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FOUNDATIONS

OF THE FAITH





*"What comes into our minds when we think about
God is the most important thing about us."*

A.W. TOZER



*"Faith is deliberate confidence in the character of God
whose ways you may not understand at the time."*

OSWALD CHAMBERS



*"And the word of God continued to increase, and the
number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and
a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith."*

ACTS 6:7

FOUNDATIONS

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Why We Believe What We Believe.

Foundations of the Faith is designed to help us understand the core beliefs that define Currey Creek Church's ministries, missions, and membership, and to show how these beliefs shape the way we follow Christ together.

GET A RUNNING START

Each lesson in our study begins by asking you to meditate on the passage of Scripture you are studying that week. But what does it mean to meditate on Scripture? How do you make observations about a passage in the Bible? And why is this an important place to start your study of God's Word?

Making Observations in Scripture

 Being an observer of God's Word is no different than sitting on a bench at a busy park and noticing all the people there. Who are they? What are they doing? Who is with them? How are they relating to one another? Why are they there? When you take time to look and listen, there are so many things you can observe. The same is true of God's Word.

Observation is the act and art of noticing details. In its simplest form, it's asking these seven basic questions: who, what, when, where, why, how and wherefore? And with that initial understanding, we can be effective observers of God's Word if we are patient and disciplined to do so. If you are in a hurry or are just trying to complete a lesson you will miss out on seeing exciting details in God's message to you. Stop, slow down and see what isn't obvious to the casual reader. Make observation of God's Word a habit you enjoy.

Meditating on a Bible Passage

 Meditation is the act of pondering or thinking deeply. In the case of a believer, it's reflecting on the meaning, implication and application of a particular Bible passage. It provides the foundation for study by allowing God to reveal key verses, repeated words, phrases or ideas that point us to the message he has for us. Meditation comes naturally for some and is more difficult for others; but we are all called to meditate on God's Word often.

The challenges we face today are the many distractions and stresses in our daily lives. In order to effectively meditate on God's Word, we need the Holy Spirit's help in allowing us to block out worldly cares and to focus solely on his Word and its implications for our lives. Think of meditation as the quieting of your life to listen to God's voice. You may need a special place in your home that is away from others, or a particular time of day when no one else needs your attention. Either way, meditation doesn't just happen because we want it to. Just like effective observation, it must be intentional. Make meditation a priority and see what God can do.



God's word to us. *Men wrote it, divinely inspired, as the record of God's revelation of Himself to man. It has God as its author, salvation through Jesus Christ as its end, and truth, without any error, as its matter. As such, we believe it to be fully sufficient and authoritative for instructing us in all truth.*

PSALM 119:1-32

ALEPH

- 119** ¹ Blessed are those whose way
is blameless, who walk in the law of
the Lord!
- ² Blessed are those who keep his testimonies,
who seek him with their whole heart,
- ³ who also do no wrong,
but walk in his ways!
- ⁴ You have commanded your precepts
to be kept diligently.
- ⁵ Oh that my ways may be steadfast
in keeping your statutes!
- ⁶ Then I shall not be put to shame,
having my eyes fixed on all
your commandments.
- ⁷ I will praise you with an upright heart,
when I learn your righteous rules.
- ⁸ I will keep your statutes;
do not utterly forsake me!

BETH

- ⁹ How can a young man keep his way pure?
By guarding it according to your word.
- ¹⁰ With my whole heart I seek you;
let me not wander from
your commandments!
- ¹¹ I have stored up your word in my heart,
that I might not sin against you.
- ¹² Blessed are you, O Lord;
teach me your statutes!
- ¹³ With my lips I declare
all the rules of your mouth.
- ¹⁴ In the way of your testimonies I delight
as much as in all riches.
- ¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts
and fix my eyes on your ways
- ¹⁶ I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.

