 1:3-7.....	124
I John 2:1	124
Jude 1	124
Rev. 4:11	124

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 5: GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT	125
PERSONALITY – HE IS A PERSON.....	125
PERSONAL TRAITS	125
I Cor. 2:10.....	125
I Cor. 2:11.....	125
I Cor. 12:11.....	125
Rom. 15:30.....	125
Rom. 8:27.....	125
PERSONAL ACTIONS.....	125
I Tim. 4:1.....	125
Rev. 2:7.....	125
Luke 12:12.....	126
John 14:26.....	126
Acts 13:2.....	126
Rom. 8:26.....	126
Rom. 8:14.....	126
RECEIVES PERSONAL TREATMENT	126
Matt. 12:31, 32	126
Acts 5:3	126
Acts 5:9	126
Acts 7:51	126
Heb. 10:29	126
Eph. 4:30.....	127
ASSOCIATED WITH THE OTHER TWO PERSONS OF THE GODHEAD.....	127
Matt. 28:19	127
II Cor. 13:14.....	127
I John 5:7	127
PERSONAL CHARACTERS AND OFFICES.....	127
John 14:26	127
John 14:16	128

John 14:26.....	128
John 16:7.....	128
HIS DEITY – THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD!	128
HE IS CALLED GOD.	128
II Cor. 3:17, 18.....	128
Acts 5:3, 4	128
I Cor. 3:16, 17	128
I Cor. 12:4-6.....	128
HE HAS DIVINE ATTRIBUTES.....	128
Rom. 1:4	128
Heb. 9:14.....	128
Psm. 139:7-10	129
Luke 1:35	129
I Cor. 2:10-11.....	129
HE HAS DONE WORKS.....	129
Job 26:13; 33:4.....	129
II Pet. 1:21.....	129
Matt. 1:20	129
Matt. 12:28.....	129
Acts 13:2-4.....	130
Acts 20:28	130
I Cor. 12:11	130
HIS MINISTRY(S).....	130
Gen. 1:2.....	130
Gen. 6:3.....	130
John 16:7-11	130
II Thess. 2:5-7	130
John 3:3-8	130
Rom. 8:9	131
II Cor. 1:22.....	131

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rom. 8:14.....	131
Rom. 8:16.....	131
Acts 1:8.....	131
John 14:26.....	131
Eph. 3:16.....	132
Rom. 8:2.....	132
Jude 20.....	132
Phil. 3:3.....	132
John 16:14.....	132
Gal. 5:22, 23.....	132
Rom. 8:11, 23.....	132
Rom. 8:1-27.....	132
Rom. 10:17.....	133
I Cor. 6:11.....	133
I John 2:27, 20.....	133
II Cor. 13:14.....	133
BAPTISM(S).....	133
Baptism by the Spirit.....	133
I Cor. 12:12, 13 -.....	133
Baptism with the Holy Ghost.....	133
John 1:32-24 -.....	133
FILLING(S).....	134
Eph. 5:18.....	134
Eph. 5:19-6:18.....	134
Acts 2:1-12.....	134
Acts 4:8, 13.....	135
Acts 4:29-31.....	135
Acts 6:1-7.....	135
Acts 9:17.....	135
Acts 11:22-24.....	135

Acts 13:6-12.....	135
Acts 13:50-52.....	135
Luke 4:1-2	135
Luke 1:15	136
Eph. 5:18.....	136
John 7:37-39.....	136
Col. 3:15-16.....	136
Gal. 5:16-24	136
Eph. 4:22-24	136
Luke 11:13	136
Mark 11:24.....	136
Three important questions:	137
HIS LEADING	137
Jer. 10:23	137
Isa. 63:10-14.....	137
ILLUSTRATIONS:	137
Acts 8:27-29.....	137
Acts 10:19-20.....	137
Acts 13:2-4.....	138
Acts 16:6, 7	138
PRINCIPLES:	138
Rom. 8:1-5.....	138
Rom. 8:13, 14.....	138
I John 4:1-4.....	138
I Tim. 4:1.....	138
II Thess. 2:1, 2	138
Acts 16:16-18.....	138
Gal. 5:8.....	138
Gal. 5:16-18.....	138
HIS PART IN OUR FAITH AND PRAYER.....	138

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Heb. 11:1-3.....	139
Heb. 11:6	139
Heb. 11:32-38.....	139
I Cor.2:11-14	139
Rom. 8:6-8.....	139
Rom. 8:22-26	139
Rom. 10:17.....	139
SCRIPTURES:.....	139
Eph. 6:17.....	139
Rom. 8:26, 27	139
Zech. 12:10.....	139
Eph. 2:18.....	140
Eph. 6:18.....	140
Rom. 8:15.....	140
SINS AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT	140
Gen. 6:3	140
Isa. 63:9, 10.....	140
Mark 3:29, 30	140
Acts 5:1-10.....	140
Acts 7:51	140
Eph. 4:30-32.....	140
I Thess. 5:19	140
Heb. 10:26-31.....	140
CHAPTER 6: MAN AND SIN	141
OUR CREATION.....	141
I Cor. 2:14.....	141
Heb. 11:3	141
Rev. 4:11.....	141
Heb. 2:6-8.....	141
Gen. 1:1, 2	141

