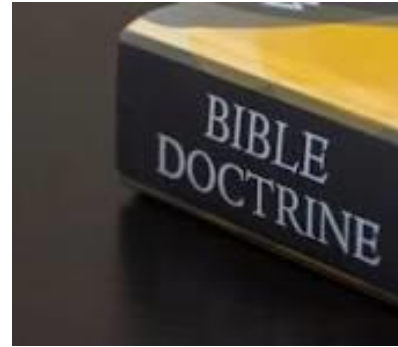
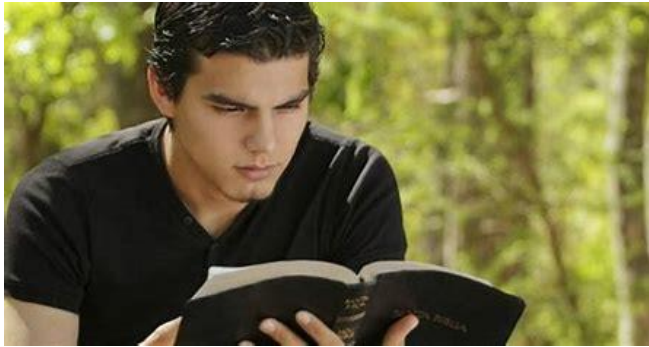


CHURCH OF HOPE 17 WEEK EVANGELISM AND MINISTRY TRAINING COURSE

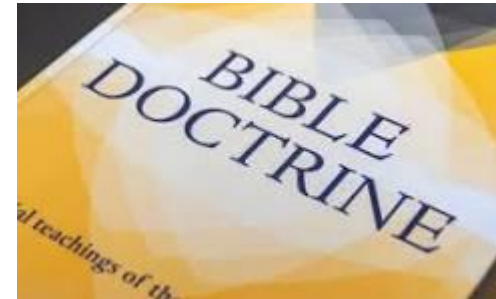


STUDY GUIDE: WEEKS TEN AND ELEVEN (POWERPOINTS)

**TOPIC NINE: DOCTRINES OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH AND
SOME KEYS TO GROWING IN MATURITY IN OUR WALK
WITH THE LORD (PART ONE)**

INTRODUCTION TO WEEKS TEN AND ELEVEN:

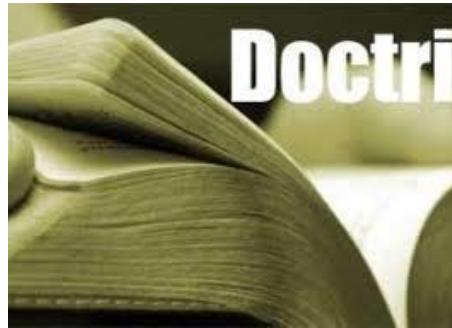
- Topic number nine is very important as it is so essential that all believers grow strong in their faith and that they have a clear understanding of the doctrines of the Christian faith.



- For this reason we cover this week's topic over two weeks as we continue in the segment of this course relating to the importance of making mature disciples.

In this study guide we will be:

- i. Looking at our doctrinal beliefs as a Christian church with references being made to the bible scriptures relating to these beliefs, and



- ii. We will conclude with some important keys that can help Christians to grow in maturity in their walk with the Lord and some related Scriptures.

- An important part of the readings for Topic Number Nine is a teaching that covers the six foundations of our faith as outlined in Chapter six of the book of Hebrews.



- This teaching is called “The six doctrines of our Christian faith” and can be downloaded from the following page for this course on the Church of Hope website:
https://www.coh.org.au/ministry_course

In the book of Hebrews we read,

“Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.”

(Hebrews 6:1-2)



In Hebrews 6:1-2 we see the six foundations of our faith;

- i. Repentance from dead works,
- ii. Faith toward God,
- iii. The Doctrine of baptisms (There are two Christian Baptisms. One is the Water Baptism and the other is being Baptised in the Holy Spirit by Jesus),
- iv. Laying on of hands,
- v. Resurrection of the dead, and
- vi. Eternal Judgment



- In Hebrews 6:1 we **ALSO** see the importance as a Christian of growing in maturity as a believer once we have come to Christ, “...let us go on to perfection...”