GIMEL

- ¹⁷ Deal bountifully with your servant,
that I may live and keep your word.
- ¹⁸ Open my eyes, that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law.
- ¹⁹ I am a sojourner on the earth;
hide not your commandments from me!
- ²⁰ My soul is consumed with longing
for your rules at all times.
- ²¹ You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones,
who wander from your commandments.
- ²² Take away from me scorn and contempt,
for I have kept your testimonies.
- ²³ Even though princes sit plotting against me,
your servant will meditate on
your statutes.
- ²⁴ Your testimonies are my delight;
they are my counselors.

DALETH

- ²⁵ My soul clings to the dust;
give me life according to your word!
- ²⁶ When I told of my ways, you answered me;
teach me your statutes!
- ²⁷ Make me understand the way of
your precepts, and I will meditate on
your wondrous works.
- ²⁸ My soul melts away for sorrow;
strengthen me according to your word!
- ²⁹ Put false ways far from me
and graciously teach me your law!
- ³⁰ I have chosen the way of faithfulness;
I set your rules before me.
- ³¹ I cling to your testimonies, O Lord;
let me not be put to shame!
- ³² I will run in the way of your commandments
when you enlarge my heart!



THE BIBLE

1. Meditate on Psalm 119:1-32. What observations stand out to you about God's Word?
2. How is the word of God described in the following verses: Psalm 19:7-11; 119:105; Isaiah 40:8; Matthew 4:4?
3. According to the following verses, why is it essential that Christians understand what the Bible is: Joshua 1:8; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12-13; 2 Peter 1:20-21?
4. Why is the Bible trustworthy? (See *Numbers 23:19*; *Psalm 119:160*; *Matthew 24:35*; *John 17:17*; *Titus 1:1-3*) Why is it important to accept this truth?

5. What are the dangers of interpreting the Bible through personal life experiences?
(See Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 55:9; Jeremiah 17:9-10; Matthew 6:31-33)
6. How does knowing Scripture equip you to face opposition for your biblical convictions?
(See Luke 12:11-12; Romans 5:2-5; 8:31; Ephesians 6:16-18; 1 Peter 3:13-17)
7. What difference does regularly reading and studying your Bible make in your life?
If it is not a daily priority, what changes do you need to make?
8. Charles Spurgeon described Psalm 119:33-40 as a honeycomb of prayers. Reading this passage, which prayer will you pray for yourself this week?

Notes

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*The one and only living and **true God**, the Creator of all things. The eternal God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, with distinct personal attributes yet without division of nature, essence, or being (commonly known as the Trinity).*

ISAIAH 40:9-31

- 40**⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!”
- ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.
- ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.
- ¹² Who has measured the waters in the hollow of his hand and marked off the heavens with a span, enclosed the dust of the earth in a measure and weighed the mountains in scales and the hills in a balance?
- ¹³ Who has measured the Spirit of the Lord, or what man shows him his counsel?
- ¹⁴ Whom did he consult, and who made him understand? Who taught him the path of justice, and taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?
- ¹⁵ Behold, the nations are like a drop from a bucket, and are accounted as the dust on the scales; behold, he takes up the coastlands like fine dust.
- ¹⁶ Lebanon would not suffice for fuel, nor are its beasts enough for a burnt offering.
- ¹⁷ All the nations are as nothing before him, they are accounted by him as less than nothing and emptiness.
- ¹⁸ To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?
- ¹⁹ An idol! A craftsman casts it, and a goldsmith overlays it with gold and casts for it silver chains.
- ²⁰ He who is too impoverished for an offering chooses wood that will not rot; he seeks out a skillful craftsman to set up an idol that will not move.
- ²¹ Do you not know? Do you not hear? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?
- ²² It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to dwell in;
- ²³ who brings princes to nothing, and makes the rulers of the earth as emptiness.
- ²⁴ Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows on them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.
- ²⁵ To whom then will you compare me, that I should be like him? says the Holy One.
- ²⁶ Lift up your eyes on high and see: who created these? He who brings out their host by number, calling them all by name; by the greatness of his might and because he is strong in power, not one is missing.
- ²⁷ Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God?”
- ²⁸ Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.
- ²⁹ He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.
- ³⁰ Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted;
- ³¹ but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.



