

The Church of Christ



Studies in the Acts of Apostles and Epistles designed to familiarize the student with the Church which Jesus built

The Church of Christ

Lesson One: *The Jerusalem Church of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn the significance of this church in God's scheme of redemption.

Lesson Text: Acts 2:1–47

Memory Verse: Acts 2:38

Lesson Readings

Luke 24:44–52; Acts 1:1–9; 3:1–12:19; 15:1–35; Isaiah 2:1–5; Micah 4:1,2; Hebrews 12:22–24

Review Questions

1. When was this church established?
2. By whom was this church established?
3. Who were among the very first converts made in this place?
4. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
5. Name some of the leading members of this church.
6. Describe the worship in which the members of this church engaged.
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this church?
8. How was this church organized?
9. In what program of work did this church engage?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. Some have argued that Jerusalem was "the mother church," that is, the elders of that church maintained some special, superior authority over other churches of Christ. How would you reply to that argument?
2. What about Jerusalem made it particularly advantageous as the place for the church to have its beginning? (There are several things of which you ought to be able to think.)

Research Project

There are several prophecies made concerning the salvation of Israel and the redemption of the Gentiles which relate to Jerusalem. Find these passages. Make a comparison of the predictions of these texts with what we know about the establishment of the church in Jerusalem. (Hint: You may have to do some of your concordance work using the words "Zion," "Sion," or "city.")

The Church of Christ

Lesson Two: *The Church in Prophecy*

Lesson Aim: Learn what the Prophets said about the church of Christ.

Lesson Text: Ephesians 1:1–23

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:44

Lesson Readings

Genesis 22:1–18; 2 Samuel 7:12–17; Psalm 2; 89; 110; Isaiah 2:1–4; 9:1–7; Daniel 2:1–45; Micah 4:1,2; Joel 2:28–32; Amos 9:13–15; Matthew 16:13–20; Luke 24:36–48; Acts 2:1–47; 3:18–26; Ephesians 3:1–12; Hebrews 11:8–16

Review Questions

1. How long has the church been in God's plan?
2. Establish from Scripture that the Kingdom of Old Testament promise is the Church of Christ.
3. What does Daniel specify as the time of the Kingdom's establishment? Does the New Testament fix this time element for the establishment of the Church? (cite the texts)
4. What did Joel prophesy as the identifying signs of the establishment of the Church?
5. From the prophecy of Isaiah 9:1–7 what can be known about the Church?
6. Where do the prophets say the church would be established? When did this occur?
7. For what was Abraham searching when he "looked for a city"?
8. To what prophecies does Peter refer in Acts 2:29–30?
9. What is the "tabernacle of David" which James says God rebuilt in Acts 9:13–19?
10. How does 2 Samuel 7:12–17 have any reference to Christ and the Church?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the implication of Luke 24:44 concerning prophecies about the Kingdom?
2. What do these Old Testament prophecies imply concerning the place of the Church in God's plan of salvation?

Research Project

Research the phrase "the throne of David." To what does it refer and how does the term apply to the church of Christ? (Use your concordance to search both Old and New Testaments.)

The Church of Christ

Lesson Three: *The Churches Throughout All Judea, Galilee and Samaria*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Judean, Galilean and Samaritan churches and their contribution to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ

Lesson Text: Acts 9:31–43

Memory Verse: Acts 11:29

Lesson Readings

Acts 8:1–25,40; 9:31–43; 11:1–18,27–30; Galatians 2:9,10

Review Questions

1. When and where were these churches established?
2. By whom were these churches established? (There are a couple of possibilities here.)
3. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
4. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
5. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
6. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
7. What particular thing troubled these churches a few years after Pentecost?
8. How were these churches organized?
9. In what program of work did these churches engage?
10. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. Explain what God has revealed concerning the forgiveness of the sins of a Christian?
2. Prove from the Scriptures that the Judea churches were organized under elders.

Research Project

Locate on your map Jerusalem, the Judean, Galilean and Samaritan churches of Christ. Update your map every week as we study about the several churches specifically mentioned in the New Testament.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Four: *The Establishment of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn the exact time of the beginning of the church and the blessings which attended its establishment.

