

Essential Doctrines – Course Plan

21 July – 1 September 2019

Date	Day	Per	Les	Title	Teacher
7/21/19	Sun	1	1	Introduction to Essential Doctrines	Marty
7/24/19	Wed	2	2	The Nature of God	Marty
7/28/19	Sun	3	3	The Nature of Man	Marty
7/31/19	Wed	4			Marty
8/4/19	Sun	5	4	Revelation and Inspiration	Sam
8/7/19	Wed	6			Sam
8/11/19	Sun	7	5	Jesus, the Christ	Sam
8/14/19	Wed	8			Sam
8/18/19	Sun	9	6	Salvation	Marty
8/21/19	Wed	10			Marty
8/25/19	Sun	11	7	The Church	Sam
8/28/19	Wed	12			Sam
9/1/19	Sun	13	8	End Things	Sam

Lesson Outlines

Lesson 1: Introduction: “Essential Doctrines” defined

- Other words: Teaching, the Faith, Catechism, Confession of faith...
- Why doctrine matters? (Fellowship in work, unity, Acceptability to God (e.g. Heb 11:6))
- Connection to salvation? Does it matter (Bible Examples)? Will it affect our behavior?
- What things are “essential” (e.g. Eph 4:3-4; I Cor 15:1-4; Jude 3...)
- Course Foundational Assumptions:
 1. The Bible is inspired and is the final source of appeal for Truth
 2. God has revealed all that we need to know in the Bible
 3. What one believes matters to be acceptable to God
 4. Some doctrines are essential—and are the basis for unity
 5. It is possible to determine Truth on Essential Doctrines (e.g. John 7:17)
 6. What one believes will be expressed in behavior
 7. We may disagree on many unessential things, and some things cannot be known

Lesson 2: The Nature of God

- Pre-existent, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Personal, Holy/Pure, Defines Truth, Just, Active and Aware in our physical world and our lives, Benevolent/Loving, Just, Emotional...
- The God Head: Multiple Personalities working in unity (pre-existent love, communication)
- Role of the Spirit (special detail, to lay a foundation for the lesson on Revelation/Inspiration)
- Satan: his power, work, limitations
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No God
 - No God-head
 - God not logical (e.g. pantheism) or not involved (deism), or different for each person
 - Various limitations: restricted power, not just, not omniscient, not active...
 - God in man’s image: accountable to man, must be understandable by man

Lesson 3: The Nature of Man (Sin, Accountability)

- Creation and relationship to God: “Image of God,” “A little lower than angels...”
- Source/purpose of moral law
- The Fall, and consequence for the World
- Temptation, choice, and consequences for the relationship with God
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - Man as only flesh (no soul, no accountability, no choice)
 - Man as totally depraved (must be chosen and enabled by God)
 - Morality is relative (defined by man’s conscience, the culture, man’s natural desires...)

Lesson 4: Revelation and Inspiration

- Revealed Truth to man in various ways through time (Heb 1:1-2)
- Always in words/language that can be accepted/rejected, repeated, understood, obeyed
- Revelation to prophet is unmistakably from God; Confirmed by signs to hearers
- Culminates in the Coming of God in the flesh (John 1:14) as Jesus
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No revelation
 - Ambiguous revelation, or understood only by enabling action of God
 - Many revelations: to each individual, to ‘spiritual’ men only, directly by Holy Spirit
 - Continuing revelation: through chosen agents (e.g. church, priests, modern prophets...)

Lesson 5: Jesus, the Christ—God’s Offer to Men

- Incarnation – significance of taking human form (e.g. Heb 4:15)
- Atonement, the primary work of Christ
- Resurrection, the confirmation of the message and the work of atonement
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No Physical Coming
 - Jesus only man, not God, one of many prophets
 - No miracles, resurrection
 - Social purpose only (not addressing sin)
 - Limited application (white man’s religion)

Lesson 6: Salvation—Man’s Response

- Forgiveness/Reconciliation – God’s original plan
- Available now, through Christ, as the culmination of the plan
- Grace, not work of merit
- Faith (that obeys) required of man
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No need for redemption (social gospel)
 - Nothing man can do (“total depravity”)
 - Merit, Works [‘of law’] only
 - Direct operation of God (“irresistible grace”)
 - Faith only (without additional requirement or possibility of apostasy)

Lesson 7: Church

- What the church is, who is in it, how it is related to salvation
- Where the church is, how it is organized
- Local vs Universal
- Work assigned to the [local] church
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No church: Organized religious Unnecessary
 - Universal church organization on earth
 - Priesthood functions (sacraments, revelation of Truth)
 - Denominations (divisions of the whole body of Christ)