TRINITY: GOD THE FATHER

1. Meditate on Isaiah 40:9-31. What observations stand out to you about God the Father?
2. How do the following verses reveal that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are three in one: Genesis 1:26; Deuteronomy 6:4; Matthew 3:16-17; 28:19; Luke 1:35; John 1:1; 15:26; 2 Corinthians 13:14?
3. How do the above verses help you embrace the distinct unity of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit?
4. What is declared about God in the following verses: Exodus 3:13-15; Leviticus 19:2; Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 64:8; 1 John 1:5; 4:8; Revelation 22:13? How does knowing these truths deepen your love for him?
5. How does believing God created all things give meaning to life? (See *Genesis 1:1, 27; Nehemiah 9:6; Psalm 139:13-16; Zephaniah 3:17; Acts 17:24-27; Colossians 1:16; Revelation 4:11*)

6. How does believing God's sovereignty and personal relatability encourage you to trust him in all circumstances? (See *1 Kings 8:27; Psalm 97:9; 145:8-9; 147:5; Isaiah 55:8-9; Jeremiah 32:27*)

7. How are Christians called to live in light of God's love? (See *Deuteronomy 10:12; Isaiah 41:10; Mark 12:30-31; John 15:9-10; 1 John 2:4-6*) How can we reflect God's love in a broken world?

8. What does God promise in John 3:16 and Ephesians 1:3-14 to those who have put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? As a Christ follower, how do these promises give you assurance of your salvation?

9. What are some ways people try to fill the spiritual void in their life? How have you tried to fill emptiness in your own life?

10. Reread Isaiah 40:9-31. How has learning more about who God is increased your desire to know him better?

Notes

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*The eternal **Son of God**. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and fulfilled God's will. He lived a sinless life and died on the cross, providing redemption for humanity from sin. He was raised from the dead, demonstrating his power over sin and death. He ascended into heaven and is now exalted at the right hand of God. He will return in power and glory to judge the world and consummate his redemptive mission.*

COLOSSIANS 1:15-20

1 ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.

¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.



TRINITY: GOD THE SON

1. Meditate on Colossians 1:15-20. What observations stand out to you about Jesus, God the Son?
2. How is Jesus described in the following verses: Isaiah 9:6; John 1:1-4, 14; 8:58; 16:28; Acts 3:13-15; 1 Timothy 1:15-17?
3. What do the following prophecies proclaim about Jesus?
 - *Isaiah 7:14 with Matthew 1:18, 22-23; Luke 1:35*
 - *Micah 5:2 with Luke 2:4-6, 15*
 - *Isaiah 61:1-2a with Luke 4:16-21*
 - *Isaiah 52:13-53:12 with John 19:16-42*
4. How do these fulfilled prophecies about Jesus being the Christ give you assurance and hope? (See *Matthew 16:16-17; John 20:30-31; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8; 1 Peter 1:3-5*)

5. What do the following verses teach you about Jesus being fully God and fully man: Philippians 2:5-11; Colossians 2:9; 1 Timothy 2:5? Why are these truths significant?
6. How does knowing that Jesus is the eternal king and our great high priest give you comfort? (See *John 18:36; Hebrews 2:17; 8:1-2; Revelation 19:16*)
7. Read John 6:35; 8:12; 10:7,11; 11:25; 14:6; 15:1. What are the seven “I AM” statements Jesus proclaims about himself? How will you apply these to your life?
8. According to Ephesians 2:1-18, why is Jesus’ death, burial, resurrection and ascension good news for the believer?
9. How does recognizing who Jesus is make a difference in your life? (See *Colossians 3:1-17*)

Notes

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*The **Holy Spirit** is God's Spirit. He enables people to understand the truth. He exalts Christ. He convicts of sin, righteousness, and judgment. He cultivates Christian character, comforts believers, and bestows the spiritual gifts by which they serve God through His church. He seals the believer for the day of final redemption. He enlightens and empowers the believer and the church for worship, evangelism, and service.*

1 CORINTHIANS 2:10-14

2 ¹⁰ These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. ¹¹ For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. ¹³ And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual.