- In the last part of this study we will look at some practical bible based keys to help Christians to grow in their faith.
- AT THIS POINT THE TEACHING ON THE SIX FOUNDATIONS OF OUR FAITH COULD DOWNLOADED AND READ TO HELP PEOPLE TO GAIN A MORE THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF THE SIX FOUNDATIONS OF OUR CHRISTIAN FAITH

- **True Spiritual Growth requires meditating on and studying the Word of God. (Joshua 1:8) (2 Timothy 2:15)**

In 1 Corinthians 2:9-11 the Apostle Paul emphasised our need for Holy Spirit-given wisdom and revelation,

“But as it is written:

“Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.” **(1 Corinthians 2:9)**

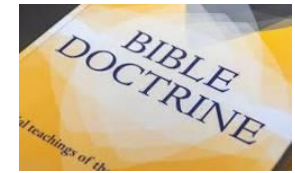


“But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes the deep things of God. For what man know the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? **Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.”** (1 Corinthians 2:10-11)

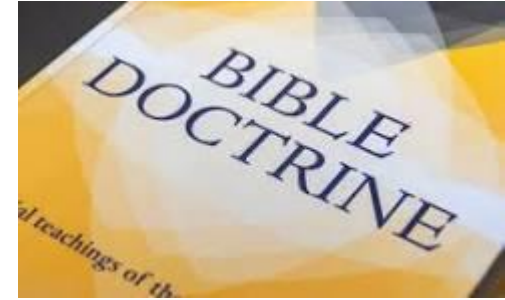


In 1 Corinthians 2:13 the Apostle Paul emphasised the need to speak the words that the Holy Spirit teaches,

“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 2:13)**



- In 2 Timothy 3:16 the Apostle Paul wrote that “ALL Scripture is given by inspiration of God.”
- Here the Apostle Paul was emphasising that each writer involved in the production of the Holy Scriptures was “moved by or inspired” by the Holy Spirit.



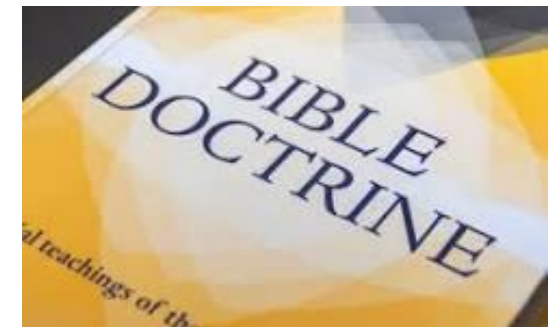
The Apostle Paul wrote,

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

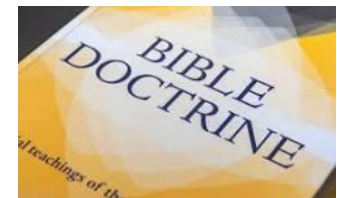
- In order to experience true spiritual growth, we must spend time in the Word and separate ourselves from the hindrances of lovelessness, competitiveness, and strife.
- When Paul was confronting the carnality of the Corinthians, he attributed this to the shallowness of their intake of God's word (Not able to take solid food).

(SEE 1 Corinthians 3:1-3)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

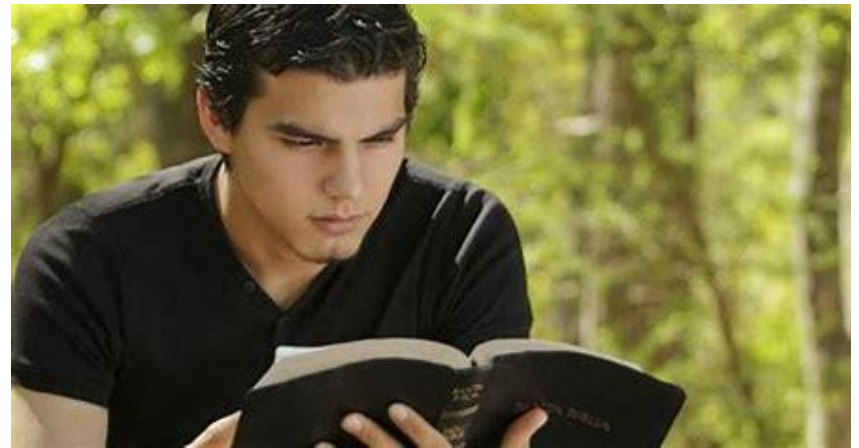
“And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and [\[a\]](#)behaving like *mere men*? (1 Corinthians 1:1-3)



- Therefore to experience true spiritual growth requires feeding on God's word

The LORD said to Joshua,

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” **(Joshua 1:8)**

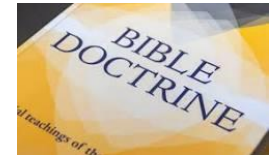


- Before we get into the study of the doctrines of our Christian faith (and what we believe) I will begin by looking at some of the bible Scriptures in relation to maintaining correct doctrine in our churches and in adhering to correct beliefs as a Christian.