Lesson Text: Acts 2:1–47

Memory Verse: Matthew 11:11

Lesson Readings

Matthew 3:1–12; 11:1–15; 14:1–12; 16:13–28; Hebrews 12:18–29; Colossians 1:1–18; Revelation 1:1–20; 1 Corinthians 15:16–28; Acts 1:1–9; 11:1–17; 20:25–32; Luke 19:11–28; 22:13–20; 24:36–48; 1 Peter 1:1–12

Review Questions

1. What event does Peter refer to as the “beginning” in Acts 11:15?
2. Did the church exist during either the Patriarchal or Mosaic Dispensations? (See Luke 13:23–30; Acts 7:38) Please prove your answer.
3. Did John the Baptist establish the church during his ministry? Please prove your answer.
4. Did Jesus establish the church during His ministry with the selection of the Twelve?
5. What passages in the New Testament indicate that the church was a first century reality?
6. What were the signs which would attend the establishment of the church?
7. What blessings were bestowed with the establishment of the church?
8. What part did the Holy Spirit play in the establishment of the church?
9. What in Peter’s sermon in Acts 2 proves that the church was not a new phase of Judaism?
10. What notable day marked the beginning of the church? How was this significant?

Discussion Questions

1. Consider the word “mystery” as used in the New Testament. What is this mystery, and when and where was it revealed?
2. To what does the phrase “last days” refer in Peter’s quotation of Joel 2:28–32?

Research Project

Create a time line of the pertinent Bible passages which show the exact time of the establishment of the Church of Christ. (Use the texts in the readings that refer to kingdom.)

The Church of Christ

Lesson Five: *The Syrian and Cilician Churches of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Syrian and Cilician churches and their contribution to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Text: Acts 9:1–25

Memory Verse: Acts 22:16

Lesson Readings

Acts 9:1–25; 22:5–16; 26:9–21; 11:19–30; 13:1–3; 14:26–15:41; Galatians 1:11–2:16

Review Questions

1. Compare and contrast the churches of Syria and Cilicia according to ...
 - a) their origins
 - b) the ethnicity of the memberships
 - c) the outstanding character traits of the members
 - d) their evangelistic spirit
 - e) their attitude toward the law of Moses
2. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
3. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
4. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
5. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
6. How were these churches organized?
7. In what program of work did these churches engage?

Discussion Questions

1. Explain why the doctrine of the Judaizers was opposed to the Gospel of Christ. What made it a damnable doctrine of such great proportions?
2. What is the significance of Antioch's role in the spread of the Gospel?

Research Project

What unique qualifications did Paul have for the work God assigned him in preaching the Gospel to the Gentiles?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Six: *The Importance of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn what makes the church important to the scheme of redemption.

Lesson Text: Colossians 1:3–23

Memory Verse: Acts 11:29

Lesson Readings

Acts 20:25–32; Romans 6:1–12; 1 Corinthians 12:12–27; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Ephesians 1:3–23; 2:11–22; 3:1–21; 5:22–32; Hebrews 12:18–28; 1 Peter 1:18,19

Review Questions

1. What was the relation of Christ to the church?
2. Where was reconciliation found?
3. Where was salvation found?
4. Where were all spiritual blessings found?
5. Where was the fullness of the Godhead found?
6. Where was forgiveness of sins found?
7. Where was redemption found? By what means was it obtained?
8. Where will men find a new life?
9. What did Christ do with His blood?
10. Can a sinner be saved without the blood of Christ?

Discussion Questions

1. Is it possible to be saved and not be a member of Church of Christ?
2. What does Jesus' death prove concerning the importance of the church?

Research Project

Show that the same process that makes one a child of God, a Christian, makes him a member of the Church of Christ.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Seven: *The First Gentile Church of Christ—Caesaria*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Church of Christ at Caesaria and its contribution to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Text: Acts 10:1–11:18

Memory Verse: Acts 10:47,48

Lesson Readings

Acts 8:40; 10:1–11:18; 15:1–11; 21:8,9; 23:12–33; 25:23–27

Review Questions

1. Who established the church at Caesaria?
2. Who was the first convert made in this place?
3. What were the circumstances of his conversion? What unique events accompanied it?
4. What noble examples does the church set?
5. How did these conversions affect the preaching of the gospel in the rest of the world?
6. Who was the most prominent evangelist to work with this church?
7. What were the terms of the gospel as presented to Cornelius?
8. What new issue do these conversions raise in the churches?
9. What principal respecting salvation do the conversions at Caesaria establish?
10. What relationship did this church sustain to the apostle Paul?

