

Theology 101

The Bible

In this new series we will take an introductory look at the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. To begin, we will study the basis for doctrine: the Bible.

Preliminary:

- A. Theology is the study of, and expression of, truth as revealed by God in His word.
 - B. Doctrine is a practical expression of theology.
 - A. Illustration: Theology : Doctrine = Math : Pythagorean Theorem
 - C. It is important that we know what we believe! (Ephesians 4:14, I Timothy 1:3-7)
 - D. Theology is practical!
- I. The Bible is the Basis of Belief
 - A. We, as Baptists, hold that the Bible is the sole authority for faith and practice. That is, the Bible is the very basis upon which our faith rests.
 - B. The Bible, then, must be the source for all truth and all doctrine.
 - C. Other sources (personal experiences, logic, tradition, etc.) are fallible and cannot be the basis for our faith.
 - II. The Bible as Revelation
 - A. No, not just the last book of the Bible.
 - B. The Bible is how God has chosen to *reveal* Himself and His Will to His people.
 - 1. God reveals that which He wants us to know - Deuteronomy 29:29
 - 2. Truth is revealed by God according to His purpose - Romans 16:25-26
 - 3. God has revealed Himself, through prophets and His Son - Hebrews 1:1-2
 - III. The Inspiration of the Bible
 - A. II Timothy 3:16-17 - *inspiration* is literally “God-Breathed”
 - 1. That is, all Scripture is breathed, or spoken, by God
 - 2. The other times God breathed:
 - a) When He gave life to Adam - Genesis 2:7
 - b) When Christ imparted the Holy Ghost - John 20:22
 - B. L. Gaussen defined inspiration as “that inexplicable power which the divine Spirit put forth of old on the authors of Holy Scripture, in order to their guidance even in the employment of the words they used, and to preserve them alike from all error and from all omission.”
 - C. Plenary Inspiration
 - 1. Means the Bible is fully, 100% inspired.
 - D. Verbal Inspiration
 - 1. Means that every single word is inspired
 - 2. Deuteronomy 8:3, Psalm 12:6, Proverbs 30:5, Matthew 4:4
 - E. Inspiration in action
 - 1. II Peter 1:21

2. Here we have the Holy Spirit moving, guiding men on what to say or write.
3. This is how the Bible was transferred from God to man.
4. Not to mention the hundreds of times we see “Thus saith the Lord”, etc.

IV. Preservation of the Bible

- A. Not only did God reveal Himself through the inspired Word, He also had made sure to preserve it.
 1. God promised that His Word would last forever - Psalm 119:89, 152, 160.
 2. God promised that His Word would be incorruptible - I Peter 1:23-25
 3. God promised that His Word would stand, unchanging, immovable - Isaiah 40:8
- B. The Bible we have is the Bible God wanted us to have
 1. I don't believe God only inspired the “original manuscripts” and then the inspiration deteriorated through errors copying or translating throughout the ages.
 2. God has moved in amazing ways to keep His Word safe and pure throughout the ages.
 3. The Bible does not just contain the Word of God - it IS the Word of God!
- C. What about all these different English translations?
 1. I personally hold to the position that God preserved His Word through the Masoretic Text of the Old Testament and the *Textus Receptus* of the New Testament.
 2. I personally hold to the position that God's preserved Word for the English-speaking world is the King James Version.
 3. Other versions are riddled with errors and omissions, and they fail to compare to the majesty of the KJV's translation.
 - a) By the way, my challenge for publishers of these new translations is that they make their work public domain. They won't because they make too much money selling each new version or revision. Money is their ultimate goal, not a better Bible.
 - b) Also, take a look at *who* did the translating. Too many of them work to propagate their own agendas and positions through the translation work.

V. Practical Applications

- A. If we claim to love God then we should also love His Book!
- B. Read it! (I Timothy 4:13)
- C. Study it! (Acts 17:11, II Timothy 2:15)
- D. Memorize it! (Psalm 119:11)

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The Bible - Part II

Due to my legendary ability to not finish my Sunday School lessons on time we are going to go back and spend some time on the stuff I rushed through last week.

