

“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6)

Quote: “Within the covers of the Bible are the answers for all the problems men face.”—**Ronald Reagan**, fortieth president of the United States

“Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.” (Philippians 2:16)

B. A Future for His _____

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” (2 Chronicles 7:14)

C. A Future for Our _____

“Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. 14 Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.” (Matthew 5:13–14)

(Psalm 33:12)

Quote: “It is the duty of the clergy to accommodate their discourses to the times, to preach against such sins as are most prevalent, and recommend such virtues as are most wanted.”—**John Adams**, second American president

“And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.” (Isaiah 59:14)

CONCLUSION

“...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;” (Ephesians 5:25)

Avoiding Confusion

Interpret Cultural Issues through a
Biblical Worldview

LESSON THIRTEEN: THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF THE LOCAL CHURCH

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

INTRODUCTION

The Ownership of the Church

Jesus owns the church.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.” (Acts 20:28)

Jesus is the cornerstone of the church.

“And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;” (Ephesians 2:20)

Jesus protects the church.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

1. For the _____

(Acts 2:41–42)

A. The _____ of the Church

“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; 21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:19–22)

“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”
(Titus 1:9)

(Philippians 2:15–16, Jude 1:3)

B. The _____ of the Church

“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
(1 Timothy 3:16)

“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.”
(1 Corinthians 1:23–24)

Quote: “The preaching of Christ is the whip that flogs the devil. The preaching of Christ is the thunderbolt, the sound that makes all hell tremble.”—**Charles Spurgeon**

GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH

(John 1:14, Colossians 2:9)

JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT

(2 Peter 1:17)

SEEN OF ANGELS

(Hebrews 1:6)

PREACHED UNTO THE GENTILES

(Romans 1:14, 16)

BELIEVED ON IN THE WORLD

(Acts 2:47)

RECEIVED UP INTO GLORY

(Acts 1:10–11)

C. The _____ of the Church

WE ASSEMBLE

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24–25)

WE WORSHIP

(Psalm 95:1-3)

WE GIVE

(1 Corinthians 16:1-2)

2. For the _____

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.” (2 Timothy 1:5)

(Acts 16:1, 2 Timothy 3:15)

A. A Place to _____

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12)

B. A Place of _____

“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. 8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. 9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

C. A Place of _____

“As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.” (Galatians 6:10)

(Galatians 5:13-14)

3. For the _____

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

A. A Future in His _____