

# The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 1

## Jesus' Life

The centerpiece of the Christian faith is the message of the Gospel: the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The entire religion stands or falls on whether these events are true or false (1 Corinthians 15:1-19). We cannot begin to understand Christianity without understanding Jesus and what He would have us to do. Let us begin by considering Jesus' life!

### Jesus' Birth

Matthew and Luke tell us the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew 1-2 and Luke 1-2. Jesus was born just as the prophets said He would be: to a virgin in the city of Bethlehem (Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Matthew 1:21-2:1).

Yet Jesus was born to a young girl, Mary, and her peasant carpenter husband, Joseph (Luke 2:4-5, 22-24). They lived in Nazareth of Galilee, a place not known for sophistication, and never received a formal education (Luke 2:4, John 1:46, 7:15). This was not the way that the King, the Son of God, was expected to come!

The story of Jesus' ministry unfolds in Matthew 3-20, Mark 1-10, Luke 3:1-19:27, and John 1:1-12:11. Two main themes are found in His ministry: His fulfillment of the Law and the prophecies and teaching regarding the Kingdom.

### Jesus and the Law

After He was baptized by John, the one who was foretold prepare His way, He began teaching and preaching to the Jews (cf. Matthew 3-4). He worked hard to fulfill all the Scriptures that spoke regarding Him (Matthew 5:17-18).

As He went around the villages and cities of Israel, He taught the people, healed the sick, cast out demons, and performed other signs and miracles, just as it was said of Him in Isaiah 61:1-4 (cf. Luke 7:22). When confronted with various questions about the Law of Moses by the Jewish religious authorities of the day, He answered them and put them to shame by the answers (cf. Matthew 20-22, etc.). He lived the story of Israel in His life, and by living without sin, He fulfilled the Law in every point (Hebrews 4:15). This is why He was able to say, "it is finished," upon the cross (John 19:30)!

### Jesus and the Kingdom

Jesus also taught much regarding the Kingdom of God: this was the core of the message He presented in the cities and villages of Israel (Matthew 4:17, 23). He spoke to them about the Kingdom in parables, comparing the way the Kingdom worked to sowing seed, catching fish, a pearl, and such things (Matthew 13). He provided instructions about how to live in this Kingdom in the popularly called "Sermon on the Mount" in Matthew 5-7 and the "Sermon on the Plain" in Luke 6:20-49.

Jesus also selected twelve men to be His special disciples (Luke 6:12-16). They followed Him and saw all that He did (Luke 5:11). He taught them many things about the Kingdom that were not yet told to others (Matthew 13:10-17). He prepared them to take His message throughout Israel, and gave them authority in the Kingdom (Matthew 10:1-42, 16:17-19, 18:18). While the disciples believed that Jesus was the Christ, they did not yet entirely understand the nature of the Kingdom of which He spoke (cf. Matthew 16:19, John 6:68-69, Matthew 20:20-28).

## The Final Week in Jerusalem

After roughly three years of ministry, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for the Passover festival in the year 30 CE (Matthew 21:1-26:13, Mark 11:1-14:9, Luke 19:28-22:2, John 12:12-50). He entered the city in triumph. He entered the Temple, drove out the money-changers, taught the people, and refuted the arguments of the religious authorities. As the Passover drew near, the religious authorities plotted to put Him to death. His time drew near, as we will see in lesson 2!

### Questions for Lesson 1

1. Jesus was born into a wealthy family.  
True or False
2. Which of the following did Jesus do in order to fulfill prophecy?
  - a. Taught the people.
  - b. Healed the sick.
  - c. Cast out demons.
  - d. Stole from the rich and gave to the poor.
3. How did Jesus teach the people about the Kingdom?
  - a. Through miracles.
  - b. In parables.
  - c. He did not teach them about the Kingdom.
  - d. With flow charts.
4. Jesus selected twelve men to be His special disciples to prepare them for His Kingdom.  
True or False
5. Jesus claimed to be the Messiah, the expected deliverer of the Jews. He also claimed to be the Son of God. How would you expect the Messiah and the Son of God to live? How did Jesus really live?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 2

### Jesus' Death

We have looked into the life of Jesus and saw that the religious authorities were conspiring against Him in Jerusalem. What would happen?

#### How Jesus Died

We learn about Jesus' betrayal, trial, suffering, death, and burial in Matthew 26:14-27:66, Mark 14:11-15:47, Luke 22:3-23:56, and John 13-19.