Lesson 8: End Things

- Resurrection of all men (John 5:28-29)
- A Surprise! (Matt 24:36)
- Judgment (II Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27)
- Heaven & Hell, with no 2nd chances
- Erroneous Doctrines
 - No Resurrection
 - No Hell
 - Prediction or obvious precursors of the hour
 - Rapture, Resurrection of Righteous Only
 - Return & Reign of Christ on Earth
 - Purgatory

Lesson 1: Essential Doctrines Defined

Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. ¹⁸ For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple. (Rom 16:17-18)

A. Lesson Objectives

- Define the word “doctrine,” and list at least 5 equivalent terms used in the New Testament.
- List 5 implications of the Bible teaching on doctrine.
- List at least 2 consequences if there is no single, revealed, unchanging body of doctrine.
- List 4 characteristics of “Essential Doctrines”
- List 5 essential doctrines that affect the relationships between religious people, and why.

B. Bible Teaching

1. The Term “doctrine” – *didaskalia* (instruction, doctrine, learning, teaching; from *didaskolos* (teacher, doctor); related to *didache* (that which has been taught)).
2. Note what we learn about doctrine from these texts (including alternative Terms).
 - a. Titus 1:9
 - b. II Tim 4:3-4
 - c. I Tim 1:10-11
 - d. Titus 2:1-2
 - e. Titus 1:2
 - f. II Tim 3:16-17
 - g. Rom 2:20
 - h. Jude 3
 - i. II Tim 3:8-10
 - j. Rom 6:17
 - k. Titus 1:13-14
 - l. I Tim 1:3-4
 - m. Rom 16:17-18 (and see Acts 20:30 for a potential source of division...)
3. Summarize the information above
 - a. List words related to “doctrine”:
 - b. List examples of opposites of “sound” doctrine
 - c. List five implications about doctrine from the texts above:
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.

4. Imagine that there was no single, revealed/written, authoritative statement of Truth. What consequences for religious practice would you expect?

5. What characteristics make some doctrines “essential”? Give examples of each.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

6. Are some doctrines “non-essential”? Give an example.

Does that mean that there is no ‘right’ answer, or truth or error related to these doctrines?

Does that mean that we should not study and discuss these doctrines?

7. Foundational assumptions for this class:
 - a. The Bible is inspired and is the final source of appeal for Truth
 - b. God has revealed all that we need to know in the Bible
 - c. What one believes matters to be acceptable to God
 - d. Some doctrines are essential—and are the basis for unity
 - e. It is possible to determine Truth on Essential Doctrines (e.g. John 7:17)
 - f. What one believes will be expressed in behavior
 - g. We may disagree on many unessential things, and some things cannot be known

Lesson 2: The Nature of God

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

A. Lesson Objectives

- List at least 2 things that can be known about God from observing His creation.
- List at least 6 attributes of God revealed in the Bible.
- Name the most important attribute of mankind's relationship to God.
- List at least 4 false doctrines about God.

B. Bible Teaching

1. Do we have to believe in God to please Him (Heb 11:6)?
2. What can be known of God by observing nature (Rom 1:18-21; Ps 19:1)?
3. What response from man would be appropriate (Rom 1:21; Ps 139:14; Ps 95:6,7)?
4. What difficulties are there in worshiping or attempting to please God without His guidance (Rom 11:33-35)?
5. What limits are there to man's ability to understand (even) the physical world?
 - a. Prov 27:1
 - b. Jas 4:14a
 - c. Prov 30:3,4
6. List qualities of God, based on these Bible references:
 - a. John 4:24; I Tim 1:17; Col 1:15) _____
 - b. I Thess 1:9; Jer 10:10; Ex 3:14 _____
 - c. Deut 6:4; Is 44:6; I Tim 1:17 _____
 - d. Mal 3:6; James 1:17; Num 23:19 _____
 - e. I John 5:20; John 17:3; Rom 3:4 _____
 - f. I John 4:8; John 17:24 _____
 - g. Ex 15:11; Is 6:3; I Pet 1:16 _____
 - h. Deut 32:40; Ps 90:2; I Tim 6:16; Rev 4:8 _____
 - i. I Kings 8:27; Ps 139:7; Acts 17:27 _____
 - j. Ps 33:13-15; Matt 10:29 _____
 - k. Ps 115:3; Gen 18:14 _____
 - l. John 3:33; II Cor 1:20 _____
 - m. Rom 2:4; Rom 8:32; Titus 3:4 _____
 - n. Gen 18:25; Rom 2:5-6 _____
7. Of all of the above, which is the most important with respect to God's relationship to man (I Pet 1:15-16; Heb 12:14; I Thess 3:13)?