Gen. 1:26-28.....	141
Gen. 1:29-30.....	142
Gen. 2:7-9.....	142
Gen. 2:15-17.....	142
Gen. 2:18-20.....	142
Gen. 2:21-14.....	142
Ecd. 7:29.....	142
Ecd. 12:7.....	142
Matt. 10:28.....	142
Matt. 25:46.....	142
I Thess. 5:23.....	142
Our Fall.....	143
Rom. 5:12-21.....	143
Gen. 3:1.....	143
Gen. 3:2, 3.....	143
Gen. 3:4, 5.....	144
Gen. 3:6-11.....	144
Sin Nature.....	145
Psm. 51:4.....	145
Luke 15:18.....	145
Gal. 5:16-21.....	145
Rom. 7:14.....	145
DEFINITION OF SIN (14 DIFFERENT BIBLICAL ONES).....	145
James 4:17 (1).....	145
Jer. 14:7 (2).....	145
Prov. 14:21 (3).....	145
Prov. 21:4 (4).....	146
Prov. 24:9 (5).....	146
Num. 21:7 (6).....	146
I Sam 15:23 (7 & 8).....	146

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Jer. 3:25	(9).....	146
John 16:8, 9	(10).....	146
Rom. 14:23	(11).....	146
I John 3:4	(12).....	146
Jas. 2:9	(13).....	146
I John 5:17	(14).....	146
PROGRESSION OF SIN.....		147
Rom. 1:18.....		147
Rom. 1:19-23.....		147
Rom. 1:24-25.....		147
Rom. 1:26-27.....		147
Rom. 1:28-32.....		147
RESULT OF SIN.....		147
Rom. 8:22.....		147
GOD – CREATOR.....		147
MAN WAS CREATED A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS.....		148
Heb. 2:6, 7.....		148
Rom. 8:22.....		148
CHAPTER 7: WHAT IS SALVATION?.....		149
ABSOLUTE NEED TO BE SAVED.....		149
Heb. 11:5, 6.....		149
Acts 4:12.....		149
John 3:7.....		149
Gal. 6:15.....		149
Eph. 2:1.....		149
I Cor. 2:14.....		150
Jer. 13:23.....		150
Jer. 17:9, 10.....		150
Luke 13:3, 5.....		150
Luke 24:47, 48.....		150

Matt. 3:1, 2	150
Mark 6:12	150
Acts 26:20	150
John 3:16-18.....	151
John 3:36.....	151
THINGS WE ARE SAVED FROM.....	151
Matt. 16:24.....	151
Matt. 18:11.....	151
Mark 8:35.....	151
Luke 4:18	151
Luke 7:48-50.....	152
John 3:15-18.....	152
Acts 2:40	152
Rom. 5:8, 9	152
II Thess. 2:9-12.....	152
Heb. 2:15.....	152
Heb. 4:9-11	152
SALVATION IS ETERNAL.....	152
John 3:15, 16, 36	153
John 4:14.....	153
John 5:24.....	153
John 6:27.....	153
John 6:39, 40, 47, 54.....	153
John 6:68, 69	153
John 10:27, 28	153
John 11:25, 26	154
John 17:1-3.....	154
John 20:31.....	154
BY GRACE ALONE, THROUGH FAITH ALONE.....	154
Heb. 11:6.....	154

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Titus 2:11	154
Eph. 2:4-10.....	154
John 1:12, 13.....	154
Rom. 1:16.....	154
Rom. 10:9-17	154
Gal. 3:22-29.....	155
Heb. 4:9-11.....	155
I John 5:4.....	155
I John 5:11-13	155
James 2:14-26.....	155
Rom. 12:3.....	155
Heb. 12:2	155
A FULL (COMPLETE) SALVATION	155
I Thess. 5:23	155
I Thess. 5:5	156
I Thess. 4:7	156
II Cor. 5:17.....	156
II Cor. 7:10, 11.....	156
II Cor. 5:20.....	156
Rev. 1:5, 6.....	156
Acts 26:18.....	157
Matt. 16:24	157
John 14:16, 17.....	157
Rom. 8:9.....	157
Rom. 8:14.....	157
Rom. 8:16.....	157
Rom. 8:35-39	157
Titus 2:11-14.....	157
Rom. 6:23.....	158
Eph. 2:1.....	158