As the religious authorities plot to kill Jesus, Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, makes plans to betray Jesus into their hands. Jesus and His disciples eat the Passover meal. He establishes the Lord's Supper, bread and fruit of the vine consumed in the memory of what Jesus was going to accomplish through what He suffered. After Jesus provided some final lessons to His disciples, they all departed for the Garden of Gethsemane.

After Jesus spent some time praying in the garden, Judas and the band of soldiers came and arrested Him. He was taken before the Jewish authorities and sentenced to death for blasphemy. Meanwhile, all of His disciples fled, and Peter denied Jesus three times. He was then led before the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. Pilate did not believe that He was guilty, and so he had Jesus scourged (a severe whipping), and hoped to release Him. The religious authorities stirred up the crowds of Jews against Jesus. They wanted Barabbas, a murderer, released, and wanted Pilate to crucify Jesus. Pilate gave in to their demands.

After suffering more humiliation and torture from the Roman soldiers, Jesus was led to a place called Golgotha (also called Calvary) where He was crucified. Crucifixion involved a person being nailed through the wrists and the ankles upon a wooden cross, raised up, and left to die. It was a cruel form of capital punishment reserved for enemies of the state. After no fewer than three hours on the cross, having suffered great physical, emotional, and mental suffering, Jesus died.

After Jesus' death, Joseph of Arimathea asked Pilate for His body. He prepared Jesus' body for burial and placed it in his new rock-cut tomb.

#### Why Jesus Died

The Bible teaches us that Jesus did not sin and committed no offense worthy of death (Hebrews 4:15, 1 Peter 2:22). If He did nothing wrong, why did Jesus suffer and die so tragically?

Ever since Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, mankind has suffered the consequences of sin. Because of sin, death entered the world (Romans 5:12-18). Sin separated man from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). All have sinned (Romans 3:9-23). Every person, because of their sin, deserves a sentence of eternal condemnation, and there is nothing that we humans can do about it by ourselves (Romans 6:23).

Sin is a big problem, and it is something that God, who is holy, cannot just ignore (Leviticus 19:2). If sin would be covered, or atoned for, a penalty would need to be paid to satisfy justice. That penalty always involved the shedding of blood, because life is in the blood (Leviticus 17:11, Hebrews 9:22). This is why Israel was commanded to offer the blood of bulls, goats, and lambs for their sins-- they were innocent creatures upon whom the consequences of sin could be laid (Leviticus 1-8). But that blood could not really take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

Since Jesus never sinned, He could become the sacrifice that would cover the sins of everyone for all time. That is why He was called the Lamb of God, the One who took away the sin of the world (John 1:29). God loved mankind enough to allow His Son to be sacrificed and to take on the sins of the world so that people could be forgiven of their sins and be brought back to God (John 3:16, Hebrews 9:1-10:18).

Jesus died, therefore, for the sin of every man and woman, taking on the penalty of sin so that we would not have to (Romans 5:4-8). Jesus' death allows people to be brought back to God and to enjoy a restored relationship with our Creator (Romans 5:9-11). Thanks be to God for His wonderful gift!

It is true that Jesus died, but that is not the end of the story. You can learn more in lesson 3!

## Questions for Lesson 2

1. What is the Lord's Supper?
  - a. Bread and fruit of the vine taken in memory of Jesus' death.
  - b. A wedding party.
  - c. A large feast.
  - d. There is no such thing.
  
2. Jesus was scourged and crucified, fulfilling prophecy.  
True or False
  
3. Why did Jesus die?
  - a. For the sin of mankind.
  - b. For committing insurrection against Rome.
  - c. He did not die.
  - d. Because events did not turn out like they should.
  
4. The blood of bulls and goats could take away sin.  
True or False
  
5. The Bible teaches that everyone has sinned and that Jesus died so that everyone can be forgiven of their sin. Do you believe that this is true? Do you think that you have sinned? Why or why not?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 3

### Jesus' Resurrection

In life, Jesus did all the things that the Messiah would do. Then Jesus was put to death by the Jewish authorities and the Romans. His disciples were scattered and confused. How could this have happened? Was Jesus not the Christ? How could He die? These questions would be powerfully answered on the third day. The world would never be the same.

### Jesus' Resurrection

The Gospel writers speak of Jesus' resurrection in Matthew 28, Mark 16, Luke 24, and John 20-21.