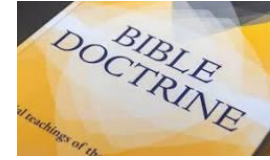
- Obviously as Pastors and Leaders we have a great responsibility in ensuring that all of our teachings and the messages that we preach are doctrinally correct.

- Maintaining a pure heart as a pastor, teacher or leader is very important as what we teach influences the lives of many others with eternal ramifications.
- As pastors and leaders we are responsible for the spiritual well being of many.
- In the lawless times that we are now living in, it is so important that we do not allow the influences in the world and wrong input from other people to cause us to deviate away from the foundational truths contained in the Word of God, but that we continually declare to others the whole counsel of God. **(Act 20:27)**



- As leaders we will receive a stricter judgement. **(James 3:1)**

In the book of James we read,

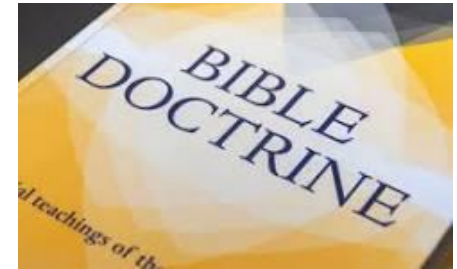


“My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.” **(James 3:1)**

- For this reason heeding the wisdom in the book of Proverbs ““Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.” **(Proverbs 4:23)** is very important.
- In particular we must always prevent offences from entering our heart by being always quick to forgive others.

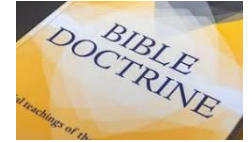
Jesus Himself said in relation to the times that we are now living in,

“And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Matthew 24:10-11)



- Maintaining a right heart is crucial to finishing our Christian walk well and fulfilling God’s plan and purpose for our life**

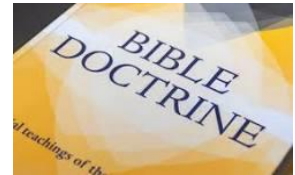
- In 2 Peter verses 1-3 the Apostle Peter warns of immoral and greedy false teachers who will use people as a means of reaching their own selfish goals.



“But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time their judgment has not been idle, and their destruction does not slumber.” **(2 Peter 2:1-3)**

- **The New Testament indicates that deceptive teachers will characterize the church age and that their activities will increase “in latter times” (1 Timothy 4:1) (Matthew 24:11)**

The Apostle Paul wrote,

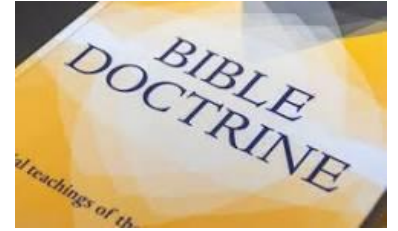


“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,” **(1 Timothy 4:1)**

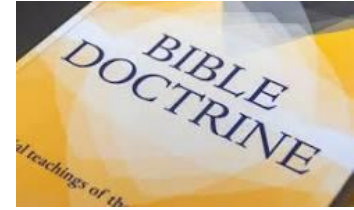
- **With this in mind we will now just look at a few things to consider in relation to maintaining correct Doctrinal Beliefs.**

1) We must always preach the one true gospel

(Galatians 1:6-9) (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)



- We must never add to or preach another gospel.
- The Apostle Paul warned against preaching a wrong gospel when he said, “As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you that what you have received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:9)
- We are justified by faith alone. The Apostle Paul wrote, “But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” **(Galatians 3:11)**



The Apostle Paul also wrote,

“Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you – unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: **that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,**” (1 Corinthians 15:1-4)

The Apostle Paul also wrote,

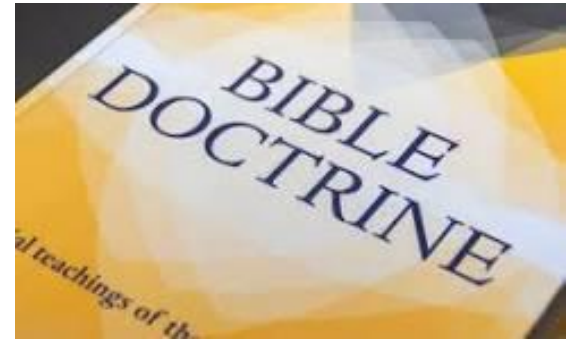
“knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.” (**Galatians 2:16**)