¹⁴ The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned.



TRINITY: THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 2:10-14. What observations about the Holy Spirit stand out to you?
2. What do the following verses reveal about the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity: Psalm 139:7-10; Isaiah 61:1; Ephesians 1:17-18; Hebrews 9:14?
3. How is the Holy Spirit involved in creation? (See *Genesis 1:1-2, 26; Job 33:4; Psalm 104:30*)
4. What is revealed about the Holy Spirit's relationship to a Christ follower in John 14:16-17 and Romans 8:9-11? What assurance and evidence do you have of the Spirit's presence?

5. What do you learn about the purposes and promises of the Holy Spirit based on the following verses: Ezekiel 36:26-28; Matthew 10:19-20; John 14:26; 15:26; Romans 8:26-27; 15:13; Ephesians 1:13-14? Which one is most meaningful to you, and why?
6. According to Acts 2:1-18, how was the Holy Spirit essential in the beginning of the church?
7. According to 1 Corinthians 12:1-14, how does the Holy Spirit empower believers to build the church? How are you serving in your church?
8. In what ways are you fulfilling the great commission in the power of the Holy Spirit?
(See *Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 1:8*)
9. What does Galatians 5:16-25 reveal about the importance of keeping “in step with the Spirit”? In what area of your life will you ask God to change you through his power?

Notes

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*Created by the special act of God in His own image, **humanity** is the crowning work of His creation. In the beginning, man was innocent of sin, and his Creator endowed him with freedom of choice. By his free choice, man sinned against God, separating humanity from God. Only the grace of God can bring humanity into His holy fellowship and enable humanity to fulfill God's creative purpose.*

***Salvation** is offered freely to all who accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, who obtained eternal redemption for the believer by His own blood. When we turn from our sins and turn to Jesus in faith, we are saved. Salvation includes regeneration, sanctification, and glorification.*

ROMANS 3:21-26

3 ²¹ But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it—
²² the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: ²³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God's righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins. ²⁶ It was to show his righteousness at the present time, so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.



MAN & SALVATION

1. Meditate on Romans 3:21-26. What observations stand out to you about man and salvation?
2. What do the following verses teach you about the origin of man: Genesis 1:26-30; 2:7, 18-23; Psalm 8:3-6; 139:13-14; Colossians 1:16? What is your responsibility in the light of this truth?
3. What happened in Genesis 3:1-13, 22-24 that caused a separation between man and God?
4. How did God provide a way back to himself according to the following verses: Matthew 1:21; Luke 19:10; Acts 4:12; Galatians 3:13; 1 Thessalonians 5:9? How does this encourage you?
5. What important truths about salvation are given in John 10:7-18? How do these truths give you a grateful heart?

6. For whom is salvation available? (See *John 5:24; Romans 10:13; 1 Timothy 2:3-4; 2 Peter 3:9*)

7. Why would a holy God blot out sin? (See *Isaiah 43:25; John 3:16; Romans 5:8-10; Ephesians 1:3-6*)

8. How do people try to save themselves? What happens when people reject the truth found in John 14:6? (See *John 3:18; Romans 6:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:9*)

9. Read Luke 6:46 and Philippians 2:12-13. In what ways are Christ followers called to work out their own salvation? (See *John 15:5; Romans 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 3:13-14*)

10. How do the following verses assure believers of their salvation in Christ Jesus: John 10:28-29; Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 1:13-14; Philippians 1:6? How do these truths motivate you to believe and live for God? (See *Psalms 32:1-5*)

Notes

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*God has ordained the **family** as the foundational institution of human society. It consists of persons related to one another by marriage, blood, or adoption. Furthermore, biblical marriage is defined as the permanent union between one man and one woman, with “man” and “woman” defined by their biological sex at birth.*

EPHESIANS 5:15-6:4

5 ¹⁵ Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸ And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the

washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.