What is "resurrection"? Resurrection, put simply, is "life after life after death." When Jesus died in the flesh, His soul went to Paradise (Luke 23:43). On the third day, His soul returned to His body, and it was transformed into His resurrected form, according to the Scriptures.

Resurrection, therefore, is the re-animation or re-creation of the body and its transformation for immortality.

On the morning of the third day, the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and some other women went to the tomb of Jesus to anoint His body with spices. When they arrived, they found the rock that covered the tomb rolled away, and no body! Two angels declared to them that Jesus was not there, but risen, and that they should tell the disciples.

Peter and John run to the tomb, and they see that it is empty. They believe, but they do not yet understand. Soon after, Mary sees a man and asks him where he has placed the body of the Lord. He turns and speaks to her, and she recognizes that he is, in fact, the Lord Jesus!

Jesus then appears to Peter, disciples walking to Emmaus, ten of the disciples, all eleven disciples, and to five hundred at one time. Over a period of forty days He teaches His disciples from the Scriptures regarding Him and regarding the Kingdom about to be established. The disciples talked with Jesus and even ate with Him after His resurrection.

### After the Resurrection

Forty days after His resurrection, Jesus ascended to the Father in Heaven (Acts 1:11). At that point, He was given all authority in heaven and on earth (Matthew 28:18).

Ten days later, on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell upon the twelve Apostles, just as Jesus had promised them in John 14-17 and Acts 1:8. They stood and proclaimed the message of the good news of Jesus Christ and His Kingdom: the Gospel.

That message focused on Jesus and His work: He lived and fulfilled the Law and the prophecies, He died on the cross for the forgiveness of sins, and He was raised with power from the dead on the third day, a victor over sin and death. Peter, the same disciple who denied Jesus three times, now stood up in the midst of the other Apostles and proclaimed that he was an eyewitness of these things, and declared to the people that God made Jesus both Lord and Christ, the Messiah (Acts 2). The Apostles made it clear that since Jesus is Lord, we can only be saved by doing what He tells us to do. Those who listen to God and do what He says are made part of Jesus' church, also known as His Kingdom (Colossians 1:13, 18).

This message is as important today as it was in the first century. Jesus is Lord today just as He was Lord then. We, therefore, must learn what we must do in order to serve Him as our Lord if we, also, wish to be saved. To this we shall now turn in future lessons.

### Questions for Lesson 3

1. Resurrection is life after life after death, and involves a physical body.

True or False

2. Who was the first person to see the risen Jesus?

- a. Simon Peter
- b. Mary Magdalene
- c. John
- d. Mary His Mother

3. What is the fundamental message of the Gospel?

- a. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- b. Jesus' birth.
- c. Baptism.
- d. The work of the Apostles.

4. Jesus' Kingdom is entirely separate from the church.

True or False

5. The Bible declares that Jesus is currently Lord. Do you believe that this is true? If it is true, what does it mean for you and me? What must we do if Jesus is Lord?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 4 Belief and Confession

We have considered the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth. We have learned that the Apostles began preaching the message that God made this Jesus both Lord and Christ, and that salvation would now be found in His name. Let us consider how we may obtain that salvation, and we shall begin with belief and confession.

### Belief

Jesus answered and said unto them, "This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent" (*John 6:29*).

Belief (also called faith) is essential if we are going to be part of the Kingdom and be saved (Hebrews 11:6).

According to Hebrews 11:1, belief/faith is the assurance of things hoped for, a conviction of things not seen. This means that we must have confidence that Jesus truly said and did the things that the Gospels claim that He said and did, even though we have not seen Him and have no physical proof of them.

Many people think that belief just involves giving mental acceptance to the truth of a statement. Saying that "I believe that Jesus is the Christ," according to this view, is akin to saying "2 + 2 = 4."

While we must give mental acceptance to the truth that Jesus is the Christ, it's not enough. The demons believe that Jesus is the Christ, and they shudder (*James 2:19*). Those who only mentally accept that Jesus is Lord will not be saved according to *Matthew 7:21-23* and *James 2:14-26*.

Belief involves not just mental acceptance but also trust and confidence in Jesus as Lord and Christ. If we believe that Jesus is Lord, we must act accordingly (*Luke 6:46*). While some people may say that "faith only" can save a man, the Bible denies it (*James 2:24-26*). Our faith, or our trust and confidence, in Jesus is demonstrated through our obedience to Him. When we begin to think and act according to the ways that Jesus tells us to think and act, we truly show that our faith and trust is in Him!