8. What event illustrates the presence of all three personalities in the God-Head (Matt 3:16-17)?
9. What special role of God-the-Spirit is emphasized (John 14:16; 15:26)?

C. False Doctrines about God. List the implied false doctrines about God from these Bible references:

1. Psalm 14:1; 53:1 _____
2. Isaiah 59:1 _____
3. Rom 1:22-23 _____
4. Isaiah 55:8 _____
5. Romans 9:20 _____
6. II Pet 3:3-4 _____

Would believing any of these false doctrines about God influence a person's thinking and behavior (see Rom 1:28-31)?

<i>False Doctrine about God</i>	<i>Consequences for how we think or live</i>	<i>Bible Answers</i>
There is no God.	• •	
God is Weak and/or limited	• •	
God is a created thing.	• •	
God is like man (with flaws & fickleness...)	•	
God is accountable to man.	•	

Lesson 3: The Nature of Man

*When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars, which You have ordained,
 ⁴ What is man that You are mindful of him,
 And the son of man that You visit him?
⁵ For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
And You have crowned him with glory and honor.. (Psalm 8:3-5)*

A. Lesson Objectives

- Describe what is special about God’s creation of man.
- Name the part of a man that makes him unique in this physical world.
- List 4 moral characteristics of man, according to the Bible.
- List 4 false doctrines about mankind, and give examples of the consequences of those doctrines in people’s thinking.

B. Bible Teaching

1. What is the origin of man (Gen 2:7)?

What was special about the creation of man, compared to the animals (Gen 1:27; James 3:9)?

2. Is man a spiritual creation (say, like angels), with some elements of his being that are not physical (see Ps 8:3-5; Zech 12:1; Eccl 12:7; Matt 10:28)?
3. Are all men of equal value before God, with a common, equal nature (Gen 3:20; Acts 17:25-26)?
4. List some of the moral characteristics of man, according to the Bible:
 - a. Rom 2:14-15; Titus 1:15; I Tim 4:2 _____
 - b. Rom 7:18; II Pet 3:5; Rom 6:16 _____
 - c. Rom 3:22-23; Rom 3:19; Rom 3:9; Is 53:6a _____
 - d. Heb 9:27; II Cor 5:10; Eccl 12:13-14 _____

C. False Doctrines. List some of the false doctrines, and logical consequences for the way we should live. Find verses from the above lists that show that these are not what the Bible teaches.

False Doctrine about Man	Consequences for how we think or live	Bible Answers
Man is merely an animal.	• • •	
Man makes no choices.	• • •	
Man is inherently good.	• •	
Man is inherently evil.	•	

Lesson 4: Revelation and Inspiration

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, (2 Timothy 3:16)

A. Lesson Objectives:

- List some ways God has communicated in the past.
- Identify the only way God communicates with us now.
- Know the difference between revelation and inspiration
- Give reasons to expect God to protect His word.

B. Bible Teaching (List facts about God's revelation and inspiration in the following passages:)

1. *"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, ² has in these last days spoken to us by His Son."* (Hebrews 1:1-2)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
2. *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."* (John 16:13) Note: To whom was Jesus speaking?
 - a.
 - b.
3. *"For prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."* (2 Peter 1:21).
 - a.
 - b.
4. *"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."* (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d. Did Peter consider Paul's writings *scripture*? (See 2 Peter 3:15-16)
5. *"If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord."* (1 Corinthians 14:37)
 - a.

6. *“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.”* (Galatians 1:8-9)
7. *“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. ¹³ These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”* (1 Corinthians 2:12-13)
 - a.
 - b.
8. *“Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.”* (Jude 3)
9. *“For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book.”* (Revelation 22:18)
10. *“Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.”* (Matt 24:35)

C. Use the scriptures above to respond to popular ideas of how God communicates with us today?

1. The living voice of the church (tradition) has equal authority with the scriptures.
2. The Holy Spirit guides church councils today as they create or amend denominational creeds.
3. The Holy Spirit leads individuals today through an inner voice, we may hear as we pray.
4. God has a plan for our lives that we can perceive through events that we can observe.
5. There are additional books that should be in our Bibles.
6. The Bible contains many mistakes due to the mistakes of copiers.

Lesson 5: Jesus Christ

*“Therefore I said to you that you will **die in your sins**; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will **die in your sins**.” (John 8:24)*

A. Lesson Objectives:

- To know who Jesus was and is.
- To know His relationship to the Father.
- To know why He became flesh.