John 3:16.....	158
I Pet. 1:3-5	158
I John 1:3	158
I John 1:7, 9	158
I John 2:3	158
I John 3:14	159
I John 5:4	159
Heb. 10:38, 39	159
SALVATION IS THROUGH JESUS AND HIS WORK ALONE	159
John 14:6.....	159
Acts 4:12	159
John 1:12.....	159
John 1:29.....	159
John 3:14-21	159
Acts 16:31	160
Rom. 5:6-11.....	160
Rom. 6:23	160
Rom. 10:9, 10	160
I Cor. 15:3, 4	160
Gal. 3:26-29	160
Gal. 4:4, 5.....	160
Eph. 1:7	160
Eph. 2:10, 13.....	161
I John 5:11, 12	161
Rev. 5:8-10	161
John 5:39.....	161
Luke 24:25-27, 44.....	161
NATURE OF SAVING FAITH	161
Heb. 11:6.....	161
John 2:23-25	161

TABLE OF CONTENTS

John 12:42-43.....	161
Acts 8:13-23	162
James 2:19, 20	162
John 1:12, 13.....	162
Eph. 2:8-10.....	162
Gal. 1:23	162
Gal. 2:16	162
Gal. 2:20	162
Gal. 3:22, 24, 25.....	162
Heb. 11:1-3.....	163
Heb. 11:4-39.....	163
James 2:14, 17, 20, 26.....	163
CHAPTER 8: WHAT IS THE CHURCH?	165
THE CHURCH	165
UNIVERSAL AND LOCAL.....	165
Eph. 1:22, 23	165
I Thess. 1:1	165
Gal. 1:2.....	165
Acts 15:13-18	166
Acts 16:5.....	166
Matt. 16:13-18.....	166
Matt. 18:15-17.....	166
Eph. 5:22-33.....	166
Eph. 3:3-11	167
I Cor. 12:12, 13.....	167
I Cor. 12:27-31	167
Col. 1:13-18	167
PURPOSE AND FUNCTION	167
Eph. 2:19-22.....	167
Eph. 3:7-10.....	167

Eph. 3:20, 21.....	168
Eph. 4:7-16	168
I Cor. 12:28	169
Acts 20:28	169
Acts 16:5	169
Acts 2:41	169
Acts 2:47	169
Eph. 5:21-23	169
II Cor. 11:2.....	170
Acts 12:5	170
Eph. 6:18, 19.....	170
Phil. 1:9, 10.....	170
Phil. 1:19.....	170
I Cor. 6:1-5.....	171
Phil. 4:10-19	171
Acts 13:1-5.....	171
Matt. 9:37, 38.....	171
I Tim. 3:5.....	171
I Tim. 3:14, 15.....	172
Heb. 2:11, 12	172
James 2:1-9	172
CHURCH DISCIPLINE.....	172
Matt. 18:15-17	172
Acts 5:1-10.....	173
Rom. 16:17, 18.....	173
I Cor. 5:1-13.....	173
I Cor. 11:16	173
I Thess. 5:14.....	173
II Thess. 3:6-15.....	174
I Tim. 1:19, 20.....	174

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I Tim. 5:19, 20	174
Titus 3:10, 11	174
OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH.....	175
Titus 1:5-11 (cf. I Tim. 3:1-7).....	175
II Tim. 3:8-13.....	176
THE CHURCH AND THEIR PASTOR.....	176
I Thess. 5:12-14.....	176
Eph. 4:11-16.....	176
Heb. 13:17, 7	177
Psm. 105:15	177
I Sam. 24:6, 10; 26:9, 11, 23	177
II Sam. 1:14-16.....	177
I Cor. 9:7-14	177
I Tim. 5:17-20.....	177
II Tim. 4:2-5.....	177
CHAPTER 9: THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.....	179
A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS	179
Isa. 64:6.....	179
Rom. 3:9-12	179
Titus 3:5, 6	179
Titus 2:11-15.....	179
Rev. 19:7-9.....	179
Matt. 22:1-14.....	180
I Cor. 1:26-31	180
Rom. 3:20-26	180
James 2:21-26.....	180
I Pet. 4:17, 18	180
I John 2:29.....	181
I John 3:7	181
Rom. 10:1-10	181

Rom. 6:9-13.....	181
Rom. 6:18, 19	181
Phil. 3:3-9	181
SAVED AND SEPARATE FROM THE WORLD	182
THIS WORLD IS CONTROLLED BY SATAN AND DEMONS	182
John 12:30-32.....	182
John 12:47, 48	182
John 14:30.....	182
John 16:7-11	182
II Cor. 4:3, 4.....	182
Eph. 6:12.....	182
I John 4:4	183
Rev. 12:9.....	183
Eph. 2:1, 2.....	183
I John 2:2, 15-17.....	183
II Tim. 4:10.....	183
James 4:4.....	183
II Pet. 2:19-22.....	183
I John 5:18, 19	184
Gal. 1:3, 4.....	184
Matt. 5:14.....	184
Luke 16:8	184
John 15:18, 19	184
John 16:33.....	184
John 17:9-16 – HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER	184
Rom. 12: 1, 2	185
I Cor. 4:9, 13	185
Titus 2:12.....	185
Heb. 11:7.....	185
Heb. 11:38	185