While faith alone may not save, without faith it is impossible to please God (*Hebrews 11:6*). Faith in God must be our foundation for all that we think and do!

## Confession

Because if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as Lord, and shalt believe in thy heart that God raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved: for with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation (*Romans 10:9-10*).

If one comes to believe that Jesus is Lord and Christ, what should he then do? The Bible also speaks about the need to confess that Jesus is the Christ, as seen in *Romans 10:9-10*.

While it is true that man should confess his sins before God (*1 John 1:9*), that type of confession is not in view here. Instead, confession here is saying before witnesses that one believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, just as Peter did before Jesus (*Matthew 16:16*).

Belief, after all, is a private matter. Only you and God know what you believe in your mind and whom you really trust. By confessing your belief, you make it known before others that you stand with Jesus.

While confession specifically involves saying that one believes in Jesus, our thoughts and deeds should demonstrate that our confession really reflects what we believe. If we say with our mouth that Jesus is Lord, but our actions do not show that we believe that Jesus is Lord, God will not be fooled (*Matthew 7:21-23*)!

Belief and confession are critical if we desire to be saved, but there is more that we must do. We will consider more regarding the Gospel message in the next lesson.

## Questions for Lesson 4

1. What does it mean to believe in Jesus?
  - a. Trusting in His message.
  - b. Mental acceptance that He is Lord.
  - c. Doing what He says to do.
  - d. Belief is unimportant.
  
2. Christians are saved by faith alone.  
True or False
  
3. Confession involves speaking.  
True or False
  
4. What should be confessed?
  - a. Nothing.
  - b. Jesus was a good man.
  - c. Jesus is a prophet.
  - d. Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
  
5. At this point in your life, what do you believe about Jesus? How does that belief impact the way you think and act, if at all? How should someone's faith impact their life?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 5 Repentance

We have learned about Jesus the Christ, and why it is so important for us to believe in Him and confess Him before others. We now consider another critical element in our service to God: repentance.

### What is Repentance?

The times of ignorance therefore God overlooked; but now he commandeth men that they should all everywhere repent (*Acts 17:30*).

From the beginning of the preaching of the message of the Kingdom, God has called out the need for man to repent in order to be saved (*Matthew 4:17, Luke 13:3*). On the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached that Jesus is both Lord and Christ, and the people desired to know what they should do, he told them first to repent (*Acts 2:36-38*). We cannot come to God without repentance!

But what is repentance? In English, repentance means to feel sorrow or regret for past actions (cf. *Webster's Dictionary*). Part of repentance is to show sorrow for past sin and the cost that Jesus paid because of that sin (*Zechariah 12:10, John 19:34-37*).

Yet repentance is much more than just sorrow for past deeds. The word for "repentance" in the original New Testament language, Greek, is *metanoeo*, and it means "to change one's mind for the better" (cf. *Thayer's Greek Lexicon*). If we are going to repent, we are going to have to change the way we think and look at things!

### Repenting of Sin

How does repentance take place? When we first come to God, repentance involves a mental decision or determination. When we learn about Jesus, we learn quickly that we have sinned and fallen short of God's glory (*Romans 3:9-23*). The ways that we thought were right led us into sin and death (*Romans 6:23*). Repentance means that we decide that we will no longer walk in our own paths or in the ways of sin, but instead, we will strive to think and do what Jesus tells us to think and do (*1 John 1:5-2:6*).

Repentance, then, looks forward: we commit to following God's ways and to do His will. After making the mental decision to follow God, our actions should reflect that decision (*Matthew 3:8*).

We are not always going to be successful; many times we will still stumble and sin (*1 John 1:8*). When we do that, however, we will confess it before God, ask for forgiveness, and work at avoiding the sin (*1 John 1:9*). As we grow in the faith, we should become more like Jesus in our thoughts and deeds, continuing to demonstrate that we truly have repented of sin (*Hebrews 5:14*).

We have seen that after hearing the good news of Jesus Christ, we should believe in Him and confess His name. We must also repent, making the mental decision to no longer follow after sin but to follow the path of God. Despite all of this, we still have the burden of our past sin. How do we remove that burden? We will find out in lesson 6!