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
- B. God has *revealed* Himself to us through His Word
- C. God miraculously *inspired* the very words of the Scriptures

IV. Preservation of the Bible

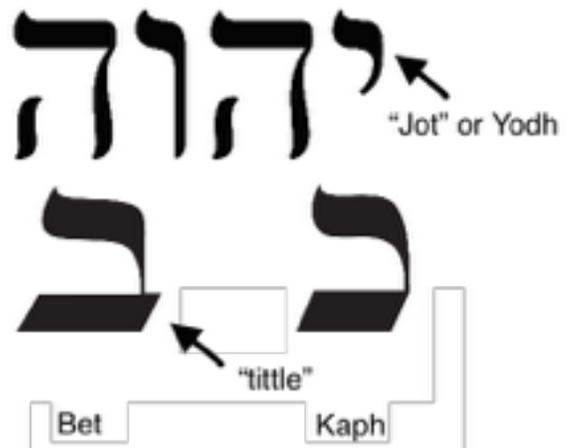
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 1. God promised that His Word would last forever - Psalm 119:89, 152, 160.
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- B. Christ is very clear in Matthew 5:18

1. Jot - the smallest Hebrew letter, *yodh*
2. Tittle - small mark that distinguishes letters
 - a) Like Q and O

- C. How the Bible comes to us

1. It originates in the eternal mind of God.
2. It is transferred by the Holy Spirit through men who speak or write the words given to them.
 - a) As a side note, this does not mean that the personality of each writer is overwritten or ignored.
 - b) God uses each man's characteristics, just as a master musician uses each instrument's tone and feel to express the music.
3. The Word of God, given to men by the Holy Spirit, are then recorded in written form.
 - a) In the Old Testament, this was Hebrew.
 - b) In the New Testament, this was Koine Greek.
4. Faithful scribes meticulously copied the original copies throughout centuries of time.
 - a) If errors or editing occurred, there was a vast majority of faithful texts to correct those that were wrong.
 - b) By the way, editing is what you see more often than errors.



5. These copies were done by hand until Johannes Guttenberg's invention of moveable type in the 1450's.
 6. Along the way, the Bible has been translated from the original Greek and Hebrew texts into hundreds of languages.
- D. How the Bible came into English
1. The first complete Bible translation was John Wycliffe's translation into Middle English in the around A.D. 1390.
 2. William Tyndale translated much of the Bible, and was the first English version to be produced on the printing press, around 1530.
 3. The "Coverdale Bible" was produced by Miles Coverdale in 1535. It was the first complete Bible printed in English and incorporated much of Tyndale's work.
 4. The "Great Bible" was also produced by Miles Coverdale in 1539 and was authorized by Henry VIII
 5. The "Geneva Bible" was produced in 1560 by English protestants taking refuge in Geneva from the reign of Bloody Mary. It was the essentially the first study Bible, was the first to have verses, and was widely available to the public.
 6. The "Bishops' Bible" was produced in 1568 by the Church of England in response to the Geneva Bible.
 7. The Authorized Version, or the King James Bible, was printed in 1611.
 8. No other major translation would gain ground until the Revised Version in the late 1800's.
- E. Problems with Most Newer Versions
1. They use the wrong foundational texts
 - a) The KJV uses the Masoretic Text for the Old Testament and the *Textus Receptus* for the New Testament.
 - b) Most new translation rely on the Nestle-Aland Greek text (now in its 28th edition!) and a smorgasbord of sources for the Old Testament.
 2. They rely on the minority to correct the majority
 - a) In the modern school of thought, 90% agreement among existing ancient manuscripts can be trumped by a few "variant" readings
 3. "Older is better" philosophy
 - a) Oldest manuscripts are not always the best. In fact, many of them exist because they were stored away for lack of use!
 4. Translation or Interpolation?
 - a) To many times, "experts" edit the Bible to be closer to their own theological ideas or even to be more politically correct.