- **True faith also involves true repentance.**

The Apostle Peter wrote,

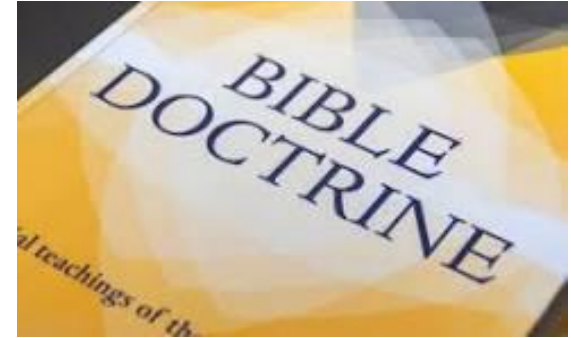
“Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” (**Acts 3:19**)



In the gospel of Mark we read,

“Now after John was put in prison, Jesus came to Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”” (**Mark 1:14-15**)

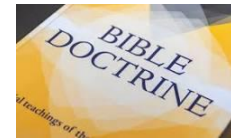
2) All that we need is found *in* Christ (Colossians 1:28)
(Matthew 6:25) (Matthew 6:31-33)



The Apostle Paul wrote,

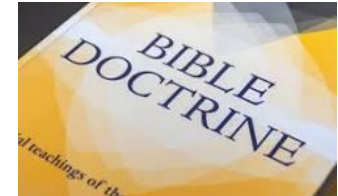
“that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height-to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:17-19)

The Apostle Paul also wrote, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ.”
(Ephesians 1:3)



- In Christ we have been chosen, we are blameless, we have been predestined to adoption into God’s family as sons [*children of God – John 1:12*], we have been accepted, we have been forgiven and we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise (which is a down payment or first instalment for God’s title to possess us entirely forever)
(See Ephesians 1:4-14)

In response to false teachers at Colosse undercutting the major doctrines of Christianity, the Apostle Paul again reinforced the deity and absolute lordship and sufficiency of Christ:



- Not Philosophy but Christ (COLOSSIANS 2:1-10)
- Not Legalism but Christ (COLOSSIANS 2:11-23)
- Not Carnality but Christ (COLOSSIANS 3:1-11)

The Apostle Paul wrote,

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 3:11)

(See also 1 Peter 2:4-9)



3) Christ is head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all (Ephesians 1:22-23)



- The church, which is made up of all born again believers, is the present, physical presence of Christ. The church (the body of Christ) is filled with Him by the Holy Spirit
- **As believers we are living stones (1 Peter 2:5), temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19) and TOGETHER we make up the church with Jesus Christ being the chief cornerstone. (1 Peter 2:6-7)**

- The church is the new spiritual Israel. **(1 Peter 2:9-10)**

The Apostle Peter wrote, “But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;” **(1 Peter 2:9)**

- As we are all part of the body of Christ, we all need one another. **(1 Corinthians 12:12-28)**



- Every believer has an important ministry and part to play in the Body of Christ.

- As Christians we are all called to represent Jesus Christ in our community by ministering His life, love and power to others.



- Allowing the Holy Spirit to direct our church meetings is also a key to seeing people experiencing the love of Christ in our meetings in a tangible way.

4) In the early church they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine (the Word of God) (Acts 2:38)

- As a result of this and the emphasis on making disciples, the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:47)



- Preaching sound doctrine was one of the keys to the rapid growth of the early church

5) The Apostle Paul emphasised the necessity of sound doctrine and that all teaching is to be judged by its agreement with the words of our Lord Jesus Christ



The Apostle Paul wrote, “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome word, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions,” (1 Timothy 6:3-4) AND

6) The importance of all pastors and leaders studying, expounding and also applying the Scriptures to their own lives



The Apostle Paul wrote to the young pastor Timothy, “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity. Till I come, give attention to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.” (1 Timothy 4:13-14)

“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.” (1 Timothy 4:14-16)



- **We will now list the Doctrinal Beliefs for Church of Hope (which are the Assemblies of God beliefs) with related Scripture references.**
- **These Doctrinal Beliefs can in a conference setting be studied in small groups with a leader getting each group member to look up and read out different Scriptures that relate to each Doctrinal Belief.**
- **These Doctrinal Beliefs are both on the Church of Hope website www.coh.org.au and in the Church of Hope Pastors Workshop Manual that can be downloaded from the **DOWNLOADS** page on this website.**



THE BIBLE: We believe that the Holy Bible, and only the Bible, is 100% the Word of God. It, alone, is the final authority in determining all doctrinal truths.