Discussion Questions

1. Did Cornelius and his household receive Holy Spirit baptism?
2. How would you demonstrate from this conversion that salvation is not at the point of faith before and without water baptism?

Research Project

What prophecies were fulfilled in preaching the gospel to Cornelius and his family?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Eight: *The Nature of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the Church of Christ is undenominational in origin, name, organization, work and creed.

Lesson Text: Matthew 16:13–20

Memory Verse: Ephesians 4:4,5

Lesson Readings

Matthew 16:13–20; John 17:13–26; Romans 2:1–11; 1 Corinthians 1:10–31; 4:1–6; 11:17–19;
Ephesians 1:3–23; 4:1–16; 5:23–33; Colossians 1:13–20

Review Questions

1. What is the expressed intent of Jesus regarding the unity of believers?
2. Define the following terms:
 - a) Sect
 - b) Heresy
 - c) Faction
 - d) Party
 - e) Divisions
3. Who is the head of the Church of Christ? Where is its headquarters?
4. What is the basis of all denominationalism? (See: 1 Corinthians 1:10–31; 4:6; Romans 2:8)
5. How many of the saved are included in the Church of Christ?
6. Describe the theoretical relationship of a denomination to the Church of Christ?
7. What are the effects of denominationalism upon the unbelieving?

Discussion Questions

1. How may religious unity be realized and maintained?
2. Are there any denominations described for us in the New Testament?

Research Project

Research the word “church” and describe the various uses made of it in the New Testament.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Nine: *The Phoenician Churches of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Phoenician churches and their contribution to the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Lesson Text: Acts 15:1–3

Memory Verse: Acts 11:19

Lesson Readings

Acts 11:19; 15:1–3; 21:1–7; 27:1–3; Isaiah 23:1–18; Zechariah 9:1–8; 14:12–21

Review Questions

1. When and where were these churches established?
2. By whom were these churches established? (There are a couple of possibilities here.)
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
8. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
9. What Biblical prophecies were fulfilled with the conversion of the Phoenicians?
10. Who was a great spiritual benefactor of the Phoenician churches?

Discussion Questions

1. How did these Phoenician churches support the spread of the Gospel?
2. What purpose did Paul's trip through Phoenicia serve to the cause of the Gospel?

Research Project

What evil influence had the Phoenicians had upon the religion of God in the past before their conversion to Jesus Christ?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Ten: *The Identity of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the Church of Christ can be identified by a divine pattern which is revealed in the New Testament.

Lesson Text: Hebrews 8:1–6

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 1:13

Lesson Readings

Genesis 6:14–22; 2 Chronicles 34:1–33; Matthew 7:21–27; 15:1–20; 28:16–20; 1 Corinthians 1:18–29; 3:1–20; Ephesians 3:1–10; Hebrews 8:1–6

Review Questions

1. What is a “pattern”?
2. What constitutes the pattern for the Church?
3. Explain Hebrews 8:1–6.
4. Give examples of God having given a pattern to be followed. (Use your study skills.)
5. What obligation do teachers have with respect to the gospel toward those just baptized?
6. What is true of those that do not follow God’s pattern for the church?
7. How does failing to follow God’s pattern affect our worship?
8. What did Hezekiah do when he wanted to restore the religion of Jehovah?
9. What will happen to all work which is built upon the foundation of Christ?
10. What will be true of that work built contrary to God’s pattern?

Discussion Questions

1. How can we use the Bible to help identify the New Testament Church?
2. How would you reply to a brother that says, “The New Testament is a collection of love letters and not a constitution or blueprint for the Church”?

Research Project

What are the more prominent identifying characteristics of the New Testament Church?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Eleven: *The Churches of Christ in Cyprus*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the establishment of the Cypriot churches and their contribution to the spread of the Gospel into all the world.

Lesson Text: Acts 13:4–13

Memory Verse: Acts 13:43

Lesson Readings

Acts 4:36; 6:9; 11:19; 13:4–52

Review Questions

1. When and where were these churches established?
2. By whom were these churches established? (There are a couple of possibilities here.)
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. What kind of opposition to truth did they encounter?
8. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
9. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
10. Who was a great spiritual benefactor of the Cypriot churches?

Discussion Questions

1. How would you establish that Sergius Paulus was baptized into Christ?
2. Explain why Paul and Barnabas always entered into the Synagogue of the Jews to preach upon arriving in a city.