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The Bible - Part III

Tired of studying about the Bible? I hope not because here we go again.

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
- B. God has *revealed* Himself to us through His Word
- C. God miraculously *inspired* the very words of the Scriptures
- D. God has *preserved* the Bible for all generations.

V. Superiority of the King James Bible

A. Note - I'm leaning pretty heavy on "Four Reasons for Defending the King James Bible" by D.A. Waite, which can be found online if you want more info.

B. Texts

1. Every translation comes from somewhere, and will rise no higher than its source.
 - a) Old Testament
 - (1) Choice A - Ben Chayyim Masoretic Hebrew text
 - (a) A.K.A. - Daniel Bomberg edition or the Second Great Rabbinic Bible (1524-25)
 - (b) unquestioned choice for over 400 years
 - (2) Choice B - *Biblia Hebraica*, Stuttgart edition
 - (a) contains or suggests around 20,000 changes
 - b) New Testament
 - (1) Choice A - *Textus Receptus*
 - (a) The "received text" that was passed down and the vast majority of manuscripts agree to.
 - (2) Choice B - *Nestle-Aland*, now in 28th edition
 - (a) An attempt by modern scholars to "recreate" the original manuscripts.
 - (b) Contains literally *thousands* of changes
2. Most modern scholars think "older is better" when it comes to these manuscripts with little concern for the obvious work of heretics in their production.
3. NOTE - No proper translation is based on another translation. You NEED to go back to the source, Hebrew and Greek. Non-English speakers don't need the King James Bible, they need *their* Bible in *their* language.

C. Translators

1. Who is doing the work? Do they actually believe in the Bible? Do they have an agenda? Are they qualified?
2. The 54 or so men who translated the King James Bible were geniuses.
 - a) Dr. Lancelot Andrews - mastered 15 languages
 - b) Miles Smith - expert in Chaldee, Syriac, Hebrew, and Arabic.
 - c) Sir Henry Saville - tutored Queen Elizabeth in Greek and mathematics

- d) John Bois - expert in Hebrew and Greek. Read the entire Hebrew Bible at age five.
 - 3. Six committees were formed to do the translation work (3 Old Testament, 2 New Testament, 1 Apocrypha). A General Committee of Review finalized the work.
- D. Techniques
- 1. Formal Equivalent (word-for-word)
 - a) Seeks to faithfully reproduce the exact words
 - b) Read it in the King James Bible.
 - 2. Dynamic Equivalent (thought-for-thought)
 - a) Leans more toward interpretation than translation
 - b) John 3:16 in *Contemporary English Version*: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."
 - 3. Free Translation (Paraphrase)
 - a) The general idea is there... somewhere...
 - b) John 3:16 in *The Message*: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."
 - 4. Only one of these honors the very words of God and lets those words speak directly to us without being filtered or interpreted along the way.
 - 5. Italics
 - a) Ever wonder why there are words in italics in the King James? This is because of the honesty of the translators. Italicized words are not from the original Greek or Hebrew, but are supplied to aid the reader.
 - b) Another example: Peter quotes the italicized words of Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25.
- E. Theology
- 1. Bible translation is about preserving God's Word and NOT personal agendas.
 - 2. Are we preserving God's word or our take on it?
 - 3. By the way, there is not a "Baptist Bible"... the Bible makes us Baptists!
 - 4. A few examples of theological changes:
 - a) Mark 9:44 and 46 may be omitted
 - b) John 6:47 may omit "on me"
 - c) Acts 8:37 may be omitted
 - d) I John 5:7 may omit the last half of verse
 - 5. Question: If these modern takes on the Bible were better, where are the better Christians they produce?

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The Bible - Part III

Tired of studying about the Bible? I hope not because here we go again.

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
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V. Superiority of the King James Bible (cont.)