“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” (2 Timothy 3:16-17) (Proverbs 30:5), (Psalm 1), (Psalm 119:105)



THE TRINITY (The Eternal Godhead):



WE BELIEVE in the unity of the true and living God who is the ETERNAL, self-existent one, who has revealed himself as ONE BEING in THREE PERSONS – *THE FATHER, THE SON (Jesus) AND THE HOLY SPIRIT*, and Who is the Creator and preserver of things visible and invisible. **(Deuteronomy 6:4), Mark 12:29), (Matthew 28:19), (Mark 12:29), (Genesis 1:1), (Psalm 86:9-10), (Isaiah 43:10-11), (John 1:1-3)**

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST: WE BELIEVE in the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who was and is the eternal Son of God; that he became incarnate by the Holy Spirit and was born of the Virgin Mary. (Jesus Christ was conceived by God the Holy Spirit in the Virgin Mary's womb)



On earth He was 100% God and 100% man. (**Isaiah 7:14**),
(**Matthew 1:23**)

WE BELIEVE in His sinless life (He was the only man to ever live a sinless life) (**Hebrews 7:26, 2 Corinthians 5:21, 1 Peter 2:22**), *miraculous ministry (Acts 2:22, Acts 10:38)*, substitutionary atoning death (**Hebrews 9:12**), *bodily resurrection (Luke 24:39, 1 Corinthians 15:4)*, His glorious ascension (**Acts 1:9**) and *abiding intercession (Hebrews 7:25)*.



THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE in the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity (Triune Godhead), who proceeds from the Father and the Son, and is ever present and active in the work of convicting (**John 16:7-11**) and regenerating the sinner, and sanctifying and guiding (**Romans 8:14**) the believer into all truth (**John 14:26** and **John 16:13**). (**Sanctification** is the ongoing process of yielding to God in order to become more and more like Christ) (**Romans 12:1-2, 2 Corinthians 3:18, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Romans 8:29** and **1 Thessalonians 5:23**)



THE ATONEMENT: WE BELIEVE that God's answer to man's sinful state is in the death of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ upon the cross, whose sufferings and shed blood have made full atonement for the sins of the whole world, both original and actual, and that there is no other ground for salvation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-21, Galatians 1:4, Colossians 1:20, Romans 5:9, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 1:7, Colossians 1:14, Hebrews 9:25-28, 1 Peter 1:18-20)



The blood that Jesus Christ shed on the cross of Calvary was sinless and is 100% sufficient to forgive man of all sins. Jesus allowed Himself to be punished for the sins we had committed, giving all mankind the opportunity of being free from the penalty of sin, (which is death).

Each person after reaching an age of reasoning must however make a response of repentance toward God and faith in Jesus Christ to receive God's forgiveness and gift of eternal life. **(John 1:29, Revelation 1:5 & 5:9)**



SALVATION OF MAN: WE BELIEVE salvation is received through **repentance** toward God and **faith** in the Lord Jesus Christ. This experience is also known as the new birth {Being Born Again} (**John 3:3**) and is an instantaneous and complete operation of the Holy Spirit, whereupon the believing sinner is regenerated, justified, and adopted into the family of God, and becomes a new creation in Christ Jesus (**2 Corinthians 5:17**) and an heir of eternal life. (**Titus 2:11, Titus 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:23**)



REPENTANCE is a commitment to turn from sin in every area of our lives and to follow Christ. (**Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19**)

SALVATION is a gift from God and cannot be earned. It is not based on our good works or human efforts. For by grace you have been saved through faith (**in Jesus Christ and His death burial and resurrection**), and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”
(**Ephesians 2:8-9**)



THE DEVIL: WE BELIEVE in the personality of the devil, who, by his influence, brought about the downfall of man, and now seeks to destroy the faith of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. (**Genesis 3:1-15, Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13, James 4:7, John 13:2, 1 Peter 5:8**)



THE FALL OF MAN: WE BELIEVE that man was created by God by a specific immediate act and in His image and likeness, morally upright and perfect, *but fell by voluntary transgression.* Consequently, all men are separated from original righteousness, being depraved and without spiritual life. (**Genesis 1:26-28, Genesis 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-21**)



THE CHURCH: The church is the *body of Christ*, the habitation of God, through the Spirit, with divine appointments for the fulfilment of her great commission. *Each believer*, born of the Spirit, is an *integral part* of the *general assembly and church* of the first-born, which are written in heaven. (**Ephesians 1:22-23, Ephesians 2:19-22, Hebrews 12:23**)



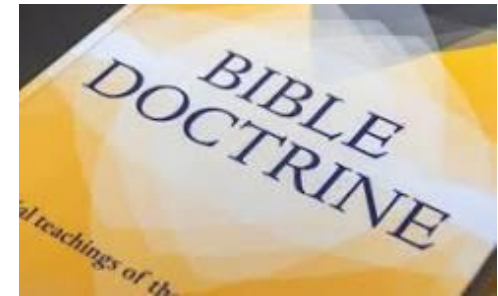
WATER BAPTISM: WE BELIEVE that baptism, by single immersion, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, is required of all who have repented and believed in Christ as Saviour and Lord, and that it is symbolic of our identification with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection.