Research Project

Locate on your map the island of Cyprus and the regions of Phrygia, Pamphylia and Pisidia. Also locate the provinces of Syria, Cilicia, Asia and Galatia.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twelve: *The Foundation of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the foundation of the Church is Christ and Him alone.

Lesson Text: Matthew 16:13–20

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:11

Lesson Readings

Isaiah 28:14–22; Matthew 7:24–27; 16:13–20; 21:33–46; Acts 4:1–12; 1 Corinthians 3:1–18;
Ephesians 2:1–22; 1 Peter 2:1–12

Review Questions

1. Who is the foundation of the church?
2. Why is it important to be on a good foundation?
3. What kind of foundation is Christ?
4. Read Psalm 118:22,23. Who rejected Jesus as the foundation and when?
5. What specific event did Jesus say could not prevent His becoming the foundation stone?
6. How was the solidity of Christ as a foundation determined?
7. How is one built upon the foundation of Christ? (Details and Scripture please.)
8. What do all that are built upon the one foundation become?
9. What will happen to all work which is built upon the foundation of Christ?
10. What does Christ become to them that do not believe He is the Christ?

Discussion Questions

1. Analyze Ephesians 2:20 explaining the phrase, “the foundation of the apostles and prophets.” Are the apostles and prophets parts of the foundation?
2. What is the significance of Peter’s confession in Matthew 16:16? What does the truth of Christ’s person have to do with the church and God’s eternal purpose?

Research Project

Prepare an answer to the Roman Catholic perversion of Matthew 16:18,19 wherein they claim that Peter is that rock upon which the church is built.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Thirteen: *The Churches of Christ in Pamphylia, Pisidia and Phrygia*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of these Churches and their role in spreading the Gospel.

Lesson Text: Acts 13:13–52

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:15–17

Lesson Readings

Acts 2:10; 13:13–52; 14:24–26; 15:36–41; 16:6; 18:23; 2 Corinthians 11:22–28; Colossians 4:12–18;
2 Timothy 3:10–17

Review Questions

1. When and where were these churches established?
2. By whom were these churches established? Under what circumstances?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. How were these churches organized?
8. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
9. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
10. What letters if any were written to these churches?

Discussion Questions

1. About how many years passed between Paul's first visit to these cities and his second and third visit to them? What effect if any did this have on confirming the churches (Acts 14:23) and ordaining elders?
2. Discuss the disagreement that arose between Paul and Barnabas concerning John Mark that had some effect upon these churches. How would you describe that disagreement in terms of a positive influence for these brethren?

Research Project

Analyze Paul's sermon preached in Antioch of Pisidia: determine (1) his audience, (2) the theme of his sermon, (3) the use of OT prophecy made, (4) any accusation brought against the Jews in Jerusalem, (5) the contrast between the Law and the Gospel, (6) the reaction to the sermon.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Fifteen: *The Churches of Galatia*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Galatian Churches of Christ and their place in developing God's redemptive plan for the world.

Lesson Text: Acts 14:1–28

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 16:1,2

Lesson Readings

Acts 14:1–28; 15:36–16:5; Galatians 1:1–6:18

Review Questions

1. When and where were these churches established?
2. By whom were these churches established? Under what circumstances?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
8. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
9. When did Paul write this church a letter? What are its major themes?
10. What was the defense that Paul made of himself to the Galatians?

Discussion Questions

1. Explain why Paul circumcised Timothy (Acts 16:3) and did not circumcise Titus (Galatians 2:3)? Why was this matter important to the Galatians?
2. What does it mean to be “the Israel of God”?

Research Project

Galatians 6:10 is often used to justify church support of non-saints in matters of benevolence. How would you refute that proposition?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Fourteen: *The Members of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn the names by which the members of the church are known and the attributes which they should possess.

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1–31

Memory Verse: Romans 12:5

Lesson Readings

Acts 2:36–47; 11:26; Romans 12:1–21; 1 Corinthians 1:1,2; 12:1–31; Ephesians 2:13–16; 4:1–32; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–28; 1 Timothy 5:1–22; Hebrews 13: 1–17

Review Questions

1. How does one become a member of the body of Christ?
2. By what names or designations are the members of Christ known?
3. Describe the character of these members with respect to —
 - a) their treatment of other members
 - b) their relation to the elders of the church
 - c) their neighbors in the world
 - d) the civil government
 - e) their employers
 - f) their employees
 - g) their spouses
 - h) their children
 - i) their parents

Discussion Questions

1. Define the term “member”.
2. Explain how the body of Christ is many members but just one body.

Research Project

List as many designations for the members of Christ from the New Testament that you can find.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Seventeen: *The Church of Christ at Philippi*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Philippian Church and its role in spreading the Gospel.