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I John 3:1	185
I John 3:13	185
I John 4:5, 6	185
Gal. 6:14	186
James 1:27	186
II Pet. 1:4	186
I John 5:4, 5	186
Eph. 2:8-10	186
Matt. 16:27	186
Rev. 20:12, 13	187
Rev. 22:12	187
Matt. 5:16	187
John 14:12	187
John 17:4	187
II Tim. 4:7	187
I Cor. 3:13-15	187
I Cor. 15:58	188
II Cor. 6:1	188
II Cor. 9:8	188
Phil. 2:12, 13	188
I Tim. 5:25	188
II Tim. 2:15	188
II Tim. 2:21	188
II Tim. 3:16, 17	189
Titus 2:14	189
Titus 3:8, 14	189
James 2:14-26	189
Rev. 14:13	189
Rev. 2:2, 5, 9, 13, 19, 23, 26; 3:1, 8, 15	189
John 6:28, 29	190

Acts 9:36-39.....	190
Acts 26:20	190
I Cor. 9:1	190
I Thess. 1:3.....	190
I Tim. 3:1.....	190
I Tim. 5:10.....	190
I Tim. 6:17-19	190
II Tim. 4:5.....	190
Titus 2:7, 8.....	190
Heb. 13:21	191
John 18:38.....	191
John 14:6.....	191
John 16:13.....	191
I John 4:5, 6	191
I John 5:6	191
I John 2:27	191
John 17:17.....	191
II Tim. 2:15.....	191
James 1:18.....	191
John 1:14.....	192
John 1:17.....	192
John 3:15-21	192
John 8:32.....	192
John 8:40-46.....	192
Rom. 3:6-8.....	192
II Cor. 4:1, 2.....	192
II Cor. 11:10.....	192
Gal. 4:16.....	192
Eph. 4:15.....	193
Eph. 4:25.....	193

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Eph. 5:9.....	193
Eph. 6:14.....	193
II Thess. 2:10-12	193
I Tim. 2:4.....	193
I Tim. 4:2-3.....	193
I Tim. 6:5.....	194
II Tim. 3:7.....	194
II Tim. 4:4	194
James 3:14-16.....	194
James 5:12	195
I John 1:6, 8.....	195
I John 2:4	195
I John 2:21	195
Eph. 5:22.....	195
Eph. 5:23, 24	196
Eph. 5:25.....	196
Eph. 5:31.....	196
I Pet. 3:1.....	196
I Pet. 3:2.....	196
I Pet. 1:3, 4.....	196
I Pet. 1:5, 6.....	196
I Pet. 1:7.....	197
I Tim. 3:2-7	197
I Tim. 3:8-12.....	197
I Tim. 5:8.....	197
I Tim. 5:14, 15	197
Titus 2:1-8.....	197
Gen. 3:16-19	197
Prov. 31:10-31	198
I Cor. 7:1, 2.....	198

I Cor. 7:10, 11	198
I Cor. 7:12-16.....	198
I Cor. 7:27-34.....	198
I Cor. 7:38-40.....	198
II Tim. 1:5.....	199
II Tim. 3:15.....	199
Luke 2:41-47, 52.....	199
Deut. 6:4-12.....	199
Psm. 78:1-8.....	199
Prov. 22:6.....	199
Eph. 6:1-4.....	200
Matt. 15:22-28	200
Prov. 22:6.....	200
Prov. 13:24.....	200
Prov. 19:18.....	200
Prov. 22:15.....	200
Prov. 23:13, 14.....	200
Prov. 29:15-17	201
SETTLING OF PERSONAL DIFFERENCES	201
Between Christians	201
I John 4:19-5:2	201
I Cor. 13:4-7.....	201
Rom. 12:9, 10, 14.....	201
Rom. 12:17-21.....	201
Matt. 5:22-24	202
Matt. 18:15-18	202
I Cor. 6:1-8.....	202
With the Lost	202
Matt. 5:38-48	202
A Life of Prayer.....	202

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Phil. 4:6	203
I Thess. 5:17	203
Luke 18:1	203
I John 1:3-7.....	203
Matt. 7:7.....	203
Rom. 8:34, 26.....	203
Eph. 6:18.....	203
Rom. 1:9.....	204
I Cor. 1:4	204
Acts 12:5.....	204
I Sam. 12:23.....	204
Acts 6:2-4.....	204
Col. 4:2-4.....	204
II Thess. 3:1-2.....	204
Gal. 5:19-21	204
Gal. 5:22-23	205
Gal. 2:20	205
John 15:1-17.....	205
I Cor. 13:1-13	205
II John 1:6.....	206
I John 2:9, 10.....	206
I John 2:15-17	206
I John 3:1	206
I John 3:11-18	206
I John 4:7-5:3.....	206
CHAPTER 10: FUTURE THINGS	207
Future of the Lost	207
John 3:15-20.....	207
John 3:36	207
Rom. 3:23.....	207