B. Bible Teaching

 What are some facts about Jesus Christ found in the following passages?

1. *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1)*
2. *“All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made” (John 1:)*
3. *“And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*
4. *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.” (Hebrews 2:9).*
5. *“Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.” (Hebrews 2:17-18)*
6. *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, ‘God with us.’” (Matthew 1:23)*
7. *“When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.” When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, ‘You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.’” (Luke 3:21-22)*
 - a. What three persons are clearly represented here?
 - b. What testimony did God give concerning Jesus?

8. *"For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin."* (Hebrews 4:15)
 - a.
 - b.

9. *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* (Colossians 2:9)

10. *"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures."* (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) Paul said in verse 1 that this was the gospel he preached. Three facts of the gospel:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

11. *"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."* (Romans 8:34) Where is Jesus now and what is He doing?

12. *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷ but made Himself of no reputation*, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.."* (Philippians 2:5-11) *NASB says "He emptied himself"

C. Use the scriptures above and any other that come to mind to respond to false teaching re: Jesus.

1. Jesus is not God.
2. Jesus is the only person in the godhead.
3. Jesus was a created being.
4. Jesus did not have a physical body.
3. Jesus did not possess divine attributes when He was in the flesh.
4. The Son was always inferior to the Father.
5. Jesus is not to be worshiped.
6. The Jesus of history is different from the Jesus of faith.
7. Jesus was not really raised from the dead.

Lesson 6: Salvation

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, ⁹not of works, lest anyone should boast. (Ephesians 2:8-9)

A. Lesson Objectives

- Explain what men are saved from.
- List the elements of God's work to save man
- List the elements of man's response to accept God's salvation
- List at least three examples of people 'being saved' in the book of Acts, with chapter references.
- Explain how there is still a salvation yet to be revealed.

B. Bible Teaching

1. "Salvation" or "saved" (*soteria*) denotes deliverance, preservation, ... from danger and apprehension [Vine's, <http://studybible.info/vines/Salvation>]
2. What problem arose just after creation that needed to be solved (see Gen 3:3, 15)?
3. What is the cause of this "death" (Jer 31:30; Ezek 18:4)?
4. What did the prophets say would be work of the coming Messiah and the New Covenant?
 - a. Isaiah 53:, 8, 10-12
 - b. Jer 31:33-34
5. What was Jesus' purpose in coming?
 - a. I Tim 1:15
 - b. Mark 2:17
 - c. Luke 19:10
 - d. Rom 3:23-25
 - e. Heb 2:9-10
6. Is any man able to be saved because of his own holiness (sinlessness) or great works?
 - a. Rom 3:19-20
 - b. Gal 2:16
7. How are we "justified" (pronounced innocent) (Rom 3:24; 5:15, 18)?

How much does it cost?

8. Are actions required from a person in order to get the "free gift" (Heb 5:9)? List some of them:
 - a. Heb 2:1-3; Eph 1:13
 - b. Acts 10:43; Rom 3:22
 - c. Rom 10:10
 - d. Acts 3:19; II Cor 7:10
 - e. Acts 2:38
 - f. Rom 6:3-4

9. List the responses of those who heard the Gospel as recorded in the Book of Acts.
 - a. 2:38, 41
 - b. 3:19
 - c. 8:12, 13, 16
 - d. 8:38
 - e. 9:18 (& see 22:16; 26:18)
 - f. 10:47, 48
 - g. 16:15
 - h. 16:33
 - i. 18:8
 - j. 19:3, 5
10. Is there another Salvation yet to be revealed (I Pet 1:5)?

C. False Doctrines. Consider how the doctrines below match the Bible teaching above.

1. Man is not "lost" because he is not sinful or accountable to God.
2. Everyone will go to heaven, because God is a God of Love.
3. Man must be good (for example, morally upright and kind to others), or at least have as many good deed as bad ones so God will let him into heaven.
4. Man must follow rigorous religious practices (schedule of prayer, fasting, recitations) to stay in fellowship with God.
5. The church decides who is saved and who is not, and who is forgiven of what sins, based on church official's judgment of a person's behavior and compliance with church rituals.
6. Only people whom God has chosen in advance, and whom he enables to believe (by giving them Faith) can be saved.
7. A person is saved at the instant he believes that Jesus is the Christ.
8. A person is saved when they believe, say the "sinner's prayer," and confess Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord.
9. Babies should be baptized to wash away the sins of Adam that they inherit.
10. Baptism cannot be required to be saved or wash away sins, because that would be earning salvation, and salvation is only based on God's grace.