Lesson Text: Acts 16:1–40

Memory Verse: Acts 16:30

Lesson Readings

Acts 16:1–40; 19:22; 20:1,2; Philippians

Review Questions

1. When was this church established?
2. By whom was this church established?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. How was this church organized?
8. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
9. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
10. When and under what circumstances did Paul write this church a letter? What are its major themes?

Discussion Questions

1. What did Paul teach the Philippians concerning the nature of Christ?
2. What did Paul teach the Philippians concerning the resurrection?

Research Project

Be prepared to discuss in class the nature of the financial relationship Paul had with the Philippian church (see: Philippians 4:15–18). In particular prepare to answer the arguments of those that support “missionary societies” and “sponsoring churches” as an authorized means of doing the work of evangelism.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Sixteen: *The Organization of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn how the Lord has organized His churches for work and worship.

Lesson Text: 1 Timothy 3:1–13

Memory Verse: Philippians 1:1

Lesson Readings

1 Timothy 3:1–13; 5:17–22; Titus 1:1–11; 1 Thessalonians 5:11–13; Hebrews 13:7–17;
Ephesians 4:1–16; 1 Peter 5:1–4; Acts 11:25–30; 14:21–23; 20:17–32

Review Questions

1. Where has God placed the rule within the local church ?
2. By what titles are these men known? What do these names imply about the office?
3. What are the qualifications for this office?
4. Explain the work or duties of an elder.
5. What should be the attitude of the members of the local church toward the elders?
6. What other office has God placed in the church?
7. What are the qualifications for this office?
8. What is the work assigned to the deacons of the local church?
9. What other functions did God put in the church to be filled?
10. What is the purpose for these functions within the body of Christ?

Discussion Questions

1. How would you describe the government of the New Testament Church?
2. How is the “sponsoring church” arrangement for doing work a violation of the New Testament pattern for the Church of Christ?

Research Project

Prepare a list of the various types of church governments that exist in denominationalism today. Compare and contrast those governments with that of the New Testament Church.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Eighteen: *The Creed of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn that the only creed accepted by Churches of Christ is the New Testament.

Lesson Text: 2 Timothy 3:14–17

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 3:16,17

Lesson Readings

2 Timothy 3:14–17; Galatians 1:6–24; John 17:1–26; Matthew 15: 1–9; 1 Corinthians 1:10–18; 3:1-7; 4:1–7; Ephesians 3:1–12; 4:1–7; 5:14–21; James 1:18–25; 2 Peter 1:1–11; Jude 3

Review Questions

1. How many faiths do the Scriptures recognize?
2. What claims do the Scriptures make regarding their sufficiency as a rule of faith?
3. How many spiritual blessings may one access through the Scriptures alone?
4. What power do the Scriptures have with respect to saving souls?
5. To what extent may a man understand what the Scriptures teach?
6. What is the only hindrance to a man understanding the Scriptures?
7. What specific warning do the Scriptures give concerning the teachings of men?
8. What is inherently true about human creeds? (What do they cause in religion?)
9. What is true of those that accept a standard in religion other than the New Testament?
10. What is the source of the authority in the Scriptures?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the inherent weakness of church manuals, disciplines and creeds?
2. Consider John 17:21,22. What effect have human creeds had upon the prayer of Jesus?

Research Project

In James 1:25 the Gospel is called “the perfect law of liberty.” Write a few paragraphs analyzing this phrase and its significance in connection with this lesson study.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Nineteen: *The Churches of Thessalonica and Berea*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of these churches and their place in the continued spread of the Gospel throughout Europe and Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Acts 17:1–15

Memory Verse: Acts 17:11

Lesson Readings

Acts 17:1–15; 18:1–6; 19:21–23; 20:1–6; 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians; 1 Timothy 1:1–4

Review Questions

1. When were these churches established?
2. By whom were they established?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Name some of the leading members of these churches.
7. What particular opposition did these brethren face in the beginning?
8. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged these churches?
9. Name any outstanding feature of these churches that favorably impressed you.
10. When and under what circumstances did Paul write a letter to these churches? What are its major themes?