Rom. 5:8-10.....	207
Rom. 6:23	207
Luke 16:22, 23.....	207
Luke 16:24	207
Luke 16:25	207
Luke 16:26.....	207
Luke 16:27-31.....	207
Isa. 33:14	208
II Thess. 1:9	208
Rev. 14:10, 11.....	208
Rev. 20:1	208
Rev. 20:6.....	208
Rev. 20:11-15	208
Rev. 22:10, 11.....	208
Rev. 22:15.....	208
John 14:1-6	209
I Thess. 4:13-18.....	209
I Thess. 5:9.....	209
Rev. 4:1-11	209
Rev. 5:8-13	209
Heb. 9:27.....	209
Rom. 14:10-12.....	210
II Cor. 5:10-12.....	210
I Cor. 3:9-15.....	210
Rev. 19:1-6	210
Rev. 19:7-9	210
Rev. 19:11-21	210
Rev. 20:1-9	211
Rev. 20-10-15	211
Rev. 21:1, 2.....	211

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rev. 21:22-27	211
I Thess. 4:13-18.....	211
I Thess. 5:9	211
II Thess. 2:7-12	211
Rev. 6:7-17	212
Rev. 7:14.....	212
Rev. 19:11-20.....	212
Rev. 20:1-3.....	212
Rev. 20:4-6.....	212
Rev. 20:7-10.....	212
Rev. 20:11-15.....	212
Rev. 21:1.....	212
Rev. 1:19.....	213
Rev. 1:1.....	213
Rev. 19:10	213
Heb. 1:1, 2	213
Matt. 24:1-3	213
II Pet. 1:20, 21	213
I Tim. 4:1-6.....	214
II Tim. 3:1-14.....	214
I John 2:18.....	214
II Peter 3:3-14.....	214
Rev. 22:7.....	214
Rev. 22:12	214
Rev. 22:20	214
TERMS OFTEN USED	215
REASONS FOR A PRE-MILLENNIAL, PRE-TRIBULATIONAL RAPTURE.....	215
I Thess. 4:13-18.....	215
Zech. 14:3-9	215
Rev. 19:11-16.....	216

Matt. 14:27-31	216
DANIEL'S VISION OF 70-WEEKS.....	216
Dan. 9:24-27	216
PRINCIPLE OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF RELATIONSHIP	216
I Kings 6:1	216
Acts 13:18-21.....	216
BEGINNING OF THE 70-WEEKS.....	217
Dan. 9:25, 26	217
Neh. 2:1-6.....	217
Dan. 9:24-27	217
-ORIGIN.....	217
Gen. 12:1-3.....	217
Matt. 16:18.....	217
Rom. 7:1-6.....	217
Rom. 11:13-25.....	218
CONTRAST ISRAEL (WIFE OF GOD) AND CHURCH (BRIDE OF CHRIST).....	218
Isa. 54:5-8.....	218
Jer. 3:1-18	218
Ezek. 16:32, 38	218
Hosea 2.....	218
Hosea 3:1-5.....	218
Eph. 5:22-32	218
Rev. 19:7-9	219
-TYPES IN GENESIS	219
TEACHING IN ACTS	219
Acts 1:6-8.....	219
Acts 2: 5, 22	219
Acts 2:46	219
Acts 8:5, 14	219
Acts 10:28	219

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acts 10:45.....	220
Acts 11:1, 18.....	220
Acts 13:44-46	220
Acts 15:1, 7-11	220
Acts 18:6.....	220
Acts 28:25-29	220
-SALVATION AND CIRCUMCISION	220
John 4:22	220
Gal. 3:23-29.....	220
Col. 2:9-13	221
THREE SEPARATE JUDGMENTS.....	221
-JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST	221
Rom. 14:10-12 – must give an account.....	221
II Cor. 5:9-11 – works judged, both good and bad	221
I Cor. 3:12-17 – only useful works survive	221
- JUDGMENT OF THE NATIONS.....	221
Matt. 25:32-46	221
-GREAT WHITE THRONE OF JUDGMENT.....	221
Rev. 20:11-15.....	221
John 5:28, 29	221
II Tim. 4:1	221
Rev. 20:4-6	221
THE CHURCH IN REVELATION	222
Rev. 1:11, 12, 20 – Church is on earth	222
Rev. 2:1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 29 – Church is on earth	222
Rev. 3:1, 6, 7, 13, 14, 22 – Church is on earth.....	222
Rev. 22:16 – Next and last mention of Church.....	222
Rev. 6:10, 11	222
Rev. 6:17.....	222
I Thess. 5:9	222