THE FAMILY

1. Meditate on Ephesians 5:15–6:4. What observations stand out to you about God’s design for the family? (*Keep these verses in mind as you answer the following questions.*)

2. How does marriage represent Christ’s relationship to the church?

3. What is the biblical foundation of a family? (See *Genesis 1:27–28; 2:18–24; 3:20; Matthew 19:4–6*)

4. Read 1 Corinthians 6:18; 7:1–5, 10–11; 2 Corinthians 6:14; Hebrews 13:4; 1 Peter 3:1–7. What biblical principles does God provide to protect marriage? If you are married, how will you exercise these principles? If you are not married, how can these principles shape the way you honor marriage and prepare for healthy relationships?

5. What privileges do believers have in being adopted into God’s family? (*See Romans 8:14–17; Galatians 4:4–7; Ephesians 1:3–9*) How do these truths encourage you?

6. What responsibilities come with being a part of God's family? (See also *1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:2; Titus 2:1-10; 1 Peter 4:9-10*) How is living out these responsibilities convicting or challenging?
7. What steps will you take to serve God's family in your church?
8. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-7; Psalm 78:1-4; Ephesians 6:4; 1 Timothy 5:8. What responsibilities do Christians have toward their families? How do you practice these principles within your own family?
9. How are familial relationships broken? According to the following verses, what are some ways to maintain wholeness within your relationships: Luke 10:27; Romans 12:18; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7; Ephesians 4:32; Philippians 2:3; Colossians 3:12-13; James 5:16?
10. What practical steps will you take to strengthen and preserve your family?

Notes

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The Church is the local body of believers associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the gospel. A body committed to His teachings, exercising the gifts, rights, and privileges invested in them by His Word, and seeking to extend the gospel to the ends of the earth.

Baptism is immersing a willing believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit is an act of obedience that symbolizes the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior.

The Lord's Supper is the symbolic act of obedience in which members of the body of Christ, in remembrance of Christ, partake of the bread and the fruit of the vine to memorialize the death of their Redeemer and anticipate His second coming.

EPHESIANS 4:1-16

4 ¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. ⁷ But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ's gift. ⁸ Therefore it says,

“When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.”

⁹ (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? ¹⁰ He who descended is

the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.) ¹¹ And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, ¹² to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, ¹⁴ so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. ¹⁵ Rather, speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.



THE CHURCH & ORDINANCES

1. Meditate on Ephesians 4:1-16. What observations do you make about the church as the body of Christ? *(Keep these verses in mind as you answer the following questions.)*
2. How is a healthy church described?
3. What further information do you learn about the church from 1 Corinthians 1:2; Ephesians 1:22-23; Colossians 1:18; Revelation 19:7?
4. What purposes of the church are emphasized in the following passages: Acts 2:42; Ephesians 3:10; Colossians 1:27-28; 3:16; James 1:27?
5. List some of the responsibilities believers have within the church. *(See Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27; Ephesians 4:11-12; Titus 2:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25; 1 Peter 4:10-11)*
In what ways are you serving in your church?

6. What are two church ordinances all believers are called to observe?
(See *Luke 22:13-20*; *Acts 2:37-41*)

7. What do you learn about baptism from the following verses: *Matthew 28:19*; *Acts 8:12, 36-38*; *18:8*; *19:5*; *Romans 6:3-4*? If you have placed your faith in Christ but have not yet been baptized, what is holding you back?

8. According to *1 Corinthians 11:23-29*, what is the significance of the Lord's Supper? Why are we all called to examine ourselves before participating in the Lord's Supper?

9. As a member of the body of Christ, what changes do you personally need to make to serve and support your church?

Notes

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Handwriting practice lines consisting of 28 horizontal lines. The first 24 lines are full-width. The last 4 lines are shorter, ending at the same horizontal position as the 24th line, leaving a gap on the right side.