Discussion Questions

1. After studying both 1 and 2 Thessalonians, how would you respond to the popular doctrine of the rapture which teaches Jesus will secretly return for His saints just before or during a period of great tribulation upon the earth?
2. What is the “falling away,” and who is “that man of sin” in 2 Thessalonians?

Research Project

Create a time line showing the times that Paul may have visited the churches of Thessalonica and Berea in Macedonia.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty: *The Name of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn the names used to denote the people of God individually and collectively.

Lesson Text: Acts 11:19–30

Memory Verse: Acts 11:26

Lesson Readings

Acts 4:12; 11:19–30; 26:24–32; 1 Peter 4:12–19; James 2:6–10

Review Questions

1. What are the several designations which are used of the Church of Christ?
 - a) Romans 16:16
 - b) 1 Corinthians 1:2
 - c) 1 Thessalonians 1:1
 - d) Galatians 1:1
 - e) Colossians 4:16
 - f) Hebrews 12:23
 - g) Revelation 1:4
 - h) Matthew 16:18
 - i) 1 Timothy 3:15
 - j) Acts 8:1
 - k) Acts 20:28
 - l) 1 Corinthians 14:33
2. What is the most frequently used designation?
3. What does the word “church” mean and how is it used in the New Testament? (You should use a lexicon like *Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words* and a concordance to answer this question).
4. What does the name “Christian” mean?
5. Does the name “the Church of Christ” occur in Scripture?

Discussion Questions

1. Does the Church have a proper name?
2. How would you go about establishing that the name Christian is the name that God has given for his people to wear?

Research Project

Make a list of as many figures of speech under which the Church is represented in the New Testament as you can find.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-one: *The Athens Church of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the establishment of the Church of Christ in Athens

Lesson Text: Acts 17:16–34

Memory Verse: Acts 17:30–31

Lesson Readings

Acts 17:16–18:1; 20:1–5; 1 Thessalonians 3:1–8

Review Questions

1. When was this church established?
2. By whom was this church established?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What was the initial reaction to the Gospel in this city?
7. What unique obstacles did this church face in the beginning?
8. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this church?
9. Name any outstanding feature of this church that favorably impressed you.
10. What unlikely convert did Paul make here?

Discussion Questions

1. How would you prove that there were any Athenians which actually became Christians since the text does not specifically mention their baptism?
2. How does Paul's sermon to the Athenians differ from that which he preached to the Antiochans in Acts chapter 13? Why do you suppose this difference?

Research Project

Why would the resurrection be such an unbelievable doctrine to the men of Athens?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-two: *The Worship of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn what true worship is and how Christians are authorized to express it.

Lesson Text: John 4:1–26

Memory Verse: John 4:24

Lesson Readings

Mark 7:1–23; John 4:1–26; Acts 17:22–31; 18:12–17; 24:10–16; 1 Corinthians 14:22–33;
Colossians 2:18–23; Genesis 4:1–8; Leviticus 10:1–3; 2 Chronicles 26:16–21

Review Questions

1. What is worship?
2. Define the following and give biblical examples of each one:
 - a) Will worship
 - b) Ignorant worship
 - c) Vain worship
 - d) Worship contrary to the law
 - e) True worship
3. What is the standard of true worship?
4. Who is the object of true worship?
5. Is worship an “attitude” or an “act”?
6. Can the worship of the Church be distinctly identified?
7. What acts does the New Testament identify as the peculiar worship of the Church?

Discussion Questions

1. How is it possible to make authorized actions of worship unacceptable and vain?
2. Is the worship we offer confined to a specified worship “service”?

Research Project

Using a concordance and a lexicon, determine how many different Greek words are translated “worship.” Note any distinctions in meanings to be made between the words. Having done this, answer this question: “Is it correct to say that all that a Christian does is worship?”

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-three: *The Churches at Corinth and Cenchrea*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the establishment of the Churches of Christ in Achaia.

Lesson Text: Acts 18:1–18

Memory Verse: Acts 18:8

Lesson Readings

Acts 18:1–18; Acts 19:1; 20:1–5; 1 and 2 Corinthians; 2 Timothy 4:20; Romans 15:25–16:27

Review Questions

1. When were these churches established?
2. By whom were they established?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this church?
7. What particular problem was troubling this church which threatened its continued success?
8. Name any outstanding feature of this church that favorably impressed you.
9. What notable preachers beside Paul labored with the Corinthians?
10. When and under what circumstances did Paul write letters to these churches?