Rev. 9:20-21	222
OFFER REPENTANCE AGAIN.....	222
Rev. 14:7; 16:9-11	222
Rev. 12:17	222
Rev. 17:1	222
Rev. 18:1, 2, 5-8, 20, 24.....	222
Rev. 19:21-20:3.....	222
Rev. 11:2, 3.....	222
CHAPTER 11: SPIRITUAL GIFTS.....	223
I Cor. 12:1	223
I Cor. 12:2, 3	223
ONLY THOSE WHO SPEAK CORRECTLY OF JESUS ARE DOING SO BY THE HOLY GHOST.....	223
I Cor. 12:4-6.....	223
I Cor. 12:7	223
I Cor. 12:11, 18.....	224
I Cor. 12:8-10.....	224
I Cor. 12:28	224
I Cor. 13:1-3.....	224
I Cor. 12:29-30.....	224
I Pet. 4:10, 11.....	225
I Cor. 12:31	225
I Cor. 13:4-7.....	225
Eph. 4:7-16	225
Ex. 35:30-35	226
WRONG ATTITUDES ABOUT SPIRITUAL GIFTS.....	226
I Cor. 1:7	226
II Tim. 4:5.....	226
GIFTS ARE FOR PERSONAL USE AND ENJOYMENT.....	226
I Cor. 14:12	226

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I Cor. 14:37, 38.....	227
GIFTS AND THE BODY OF CHRIST	227
Rom. 12:4-6	227
I Cor. 12:11-18	227
I Cor. 12:19-24	227
I Cor. 12:25-28	227
I Cor. 12:7-11	227
SPECIFIC GIFTS GIVEN	227
WORD OF WISDOM	227
I Cor. 12:8.....	227
Gen. 41:46, 37-39	228
Ex. 36:1, 2.....	228
Deut. 34:9.....	228
I Kings 3:5-12, 28	228
Prov. 2:6, 7.....	228
II Pet. 3:15, 16	228
James 3:13-18, 1:5	228
WORD OF KNOWLEDGE	228
I Cor. 12:8.....	228
I Cor. 13:2	228
13:8-10	228
2:9-14	228
8:1.....	228
II Cor. 12:7.....	228
Matt. 16:13-17.....	228
Dan. 1:17, 20.....	228
2:19-23	228
Luke 8:10	228
II Tim. 2:7	228
FAITH	228

I Cor. 12:9	228
Eph. 2:8-10	228
Rom. 1:17	229
I Cor. 13:2	229
Heb. 11:8-19	229
Rom. 4:18-21	229
Acts 6:5, 8	229
7:54-60	229
Mark 4:35-41	229
Heb. 11:1	229
11:33	229
11:1-40	229
GIFTS OF HEALING (S)	229
I Cor. 12:9	229
12:28	229
12:30	229
Matt. 8:8, 13	229
Mark 5:28, 29	229
Mark 16:18	229
Luke 9:1-6	229
Acts 3:1-8	229
5:15, 16	229
9:41, 42	229
28:8, 9	230
James 5:14-20	230
WORKING OF MIRACLES	230
I Cor. 12:10	230
12:28	230
12:29	230
Luke 4:33-36	230

TABLE OF CONTENTS

9:1.....	230
Mark 16:15-18.....	230
Acts 6:8.....	230
8:5-8.....	230
19:11, 12.....	230
PROPHECY (PROPHETS).....	230
I Cor. 12:10.....	230
Eph. 4:7-11.....	230
I Cor. 12:28, 29.....	230
Psm. 105:15.....	230
Eph. 2:19-22.....	231
Eph. 3:5.....	231
FUNCTION.....	231
Deut. 18:18, 19.....	231
II Kings 17:13.....	231
Acts 13:1.....	231
Acts 15:32-33.....	231
I Cor. 14:3.....	231
Num. 11:25-29.....	231
II Pet. 1:20, 21.....	231
I Cor. 14:24, 25.....	231
ADDITIONAL NOTES.....	232
Amos 3:7.....	232
Jer. 27:18.....	232
Jer. 25:4, 5.....	232
I Sam. 3:19, 20.....	232
DISCERNING OF SPIRITS.....	232
I Cor. 12:10.....	232
I John 4:1-6.....	232
Acts 16:16-18.....	232

Matt. 16:22, 23.....	232
I Cor. 14:29	233
I Cor. 6:1-8.....	233
APOSTLES	234
I Cor. 12:28, 29	234
Eph. 4:7-11	234
— APOSTLE COMES FROM A GREEK WORD.	234
Heb. 3:1.....	234
Luke 22:14	234
Acts 14:4, 14	234
Rom. 16:7 - Andronicus and Junia.....	234
I Cor. 4:6, 9 - Apollos and Sosthenes (1:1)	235
Eph. 2:19, 20.....	235
Eph. 3:1-7.....	235
FUNCTION	235
Acts 14:4	235
Acts 14:21, 22	235
Acts 14:23-28.....	235
CALLING	235
Gal. 1:1	235
Acts 13:1-4.....	235
Rom. 15:20	235
EVANGELISTS	236
Eph. 4:7-11	236
I Cor. 12:28, 29	236
Acts 21:8	236
II Tim. 4:5.....	236
PASTORS.....	236
Eph. 4:7-11	236
I Cor. 12:28, 29	236