Following believing on the Lord Jesus Christ, the new convert is commanded by the Word of God to be water baptized by full immersion.



The Christian Water Baptism is an outward act of obedience by which a believer confesses and confirms, the inward righteousness he already enjoys in his heart through faith in Christ's atoning death and resurrection, by openly acknowledging their allegiance to Christ.

(Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 10:47-48, Acts 2:38-39, Romans 6:4-5, Colossians 2:12, Mark 16:16)



THE LORD'S SUPPER: WE BELIEVE the Lord's supper, consisting of the elements of bread and the fruit of the vine, is the symbol expressing our sharing the divine nature of our Lord Jesus Christ (**2 Peter 1:4**), and a memorial of His sufferings and death (**1 Corinthians 11:26**), and is enjoined upon all believers "until He comes". (**Luke 22:14-20, Matthew 26:26-28, Acts 20:7**)



The Lord's Supper is a unique time of communion in the presence of God when the elements of bread and wine (representing the broken body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ), are taken in remembrance of His sacrifice on the cross for us. **(1 Corinthians 11:23-25)**



SANCTIFICATION: Sanctification is an act of separation from that which is evil, and of dedication unto God. WE BELIEVE it is the glorious provision for every believer in Christ to be made pure in heart and wholly sanctified, through the operation of the Holy Spirit, by the Blood of Jesus and the Word of God. (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24)

(John 17:15-19, Acts 15:8-9, 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5, Hebrews 2:11, Hebrews 10:16-19, Romans 12:1-2)

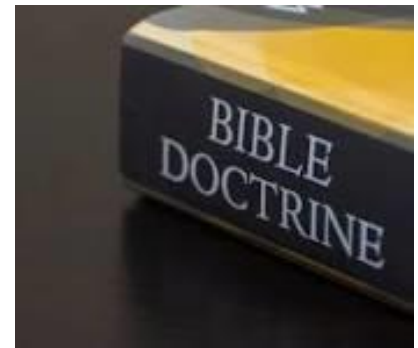


THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT: WE BELIEVE that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the bestowing of the believer with power *to be an effective witness for Christ.* This experience is **distinct** from, and **subsequent** to, the new birth; *is received by faith,* and is accompanied by the manifestation of *speaking in tongues* as the spirit gives utterance, as the initial evidence.

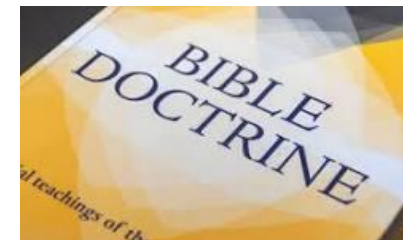
(Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, Acts 1:8, Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:1-4, Acts 2:17-18, Mark 16:17, Acts 8:15-19, Acts 11:14-17, Acts 19:1-7, Matthew 3:11)



Given at Pentecost, it was the promise of the Father, sent by Jesus after His ascension, to empower the Church to preach the gospel throughout the whole earth, to edify believers (**1 Corinthians 14:4**), to enhance the prayer life of believers and as a sign to unbelievers. (**1 Corinthians 14:22**)



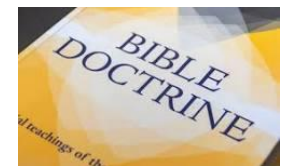
GIFTS: WE BELIEVE in the **present day** operation of the **nine** *supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit*, as recorded in *1 Corinthians 12:7-11*. (*The word of wisdom, The word of knowledge, The gift of faith, Gifts of healing, The working of miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of spirits, Different kinds of tongues and Interpretation of tongues*). We also believe in the **five** ministry gifts of Christ, as recorded in *Ephesians 4:11-13*. (*Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers*)



OTHER GIFTS FROM THE FATHER INCLUDE: Prophecy, Exhortation, Giving, Leadership, Mercy, Ministry and the gift of Teaching (Regardless of Public Office) **(Romans 12:3-8)** Helps and Administrations are two other gifts. **(1 Corinthians 12:28)** **WE MUST HOWEVER NEVER FORGET THAT WHATEVER WE DO IN LIFE MUST BE DONE IN LOVE.** (The Apostle Paul emphasised this in chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians) (See also Romans 12:9-21)