Discussion Questions

1. How was it possible for Paul to work as extensively as he did in Corinth? What special arrangements did God authorize to facilitate evangelism here?
2. Make a list of the exhortations Paul offers Corinth in his two letters to the churches.

Research Project

Outline 1 and 2 Corinthians giving particular attention to the problems which were troubling this church. How is the Corinthian church like churches of Christ today? What particular value do these two letters have to Christians entering the 21st Century?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-four: *The Work of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the work of the New Testament Church.

Lesson Text: Acts 2:41–47

Memory Verse: 1 Timothy 3:15

Lesson Readings

Ephesians 4:11–16; Matthew 28:18–20; Mark 16:15–16; Acts 2:41–47; 4:31–37; 6:1–8; 11:27–30; 1 Timothy 5:1–16; Galatians 6:1–10; Matthew 18:15–17; 1 Corinthians 5:1–13; 2 Thessalonians 3:6–15; Romans 15:25,26; 1 Corinthians 16:1–4; 2 Corinthians 8:1–9:15; Revelation 3:14–18

Review Questions

1. Outline in general terms the work of the New Testament Church.
2. How has the Lord organized the Church in order to accomplish this work?
3. Whom does the Lord expect to do this work He has assigned the Church?
4. How is the work of the Church to be financed?
5. What responsibility does the Church have to ...
 - a) The lost
 - b) Its needy
 - c) Its widows
 - d) Its sick
 - e) Its unruly members
 - f) Its faithful members

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any activities you believe the Church is not obligated to perform?
2. How shall the Church be judged if it is failing to do the work God assigns it to do? How does that affect the spiritual standing of the individual members of that Church?

Research Project

How would you demonstrate from the New Testament that the local church does not have a general obligation to relieve the needy of the world. In your answer respond to the idea that benevolence is a form of evangelism and a legitimate way of reaching the lost.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-five: *The Church of Christ in Ephesus*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the church that became a center for evangelizing all of Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Acts 19:1–20:1

Memory Verse: Acts 19:4,5

Lesson Readings

Acts 18:19–21, 24–28; 19:1–20:1,15–38; 1 Corinthians 16:8,9; Ephesians; 1&2 Timothy;
Revelation 2:1–7

Review Questions

1. When was this church established?
2. By whom was it established?
3. What would be the racial or ethnic background of these churches?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this region?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this church?
7. How was this church organized? What problems arose among the leadership?
8. Name any outstanding features of this church that favorably impressed you.
9. What notable preachers besides Paul labored with the Ephesians?
10. When and under what circumstances did Paul write letters to these churches?

Discussion Questions

1. Ephesians 2:8,9 states that salvation is by grace through faith. Harmonize this text with the facts concerning the conversion of the Ephesians as revealed in Acts 18 and 19.
2. Show from the readings the eventual fulfillment of the prophecy Paul made concerning the Ephesian elders in Acts 20:29,30.

Research Project

Outline the book of Ephesians by chapters. What natural division occurs in the book? What word is repeated throughout the book as a metaphor for our manner of life? What do you believe is the theme of the Book? What would you say is the key verse?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Twenty-six: *The Future of the Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn what the Bible reveals would happen in the Church of Christ after the apostles and prophets were no longer with God's people.

Lesson Text: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12

Memory Verse: Daniel 2:44

Lesson Readings

Matthew 7:13–27; 24:1–28; Acts 20:28–31; 2 Thessalonians 2:1–12; 1 Timothy 4:1–11;
2 Timothy 3:1–4:8; Hebrews 12:22–29; 2 Peter 2:1–22; Jude; Revelation 2:1–3:22

Review Questions

1. Whom did Christ prophesy would arise among His people?
2. What did Christ prophesy would happen?
3. Whom did Paul say would come?
4. What would these men do and what would they preach?
5. What would become the character of some in the church?
6. What would be their attitude toward the Gospel?
7. What kind of men would these find?
8. Whom did Peter say would come? Describe them?
9. What is Jude's description of these same men?
10. How does Paul describe these false prophets and usurpers?

Discussion Questions

1. What confidence and assurance can we have concerning the church in the face of this departure from the faith?
2. What is the proper response to these recurring departures from the faith? (Please cite the texts from the readings that apply in your answer.)

Research Project

What evidence is there in the New Testament that there was an apostasy underway before the death of the last Apostle?