A. Techniques

1. Formal Equivalent (word-for-word)
 - a) Seeks to faithfully reproduce the exact words
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2. Dynamic Equivalent (thought-for-thought)
 - a) Leans more toward interpretation than translation
 - b) John 3:16 in *Contemporary English Version*: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."
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 - b) Another example: Peter quotes the italicized words of Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25.

B. Theology

1. Bible translation is about preserving God's Word and NOT personal agendas.
2. Are we preserving God's word or our take on it?
3. By the way, there is not a "Baptist Bible"... the Bible makes us Baptists!
4. A few examples of theological changes:
 - a) Mark 9:44 and 46 may be omitted
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5. Question: If these modern takes on the Bible were better, where are the better Christians they produce?

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The Bible - Part IV

Maybe the last lesson in our Bible series???

Review:

- A. The Bible is basis for our doctrine and practice.
- B. God has *revealed* Himself to us through His Word
- C. God miraculously *inspired* the very words of the Scriptures
- D. God has *preserved* the Bible for all generations.
- E. We began looking at the *superiority* of the King James Bible, specifically its *Text* and its *Translators*.

V. Superiority of the King James Bible (cont.)

C. Techniques

1. How a translation is produced is extremely important
 - a) Let's start with John 3:16 in the Greek (Textus Receptus)
 - (1) ουτως γαρ ηγαπησεν ο θεος τον κοσμον ωστε τον υιον αυτου τον μονογενη εδωκεν ινα πας ο πιστευων εις αυτον μη αποληται αλλ εχη ζωην αιωνιον
 - b) How do we get that into English?
 - (1) For fun, here's an extremely rough translation of John 3:16 I put together using Strong's definitions:
 - (2) So as loved the God the world therefore His son own His only gave for all that trust Him not die but have life eternal.
2. Formal Equivalence (word-for-word)
 - a) Seeks to faithfully reproduce the exact words
 - b) Used in the New American Standard, English Standard, Revised Standard, and the King James.
 - c) John 3:16 in the *King James Bible*: "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
3. Dynamic Equivalence (thought-for-thought)
 - a) Seeks to reproduce the ideas or thoughts but not the exact words.
 - b) Leans more toward interpretation than translation
 - c) Used in Holman Christian Standard and New International Version.
 - d) John 3:16 in *Contemporary English Version*: "God loved the people of this world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who has faith in him will have eternal life and never really die."
4. Free Translation (Paraphrase)
 - a) Drastically rewrites the source
 - b) The general idea is there... somewhere...
 - c) Used in the *Living Bible* and *The Message*.
 - d) John 3:16 in *The Message*: "This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life."

5. Only one of these methods (Formal Equivalence) honors the very words of God and lets those words speak directly to us without being filtered or interpreted along the way.
6. Italics
 - a) Ever wonder why there are words in italics in the King James? This is because of the honesty of the translators. Italicized words are not from the original Greek or Hebrew, but are supplied to aid the reader.
 - b) An example - John 3:30 - the second "must" is not in the Greek, but it is implied by the use of contrast in John's statement.
 - c) Another example: Peter quotes the italicized words of Psalm 16:8 in Acts 2:25.

D. Theology

1. Bible translation is about preserving God's Word and NOT personal agendas.
2. Too many times the positions of a translator influence their work, which is opposite of how the Scripture should operate.
3. By the way, there is not a "Baptist Bible"... the Bible makes us Baptists!
4. A few examples of theological changes:
 - a) Mark 9:44,46 - may be omitted
 - b) John 6:47 - may omit "on me"
 - c) Acts 8:37 - may be omitted
 - d) I John 5:7 - may omit the last half of verse
 - e) Revelation 8:13 - probably change "angel" to "eagle"
 - f) Mark 10:24 - probably omits the "trust in riches" phrase, and say that it is difficult to go to Heaven.
 - g) John 5:3-4 - probably omits reference to the angel troubling the water
5. Question: If these modern takes on the Bible were better, where are the better Christians they produce?
 - a) It is logical to me to see that a "purer" Word of God would produce greater results. I just don't see that.