Lesson 7: The Church

I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. (1 Tim 3:15)

A. Lesson Objectives

- List the meaning of the Greek word translated “church,” and give a useful synonym.
- Describe who is in the “body of Christ” church.
- Describe the difference between the “body of Christ” church and a local church, and 3 characteristics of a local church.
- Describe how local churches in the New Testament decided on belief and practice.
- List at least 2 false teachings about the church.

B. Bible Teaching

1. “Church” is a translation of a (non-religious) Greek word: *Ekklesia*, which means “assembly” or “group”. (See Acts 19:32; Acts 7:38 [KJV]; Matt 16:18). The context determines what “group”.
2. What other terms or images are used to describe Christ’s “group”.
 - a. 1 Tim 3:15
 - b. Acts 20:28
 - c. Eph 1:22-23
3. Determine what group is meant in these uses of *Ekklesia* in the New Testament:
 - a. Acts 19:32
 - b. 1 Cor 1:2
 - c. 1 Cor 4:17
 - d. Rom 16:23
 - e. Gal 1:2, 13
 - f. Col 1:18
4. Who is in the church? Are they all alive? Do they know each other? Live together?
 - a. Acts 2:47
 - b. Heb 12:22-24
5. What are the characteristics of a church (groups of Christians) in a local place?
 - a. 1 Cor 16:19 (see 11:20; Heb 10:25; Acts 14:27)
 - b. 1 Cor 16:3-5
 - c. Phil 4:15
 - d. Acts 4:35; 1 Cor 16:1-2
6. How did local churches establish the rules by which they worked together?
 - a. 1 Tim 3:14-15
 - b. 1 Cor 4:16-17a
 - c. 1 Thess 2:13-14
 - d. Phil 4:9

(Remember John 14:25-26 and 16:12-14 from Lesson 4.b.2)

7. Is there any example in the New Testament for these things?
 - a. A permanent office/head (other than Christ) on earth making rules for all local churches.
 - b. An unsaved person (see Lesson 6.b.9) appealing to a church to be saved.
 - c. Churches forming into groups, by region, or allegiance to a leader, or common belief and practice, under earthly organizations and authorities.
 - d. Churches or groups of churches convening and/or voting to determine belief & practice.
 - e. Churches merging with national or regional governments (see Matt 22:21).
 - f. Churches or groups of churches mobilizing for political action

C. False Teaching. Using the above Bible teaching, provide answers to the following:

1. "Church" is an optional activity/relationship only loosely connected to fellowship with God
2. Organized religions are unnecessary (even harmful)—each man must commune separately with God.
3. The Church is an entity separate from Christians, with an earthly organization (hierarchy, with authority) which may also: control access, set doctrine, govern all collective activities, provide the only venue for some worship (e.g. Eucharist) and dispense "sacraments".
4. The Church (Body of Christ; total Family of God) is subdivided into groups of churches, each of which has their own doctrine, practice, name, and fellowship (conditions of membership), but are all equally acceptable to God.
5. The only acceptable church today is the group called the "Church of Christ".

Lesson 8: End Things

“Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness?” (2 Peter 3:11)

A. Lesson Objectives:

- To be aware that Jesus will come again.
- To know what to expect when He comes.
- To be prepared for His coming.
- To know the future of the righteous and the unrighteous.

B. Bible Teaching What are some facts about the end times found in the following passages?

1. *“Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” (Acts 1:11)*
2. *“But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is.” (Mark 13:32-33)*
3. *“For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thessalonians 4:15-17)*
4. *“Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation..” (John 5:28-29)*
5. *“It is a righteous thing with God to repay with tribulation those who trouble you, ⁷ and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, ⁸ in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” (2 Thessalonians 1:6-9).*
6. *“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.” (Matthew 25:31-33)*

7. *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10).*
8. *“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. ²³ But each one in his own order: Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ’s at His coming. ²⁴ Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. ²⁵ For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ²⁶ The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.” (1 Cor. 15:22-26)*
9. *“Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.” (1 John 3:2)*

C. Use the scriptures above and others to respond to false teaching about End Things

1. No second coming is to be expected.
2. The second coming has already occurred invisibly.
3. The date of Christ’s coming has been set by many, including Jehovah’s Witnesses and Adventists.
 1. Once a person dies, that is the end.
 2. Only the righteous will be raised.
 3. There will be no torment of unbelievers and disobedient.
 4. Christ will set up His kingdom on earth when He comes again.
 5. The righteous will receive their reward here on earth.