DIVINE HEALING: In accordance with the teachings of the Scriptures, we trust our heavenly Father to protect and heal our bodies from sickness and disease. (**Isaiah 53:5**) WE BELIEVE that divine healing for the body, as with all *redemptive blessings of God*, has been provided for us by the *atoning death and victorious resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ*; it is the privilege of *all* believers and it is appropriated by faith in our heavenly Father's unfailing promises. (**Exodus 15:26, Psalm 103:3, 1 Peter 2:24, Matthew 8:16-17, James 5:14-15, Mark 16:17-18 and John 14:12-14**)

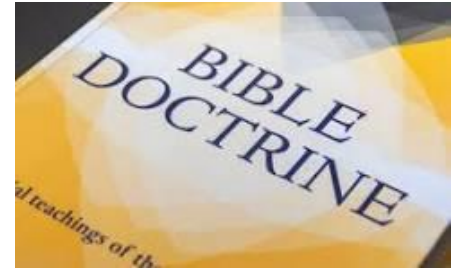


THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST: WE BELIEVE
in the premillennial, imminent and personal return of our Lord Jesus Christ to gather his people unto Himself. Having this glorious hope and earnest expectation, we purify ourselves, even as He is pure, so that we may be ready to meet Him when He comes. **(1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)**



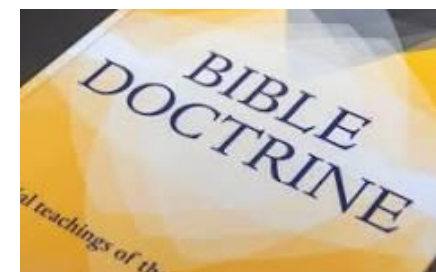
Jesus Christ will physically and visibly return to earth a second time to establish His Kingdom. This will occur at a date undisclosed by the Scriptures. **(Matthew 24:36)**

THE RAPTURE (PROPHECY): There are several different theological views on the timing of the rapture of true believers. These include:

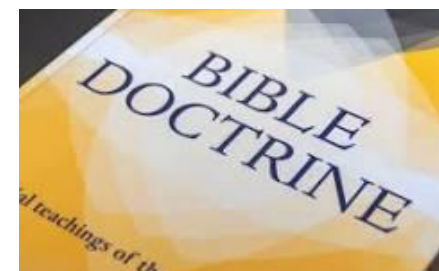


The Premillennial mid-tribulation view: sees all believers being “raptured” after 42 months (1,260 days) of the 7-year Great Tribulation, with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events.

The Premillennial Prewrath Rapture View: sees all believers being “raptured” during the Great Tribulation, but prior to the “day of God’s wrath” (Rev. 6:17), with the Rapture and Second Coming being separate events. This view states that true believers will be raptured prior to the “day of God’s wrath”, as believers have not been appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, **(1 Thessalonians 5:9)**



If Chapter 24 of Matthew is to be interpreted in light of Chapter six of Revelations, the rapture could take place *Mid-Tribulation* (Matthew 24:31) *after* the cosmic disturbances mentioned both in **Revelation 6:12** and **Matthew 24:29**, *just prior to the great day of His wrath.* (*Revelation 6:17*)



The *Dispensational Interpretation*, (Pre-Tribulation), sees the rapture of all true believers (**Revelation 4:1**) taking place prior to the Anti-Christ rising to power. *This interpretation* sees him as the Conqueror in the First Seal, and the Great Tribulation commencing with the first seal. (**Revelation 6:1**)

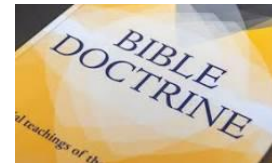
- **This is the theological view of the Assemblies of God for the timing of the rapture of all true believers**



The Premillennial Pre-tribulation Partial Rapture View: sees only some believers being “Raptured” before the Great Tribulation. Those who are “unready” must be martyred to verify their faith, with the Rapture and the Second Coming being separate events.

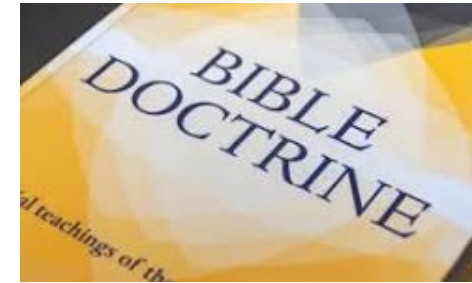


The Premillennial Post-tribulation View: sees all believers being “Raptured” at the end of the Great Tribulation and that the Rapture and the Second coming are the same event. Given that Believers have not been appointed to wrath, but to obtain salvation, this particular view does not appear plausible.