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acts 14:23.....	236
Acts 20:28-32	237
TEACHERS	237
I Cor. 12:28, 29.....	237
Eph. 4:7-11	237
Eph. 4:12-16.....	237
I Tim. 3:2.....	237
Titus 1:9-11.....	237
Acts 13:1-4.....	237
II Tim. 2:2	237
II Tim. 2:24-26.....	237
I Tim. 2:12	238
Titus 2:3-5.....	238
GIFT OF HELPS	238
I Cor. 12:1, 7, 11, 18	238
12:28.....	238
Ex. 18:22.....	238
Num. 11:14-17	238
Acts 20:35.....	238
SHOWING MERCY	238
Rom. 12:8.....	238
Matt. 9:27.....	238
15:22.....	238
17:15.....	238
20:30-34	238
Luke 10:30-37	238
17:13.....	239
Acts 9:39, 40.....	239
GIFTS OF "GIVING"	239
I Chron. 29:1-19	239

Rom. 12:3-8.....	239
John 12:2-8	239
II Cor. 8:1-9.....	239
:2	239
:3	239
:4	239
:5	239
:6	239
:7-8.....	239
:9	239
9:6-8.....	239
Phil. 4:15-19	239
EXHORTATION.....	239
Rom. 12:8	239
Acts 11:19-23.....	240
Acts 14:21, 22	240
Acts 15:31, 32	240
I Tim. 4:13.....	240
I Tim. 6:2	240
SUBJECTS ARE VARIED	240
Titus 1:9.....	240
II Thess. 3:12	240
I Tim. 2:1	240
I Pet. 5:1, 2.....	240
MANNER OF EXHORTING	240
I Thess. 2:11.....	240
I Thess. 5:14.....	240
II Tim. 4:2.....	240
Titus 2:15.....	240
Rom. 12:8	241

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I Tim. 3:4, 5, 12	241
I Thess. 5:12	241
Heb. 13:7, 17, 24.....	241
I Cor. 12:28.....	241
Titus 1:5	241
II Tim. 2:2	241
I Tim. 1:3.....	241
Rom. 12:7.....	242
Col. 1:7, 23, 25	242
II Tim. 1:16-18.....	242
Heb. 6:10	242
Acts 6:1-4.....	242
Matt. 20:26-28.....	242
I Pet. 4:10, 11	242
Philemon 13	242
II Cor. 11:15.....	242
I Cor. 16:15.....	242
HOSPITALITY	242
Rom. 12:13, 9.....	243
I Pet. 4:9-11	243
I Tim. 3:2.....	243
Titus 1:8	243
Heb. 13:2	243
Gen. 18:1-8.....	243
ABOUT THE AUTHOR.....	245

SAMPLE PAGES

CHAPTER 1

THE SCRIPTURES

What a person believes about the Bible will determine what they will believe about the teachings of the Bible. A weakness in the doctrine of the Scriptures usually shows up in other areas later. The shallowness and heresies of our day are the result of wrong thinking about inspiration, preservation, interpretation, application, and the sufficiency of the Scriptures. Every cult and ism can be exposed at this point.

II Tim. 3:15-17

Five purposes of Scriptures

Salvation

Doctrine

Reproof

Correction

Instruction in Righteousness

Sufficiency – What the Scriptures can do in and of themselves:

“Able”

“Perfect” well-rounded, properly balanced, fully prepared

“All good works”

Such adequacy does not require extra Biblical helps

Origin – “of God”

Inspiration

Not to be confused with two other processes:

Revelation – God revealing truths and/or His Son to us (**I Cor. 2:9,10; Matt. 11:25-27; 18:17**)

Illumination – getting light, insight, and understanding on a given subject

Opposite of expire (breathe out or lose breath of life)

Breathe in the breath of life

Process God used for giving Scriptures

Not inspired men

Inspired Scriptures

Similar to mouth-to-mouth resuscitation of drowning victims ... one breathes for the other, thus dominating the breathing
This process was used exclusively for Scripture

II Pet. 1:16-21

Scriptures are contrasted with devised fables
Scriptures are superior to personal experience, even that of the Mount of Transfiguration
Scriptures did not come by man's will
The Holy Ghost was the source and the force of inspiration
"moved" the man
God only used holy men

I Pet. 1:9-12

Men wrote and then tried to get understanding
Words, not thoughts, were given by God
Words would have to be God's words, not men's words (**Matt. 4:4**)
If, as some teach, God gave thoughts and men then put in their own words, obviously they would have understood what they wrote:
The Scriptures would be of no higher value than the intelligence of the writers
We would be robbed of the preciseness and clarity of the Scriptures, for they could then have been written in a multitude of ways as long as the thought might be found therein

I Thess. 2:13

The Bible is God's Word, not man's word
The Bible is to be received as God's Word
Salvation is tied to our attitude towards the Scriptures (**Prov. 13:13**).