## Questions for Lesson 5

1. In English, "to repent" means "to feel great sorrow for past actions."  
True or False
2. In the New Testament, repentance means...
  - a. ...getting baptized.
  - b. ...changing one's mind for the better.
  - c. ...believing in Jesus.
  - d. ...doing what is right.
3. Repentance only involves our deeds.  
True or False
4. Which of the following does repentance require?
  - a. Moving to another city.
  - b. Deciding to follow God's ways.
  - c. No longer trusting in our ways.
  - d. Eating different types of foods.
5. Do you think repentance is an easy thing to do or is it a challenge? What, if anything, do you think makes repentance hard to do?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 6

### Baptism

We have learned about Jesus of Nazareth and some of the things we must do in order to obey Him. Let us now consider the moment of the new birth: baptism.

#### What is Baptism?

While baptism is not the only thing that we must do in order to become Christians, it represents the important turning point. It is in baptism, as we shall see, that we are spiritually reborn (John 3:5) and truly become Christians. Unfortunately, a lot of confusion exists regarding baptism, its purpose, and its meaning. What is baptism?

In the New Testament, baptism involves immersion in water. The Greek word *bapto* means "to dip, immerse" (cf. *Thayer's Lexicon*). In the baptism scene of Acts 8:34-39, we see both Philip and the eunuch "going down" and "coming up" out of the water. Paul describes baptism as a burial in Romans 6:4. These correspond with the idea of baptism involving immersion as opposed to sprinkling or pouring.

While it is true that God baptized the Apostles and Cornelius with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 11:15-17), we have no indication that He has ever baptized anyone else with the Holy Spirit. In Ephesians 4:5, Paul says that there is "one baptism." We have specific evidence that believers were baptized in water in Acts 8:36-38 and Acts 10:47-48. Peter considers baptism to correspond with Noah and the Flood in 1 Peter 3:21, and Ananias considers baptism as "washing away sins" in Acts 22:16. All of this evidence demonstrates that believers were indeed immersed in water, and that this was the practice of baptism in the early church.

Baptism, therefore, is immersion in water by the authority of Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:16).

#### The Purpose of Baptism

Why are believers baptized? People give many reasons today, but the New Testament knows of only one: for forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38).

People are baptized in order to obtain the forgiveness of sin. It is not as if the water has special saving qualities; instead, God sees the faith of the believer and the believer's appeal for cleansing, and He grants that cleansing from sin (cf. 1 Peter 3:21).

After baptism, Christians have the ability to pray to God for forgiveness of sin and receive that forgiveness (1 John 1:9). But before one is baptized, one is not truly a Christian, because their sin remains with them and they are thus separated from God (Isaiah 59:1-2). The Bible describes no other way to receive the forgiveness of past sin by the blood of Jesus Christ other than through being immersed in water for that purpose.

That is why the reason that someone is baptized is so important. While the English word "baptism" refers exclusively to a religious ceremony, the word in Greek can refer to any kind of immersion. One can "baptize" clothes. When we wash our bodies, that is a form of "baptism" (cf. 1 Peter 3:21). Therefore, a person is "baptized" many times in his or her life in order to get clean or perhaps for other purposes, and those "baptisms" cannot help spiritually. That is why a person must be baptized for the forgiveness of sins in order to receive the cleansing!

## **The Meaning of Baptism**

Baptism is a physical act with great spiritual meaning. Paul speaks of baptism as the likeness of Jesus' death and resurrection in Romans 6:3-7. As Jesus died and was raised from the dead physically, we die spiritually to sin when we are "buried," or immersed, in water, and when we "rise" from that immersion, we are a new man, set free from sin and death (Romans 6:3-7, Romans 8:2, 2 Corinthians 5:17). This is how we are "born again" according to John 3:3-7.

This is how Peter is able to say that baptism now saves us (1 Peter 3:21). It is not as if baptism, by itself, can save, but when someone believes in Jesus Christ, confesses that before men, repents of his or her sin, and then is immersed in water for the forgiveness of sin, that person at that point has now fully died to sin and can now walk in righteousness. At baptism, everything that caused a separation between man and God has been removed, and association with God can again be enjoyed (1 John 1:1-3). After one has obtained spiritual death and resurrection, he or she can look forward to the final resurrection and eternal life on the last day (1 Peter 1:3-9)!

Baptism is described as a "new birth." Baptism, therefore, is more of a beginning than it is an end. What does the Christian do now? To this we turn in our final lesson!

## Questions for Lesson 6

1. What is baptism in the New Testament?
  - a. The Holy Spirit falling upon everyone.
  - b. Immersion in water.
  - c. Sprinkling water on a baby's head.
  - d. Pouring water on a believer's head.
  