There are also other theological views on the timing of the rapture and which deal with the “last things” (Eschatology)

HOWEVER, for those who are faithful in their Christian walk, the Bible promises that they will be kept from the hour of trial, which shall come upon the whole world to test those who dwell on the earth. (**Revelation 3:10**)



WE MUST SIMPLY BE READY TO MEET THE LORD AT ANY TIME.

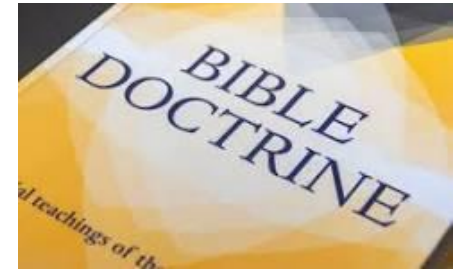
THE MILLENNIUM: WE BELIEVE in the return of the Lord Jesus Christ to set up His millennial reign on this earth. (**Zechariah 14:5, Daniel 7:22, Revelation 5:9-10, Psalm 96:10-13, Revelation 20:1-10**)



THE PUNISHMENT OF THE WICKED: WE BELIEVE
in the everlasting punishment of the wicked (in the sense of eternal torment) who willfully reject and despise the love of God, manifested in the great sacrifice of his only Son upon the cross for their salvation. (**Romans 6:23, Matthew 25:46, Matthew 13:49-50, Luke 12:47-48, 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Revelation 20:11-15**)

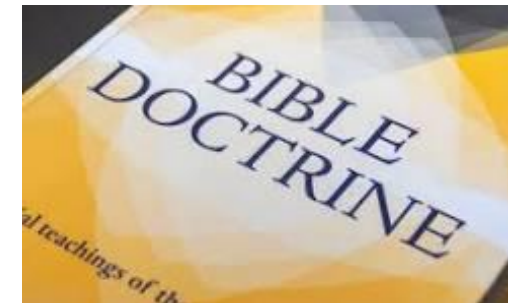


We believe that the devil and his angels and whosoever is not found written in the book of life shall be consigned to everlasting punishment in the lake, which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (**Revelation 19:20, Revelation 20:10-15**)



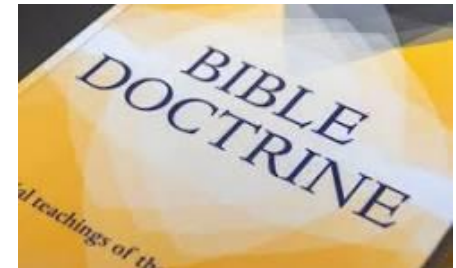
THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH: “We according to His promise look for new heavens and a new earth wherein dwells righteousness” (**2 Peter 3:13, Revelation Chapters 21 and 22.**)

RESURRECTION: WE BELIEVE that Jesus Christ was physically resurrected from the dead in a glorified body three days after His death on the cross. One day all believers who have died in Christ will also be physically resurrected in their glorified bodies and will be judged to determine their eternal rewards in heaven, where they will dwell with God forever. **(Luke 24:36-40, 1 Corinthians 15:42,44, John 20:26-28, John 21:4, Luke 24:15)**



The final resurrection at the close of the millennium will be mainly for those who have rejected Christ, and they will be judged for what they did while in the body. Following this judgment, those who rejected Christ will be consigned to the lake of fire (spirit, soul and body).

(Revelation 20:13-14)

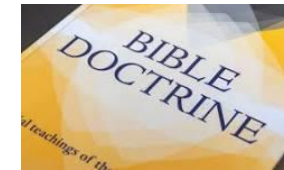


Two categories of people in the final resurrection, who will come forth to the resurrection of life and not condemnation, are people such as the queen of the South (Sheba) and the men of Nineveh referred to by Jesus, who were not granted a revelation of Christ's atoning sacrifice in which they could trust for salvation, (Luke 11:31-32) and the righteous who died during Christ's millennial reign on earth.

(One of the purposes of Christ's return is for the national salvation of Israel.)



CREATION: WE BELIEVE that the heavens and earth and all original life forms, including man, were made by the specific immediate creative acts of God as described in the account of origins presented in Genesis, and that all biological changes which have occurred since creation are limited to variation within each species.



- **We will now conclude the teachings for topic nine by looking at a few keys and disciplines to help all Christians to grow in their walk with the Lord, “Let us go on to perfection...” (Hebrews 6:1) These keys and disciplines are in Weeks Nine and Ten PowerPoints - PART TWO**