*God is the source of all blessings, both temporal and spiritual. All that we have and are we owe to Him. According to Scripture, Christians should **contribute** from their means cheerfully, regularly, systematically, proportionately, and liberally to advance the Redeemer's cause on earth.*

GENESIS 1:22-31

¹ ²² And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures according to their kinds—livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth according to their kinds.” And it was so. ²⁵ And God made the beasts of the earth according to their kinds and the livestock according to their kinds, and everything that creeps on the ground according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.

²⁸ And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” ²⁹ And God said, “Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.



STEWARDSHIP

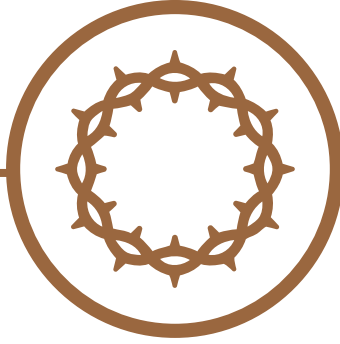
1. Meditate on Genesis 1:22-31. What observations stand out to you about God giving man stewardship over all that he created?
2. How does God establish that he is the owner of all things in the following verses: Deuteronomy 8:17-18; Job 41:11; Psalm 24:1; 89:11; Haggai 2:8; Colossians 1:16-17?
3. According to the following verses, what does biblical stewardship involve: Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 3:9; Romans 12:9-13; Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-12; 5:15-16; Hebrews 13:16; 1 Peter 4:10-11?
4. Based on your understanding of ownership versus stewardship, how is your perspective challenged? (See *1 Corinthians 4:1-2*; *2 Corinthians 9:6-7*; *Colossians 3:17, 23-24*; *James 1:17*)

5. How are you stewarding the time, talents and treasure that God has given you?
6. What do you learn about financial stewardship from the following verses: 1 Chronicles 29:1-9; Mark 12:41-44; 2 Corinthians 9:8-15? In what ways are you trusting worldly provisions more than the promises of God? (See *Luke 12:28-34*; *1 Timothy 6:6-8*; *Hebrews 13:5*)
7. What does God promise to those who are faithful in stewardship? (See *Matthew 25:21*; *Acts 20:35*; *2 Corinthians 8:9*.) How are you a beneficiary of someone else's faithful stewardship?
8. What changes do you need to make based on what you have learned about stewardship this week?

Notes

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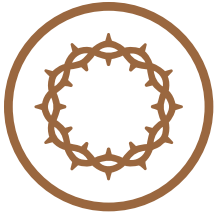
*God, in His own time and in His own way,
will bring the world to its **proper end**.
According to His promise, Jesus Christ will
return to the earth personally and visibly
in glory. The dead will be raised, and Christ
will judge all people in righteousness.
The unrighteous will be consigned to Hell,
the place of everlasting punishment. The
righteous, in their resurrected and glorified
bodies, will receive their reward and dwell
forever in Heaven with the Lord.*

2 PETER 3:1-13

3 ¹ This is now the second letter that I am writing to you, beloved. In both of them I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, ² that you should remember the predictions of the holy prophets and the commandment of the Lord and Savior through your apostles, ³ knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. ⁴ They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ⁵ For they deliberately overlook this fact, that the heavens existed long ago, and the earth was formed out of water and through water by the word of God, ⁶ and that by means of these the world that then existed was deluged with water and perished. ⁷ But by the same word the heavens and earth that now exist are stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of the ungodly.

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. ¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed.

¹¹ Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, ¹² waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! ¹³ But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.