2. What is the purpose of baptism in the New Testament?
  - a. For the forgiveness of sin.
  - b. To make a public demonstration of internal faith.
  - c. To join the church.
  - d. To dedicate a baby.
  
3. Taking a bath is a form of "baptism."  
True or False
  
4. Baptism for forgiveness of sins involves the spiritual death and resurrection of the believer.  
True or False
  
5. Have you been immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins? If not, do you recognize that you need to in order to be saved? Why or why not?

## The Good News of Jesus Christ: Lesson 7

### Discipleship

We have gained some understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ: the message of His life, death, and resurrection, His lordship, and what we must do in order to become His servants. After baptism, we are spiritually born again and become new creatures spiritually (John 3:3-7, 2 Corinthians 5:17). Baptism may be the end of our lives in sin, but it is only the beginning of our walk with God. Let us now consider how we are to live our lives as Christians.

### Discipleship

"Go ye therefore, and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (*Matthew 28:19-20*).

After Jesus ascended to the Father, He commanded His disciples to make more disciples. Becoming a disciple of Christ and then helping others to become disciples of Christ should be our purpose in life.

We become disciples just as Jesus says in *Matthew 28:19-20*: we first learn about how to become Christians, ultimately being immersed in water for the remission of sin. We also learn all things which Jesus commanded (cf. *Acts 2:42*).

A disciple is one who learns from a teacher or master. When we first become Christians, learning about Jesus and from Jesus is extremely important. Just as human babies first grow on physical milk, so young Christians must first grow on the "milk of the word," learning the first principles of the faith: the Gospel, faith, repentance, baptism, the resurrection, the judgment, righteousness, and sin (*Hebrews 5:12-6:4*). The new Christian must spend a lot of time reading the Bible so that he or she may become more familiar with its contents and message (*2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16-17*).

The young Christian also must seek out fellow Christians who are walking in the path of Jesus Christ (*1 John 1:7*). While the believer is added to the universal church when he or she is baptized (*Acts 2:41-47*), the believer should find a local congregation of the Lord's people with whom he or she can assemble. In the assembly, the believer can encourage other believers and be encouraged in turn (*Hebrews 10:24-25*), and learn more about Jesus and the Kingdom from Bible studies and lessons (*Acts 2:42, 2 Timothy 4:2*).

### Following the Master

"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his lord. It is enough for the disciple that he be as his teacher, and the servant as his lord" (*Matthew 10:24-25a*).

When we think of a student, we think of one who spends his or her time learning and studying. A disciple is one who spends his or her time learning and studying also, but a disciple does more than

this. The disciple also tries to follow after his teacher or master. Young Christians must certainly learn about God by reading the Bible, but they also must learn by practicing the faith (Hebrews 5:14). Christians can only learn to do what is right and to avoid what is wrong by trying to do so in life!

Young Christians will likely stumble many times. There are times when they will not do what is right and they will not avoid evil (1 John 1:8). It is important to recognize when it happens, pray to God for forgiveness, and learn from the experience, striving to do better the next time (1 John 1:9). It is extremely important, though, that the young Christian keeps trying and works as hard as they can to be just like Jesus (1 John 2:6).

While we hope and pray that young Christians spiritually grow into mature Christians, no true Christian ever stops being a disciple of Jesus (Hebrews 5:14, 1 Thessalonians 4:1, 9). There is always more to learn and always opportunities to improve in following after our Lord. As long as God gives us life, we must do all that we can to serve, praise, and honor Him, and we cherish the hope of our inheritance: unspeakable glory and eternal life (1 Peter 1:3-9, Romans 8:18).

We hope that you have gained a better appreciation for the good news of Jesus Christ. We hope that you have made the decision to become a disciple of Christ if you had not yet done so. We hope to have the opportunity to continue to encourage you in your faith through other studies on the Bible and Christianity!

## Questions for Lesson 7

1. How do people become disciples of Christ?
  - a. By being baptized and learning what Jesus commands.
  - b. By joining a church.
  - c. By reading the Bible.
  - d. By listening to a preacher.
  
2. Studying is not important for a young Christian.  
True or False
  
3. Study is the only thing that the young Christian should do.  
True or False
  
4. For how long should we be Jesus' disciples?
  - a. For the rest of our lives.
  - b. Until we have matured in the faith.
  - c. 20 years.
  - d. 50 years.
  
5. Are you a disciple of Christ? If so, what are the challenges involved in being Jesus' disciple? What are the benefits? If not, what would you think would be the benefits or challenges to being a disciple of Jesus?