

# Preparation Questions for Lesson 5

## HE THAT WINNETH SOULS IS WISE

### Background Reading

Proverbs 11:30; Matthew 4:19, 7:13, 28:19-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 19:10,24:46-48; John 1:12,3:16,3:18,3:36, 11:25-26, 14:21, 14:27, 20:21; Acts 1:8; 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, 5:14; I John 5:3; Hebrews 13:5; Ephesians 2:1,12; Romans 1:14-16; 2 Kings 7:9; James 4:17

### MONDAY

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14. What should be our greatest motivation for living for Christ?

### TUESDAY

Compare 1 John 5:3 and John 14:21. How do we prove our love for the Lord Jesus?

### WEDNESDAY

In John 14:27, what did Jesus Christ promise to give those who know Him as their personal Savior? What does this mean to those who are saved?

### THURSDAY

According to John 3:18, what has already come upon those who have not believed on Jesus Christ?

### FRIDAY

In II Corinthians 4:3-4 we learn that the Devil has done what to those who are lost?

SATURDAY

## WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH

### SCRIPTURE MEMORY

*"But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."* 1 Timothy 3:15

What we believe about the church must come from God's Word. The Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice in the New Testament church. Let us ask, "What is the church?"

The word "church" is significant in the Bible because it is never used to refer to a denomination or to a group of churches. It is never used to describe a national church. The Bible teaches that a church is a local assembly of baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together to carry out the Great Commission.

Read Matthew 16:13-18. When Peter declared, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God;" the Lord Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." He is the Builder of the church. We must understand that the Lord Jesus is doing His work in this world through the local church. Let us serve God by finding our place in the local church.

The local church is a group of baptized believers who have voluntarily joined themselves together to carry out the Great Commission.

### The New Testament Church Started

Truths Every Christian Needs to Know

### Notes

V.18 "Peter" in Gr = Petros = a little stone  
 V. 18 "rock" in Gr = Pretra = a big rock  
 1 Pet. 2:6  
 "cornerstone"  
 1 Cor. 10:4  
 "that Rock was Christ"

### The New Testament Church Started With Christ and His Disciples and Was Empowered at Pentecost

Christ gave the Great Commission to the church.

Consider Matthew 18:15-17. Jesus Christ started the church with His disciples. When we realize this, we see that the Lord gave the Great Commission to the church, not simply a group of followers. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are not ministerial ordinances; they are local church ordinances.

### The New Testament Church Has a Saved Membership

Read Acts 2:41-42. The local church, as we find it in God's Word, is made up of people who have been saved and obeyed the Lord in believer's baptism. Every Christian should belong to a local Bible-believing church.

### The New Testament Church Has Christ as the Only Head

Colossians 1:18 teaches that Christ is the only head of the church. A Baptist church recognizes that it has only one headquarters, and that is heaven. The Bible teaches that every church should be directly accountable to Christ, not to a denomination or group of churches.

The body of doctrine that the Lord Jesus gave to His disciples when He established the church is the same body of doctrine that we Baptists hold dear today

The New Testament Church

### The New Testament Church Is the Pillar and Ground of the Truth

Read 1 Timothy 3:15. The responsibility of the church is to uphold the truth in every generation. In our world, there is no lack of knowledge, but there is a great lack of truth. We are to lift up the truth in Love.

### The New Testament Church Is an Independent Congregation

Notice in Acts 13:1-4 that this local church sent out missionaries. The Bible teaches that each church should be self-governing and self-supporting. .

### The New Testament Church Is Responsible to Evangelize the World

Acts 1:8 reveals to us that the local church is to reach the entire world with the gospel. A New Testament church has taken seriously God's command for world evangelism.

Find your place of service in the local New Testament Church!

### The New Testament Church Is Pastor-led

Sheep need a shepherd, and the Lord has designed that the local church be led by a shepherd-their pastor. He loves the sheep and gives his life for the sheep. 1 Timothy 3:1 calls him the "bishop" or "overseer." The pastor leads the people as he looks to the Lord.

The church should be a foundation and pillar of truth.  
"Thy Word is truth"  
2 John 17:17

The world has traded truth for tolerance.

Our church is like a family, self-governing and self-supporting

Missions is next door and around the World.  
Don't forget your own house or family.  
Look around, everywhere is a mission field.

My Pastor's work is to feed the sheep and not..... 1 Pet 5:2-4  
Acts 20:28

My relationship to my Pastor: Heb. 13:7 and 13:17 makes it very clear.

"Touch not.....  
1 Chron 16:22  
Psa. 105:15