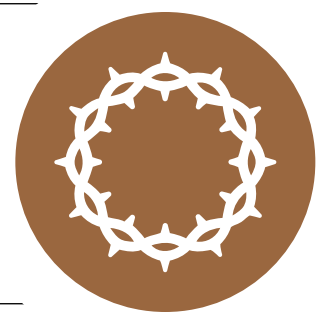
THE LAST DAYS

1. Meditate on 2 Peter 3:1-13. What observations stand out to you about the last days?
2. What do you learn about the last days from the following verses:
Matthew 24:29-31; 25:31-46; Acts 2:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:8; Hebrews 1:1-2; 2 Peter 3:3, 8-10?
3. How do the following verses encourage you about the promised return of Christ:
Matthew 16:27; John 14:1-3; Acts 1:10-11; 1 John 3:2; Revelation 1:7?
4. What are Christ followers to do while they wait for Jesus' return? (See *Matthew 24:42-44; 1 Corinthians 15:58; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22; Titus 2:11-13; 1 John 2:28*) What changes do you need to make to live with an eternal perspective?
5. What promises for Christ followers are found in the following verses concerning the last days: John 6:39-40; 10:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 4:15-17; 2 Timothy 4:8; Revelation 21:4. How do these promises motivate you to serve Jesus?

6. Read Matthew 25:46; John 3:16-18, 36; Romans 6:23. What distinguishes believers from non-believers?
7. What will characterize the last days according to 2 Timothy 3:1-9? How do you see this godlessness in the world today, and how does it lead you to examine your own heart?
8. What is the end for those who reject Jesus Christ? (*See Isaiah 66:24; Matthew 13:41-42; 2 Thessalonians 1:5-9; Revelation 21:8*) How does the reality of eternal judgment deepen your compassion for the lost and strengthen your resolve to proclaim the gospel?
9. What do believers have to look forward to according to 1 Peter 1:3-5; Revelation 21:1-6; 22:1-4? How do these verses give you peace?
10. How do both the brevity of life and the promise of eternal life impact you?
(*See Psalm 39:4; 90:12; 103:15-16; John 6:27; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Timothy 6:12; James 4:14*)

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*It is the privilege of every follower of Christ and of every church of the Lord Jesus Christ to endeavor to **make disciples** of all nations. It is the duty of every child of God to seek constantly to share Christ with the lost so that they may come to know His saving grace.*

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-11

15 ¹ Now I would remind you, brothers, of the gospel I preached to you, which you received, in which you stand, ² and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

³ For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁴ that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. ⁶ Then he appeared to more than five

hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.

⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. ⁸ Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, unworthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

¹⁰ But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. ¹¹ Whether then it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.



THE GOSPEL MISSION

1. Meditate on 1 Corinthians 15:1-11. What observations stand out to you about the gospel?
2. What additional truths about the gospel are given in the following verses:
Mark 1:14-15; John 14:6; Romans 5:8; Ephesians 3:1-12; 1 John 4:9-10?
3. How does the gospel reveal the grace of God?
(See *John 6:44; Acts 16:14; Ephesians 1:7; 2:8-9; 1 Timothy 1:12-14*)
4. What do you learn about the gospel mission from Philippians 1:3-14?
5. How were others instrumental in your coming to Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

6. What happens when a person doesn't accept the saving grace of God in Jesus Christ?
(See *John 3:18, 36; 2 Thessalonians 1:9*)

7. What is the responsibility of everyone who has received the gospel? (See *Matthew 24:14; 28:19; Romans 1:16; 10:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:4*) How are you fulfilling this missional command in your family, community, church and the nations?

8. What makes it challenging for you to share the good news of Jesus Christ? Who will you pray about having a gospel conversation with?

9. How can you remain steadfast in the face of rejection and hostility when sharing the gospel? (See *John 15:4-5; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 1:27; 2 Timothy 1:7-9; Hebrews 12:3*)

10. Reflect on the Foundations of the Faith.
 - » What have you learned about the following:
 - *The Bible?*

 - *Your relationship with God?*

 - *Serving your church family?*

 - *Sharing the gospel?*
 - » How will you daily live out these truths?

Notes

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This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



*"The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God will stand forever."*

ISAIAH 40:8



*"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole
Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship,
and the whole world for my mission field."*

JOHN WESLEY



*"When there's something in the Word of God that I don't
like, the problem is not with the Word of God. It's with me."*

R.C. SPROUL



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CHURCH

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