Matt. 22:29

Ignorance of the Scriptures leads to error (**Hosea 4:1-14**)
Jesus expected people to have a working knowledge of the Old Testament

II Pet. 3:15, 16 – Wrong attitude or use of Scriptures brings destruction

Rev. 22:18, 19

Danger of adding to the Scriptures
Danger of taking away from the Scriptures

God is obviously finished writing Scriptures

Matt. 15:1-6

Two foundations of belief

Tradition

Scripture

Jesus sided with Scripture against tradition

Religious leaders had used tradition to avoid the commands of Scripture

Luke 16:29-31

Sufficiency of Scriptures to bring sinners to repentance

Scriptures have more authority than one returning from the dead

Luke 24:25-27

Jesus expected a belief in all of the Scriptures (as written)

All the Scriptures speak of Jesus

We should so study that we could start at any place and point someone to Jesus

There is far more to Jesus than most people suspect

Luke 24:44-49

We need God's help to have our understanding opened

Our ministry must be preceded by getting an understanding from the Scripture

The extent of our ministry is related to our understanding of the Scripture

John 5:39, 45-47

Scriptures alone can't save

The Scriptures alone tell of Jesus who can save.

Study to see Jesus

Doubt one part and you cannot believe in Jesus

Especially this applies to the first five books of the Bible including Creation, Fall, Flood, Law, Miracles, etc.

I Cor. 2:9-14

Scriptures are taught by God Himself (**I John 2:20, 27**)

Believers only can get a proper under-standing

Heb. 1:1-3

The Bible is progressive in revelation

Consider the progress in the prophecies of Jesus

Consider the Bible:

Unique in trustworthiness: no conflict with science, geography, racial history, chronological history, biographical history, events of history – archeology never contradicts it

Unique in subject matter: sin, sinners, sovereign God, hell, salvation, prophecy, miraculous, Saviour, judgment, view of evil, view of the world

Unity of purpose: 66 books, 40+ authors (prince, King, priest, farmer, shepherd, doctor, slave, tax-collector prisoner, fisherman, tentmaker), 3 languages, 3 continents, 16 centuries, various cultures (Egyptian, Jewish, Syrian, Medeo-Persian, Babylonian, Roman)

Fulfillment of prophecy – in precise accuracy, great detail, given long before flow of events in that direction; includes the miraculous happening, etc.

Lives changed by its teachings

Preservation principle: against great foes, Israel as a people, the Church as a witness, and the Scriptures themselves!

Amos 8:11, 12

Prophetic passage telling of future problem

Coming famine of the “**the words of the Lord**”

No evidence of a shortage of religion

Desire for the Word is present but the supply is gone

Jer. 23:30

God’s Words are stolen from people

Perhaps something much weaker is left in its place

The stealing is done by religious leaders who are near, or neighbors to those stolen from

God is “against” all that would remove the actual words of God from us

II Cor. 2:17

The corruption of God’s Word was well underway in Paul’s day

The majority seemed to be for corruption

The position for purity of God’s Word seems to have been held by the minority even then

I Pet. 1:23, 25

The Scriptures are necessary for one to be “**born again.**”

Some of the traits of the "**Word of God**" (by which people are saved) are:

not corruptible but incorruptible

liveth forever

abideth forever

endureth forever

There must be two kinds; pure and corrupt

God blesses that which is pure

Matt. 7:15-20

Interpretation is obviously regarding ministers.

Fruits reveal either a good or corrupt source.

While this involves the nature of the minister, it can also well apply to the nature of the ministry.

Use of good Bibles will produce different results than the use of corrupt Bibles.

Psm. 119:89

God's Word is a settled matter – unchangeable

David said it was settled (more than 3000 years ago)

The "settling" is a matter of forever – past, present, future

never been unsettled

never will be unsettled

Location of the settling is in heaven

Psm. 119:160

God's Word has always been true

God's Word has existed from the beginning

God's judgments will all survive and stand the test of time – endure forever

Psm. 138:2

God has "**magnified**" His Word

God cares more about His Word than His Name

Consider Commandment #3 and (**Rev. 22:18, 19**)

Matt. 5:18

O.T. Law is safe in accuracy

Jot and tittle are Hebrew letter markings

God won't allow the change of a letter, much less the change of a word or phrase

Mark 13:31 (also Luke 21:33)

Words of Jesus are safe in accuracy
Jesus' Words can never be destroyed

Luke 16:17

Difficulty in changing one letter of the Law
Law will continue, – not fail

John 10:35b

"Scripture cannot be broken"
The Bible is a unit not to be broken into pieces
Scripture must be fulfilled (**Acts 13:29**)

John 17:17

Bible is to be trusted
Not only full of truth; but is truth in and of itself
One of the answers to Pilate's question, "**What is truth?**" (**John 18:38a**)

Psm. 119:140

Purity claimed for Scriptures
Purity of unquestionable character, - "**very pure**"

Psm. 12:6, 7

Purity is complete, – like the finest silver
God guarantees the preservation of the very words, forever

Consider the versions:

All English Bibles are translations of either pure or corrupt Scriptures
– Hebrew, Chaldean, and Greek
Biggest area of difference today is in the N.T., the O.T. also has much variance
Contrast Greek Manuscripts
quantity
age
condition
location
material
style of Greek
origin
Source of manuscripts, who accepts which, who used which etc.