Comparing Bible Translations

	King James	New International Version	New American Standard Version	New World Translation (JW's)
Matthew 9:13	for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.	For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.	For I came to call, not righteous people, but sinners.
Matthew 18:11	For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt	OMITTED
Mark 10:24	how hard it is for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God!	how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God!	how difficult a thing it is to enter into the kingdom of God!
Luke 2:33	And Joseph and his mother,	The child's father and mother.	His father and mother.	its father and mother.
Luke 4:4	Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.	Man does not live on bread alone.	Man shall not live on bread alone.	Man must not live by bread alone.
John 6:47	He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.	He who believes has everlasting life.	He who believes has eternal life.	He that believes has everlasting life.
John 8:9	And when they heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out.	.those who heard began to go away.	.when they heard it, they began to go out one by one.	OMITTED
John 9:4	I must work the works of him that sent me.	We must do the work of him who sent me.	We must work the works of Him who sent Me.	We must work the works of him that sent me.
John 10:30	I and my Father are one	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.	I and the Father are one.
Acts 8:37	If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.	OMITTED	footnote casts doubt (some editions just omit it)	OMITTED

Comparing Bible Translations

	King James	New International Version	New American Standard Version	New World Translation (JW's)
Colossians 1:14	In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.	By means of whom we have our release by ransom, the forgiveness of our sins.
1 John 4:3	And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God.	But every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.	And every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God.	But every inspired expression that does not confess Jesus does not originate with God.
Revelation 5:14	Four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.	.the elders fell down and worshipped.	.the elders fell down and worshipped.	.the elders fell down and worshipped.
Revelation 21:24	And the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of it.	The nations will walk by its light.	And the nations shall walk by its light.	And the nations will walk by means of its light.
Luke 7:31	the Lord said	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
Luke 22:31	the Lord said	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
Ephesians 3:9	created all things by Jesus Christ	created all things	created all things	created all things
Ephesians 3:14	Father of our Lord Jesus Christ	Father	Father	Father
Colossians 1:2	Lord Jesus Christ	OMITTED	OMITTED	OMITTED
Romans 1:16	gospel of Christ	gospel	gospel	good news
Matthew 1:25	firstborn son	a son	a Son	a son
I John 5:7 (I added this one -MBG)	For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.	For there are three that testify:	For there are three that testify:	For there are three witness bearers:

Theology 101

The Trinity

Now that we have established a foundation of *what the Bible is*, we will move on to *Whose Book it is*.

I. The One, True God

- A. There are many claims today about who or what is a god.
 - 1. Polytheism - belief in many gods
 - 2. Pantheism - belief that everything is god
 - 3. Monotheism - belief in one god
- B. We believe that there is ONE God - Deuteronomy 6:4, Ephesians 4:6
- C. To the exclusion of all other “gods” - Exodus 20:3, I Corinthians 6:4-6
 - 1. True faith is not believing that the Christian God is part of a pantheon of deities with other gods (allah, zeus, etc.).
- D. We are to worship only the one, true God - Psalm 83:18

II. The Trinity

- A. The word *Trinity* is not found in the Bible, but the truth is clear
- B. One God = Three Persons (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - 1. It is bad math but it is good doctrine!
- C. From Genesis 1
 - 1. Verse 1 - “God” is Hebrew *Elohim*, which is plural
 - 2. Verse 26 - “Let *us* make man in *our* image”
- D. More Old Testament References to the Trinity
 - 1. Two Lords in Genesis 19:24
 - 2. God will save by the Lord in Hosea 1:6-7
 - 3. The Son is spoken of in Psalm 2:7
 - 4. The Spirit is differentiated in Genesis 1:1-2 and 6:3
 - 5. The three holies of Isaiah 6:3
 - 6. Three Lords in Aaron’s Blessing in Numbers 6:22-27
- E. New Testament References to the Trinity
 - 1. At Christ’s Baptism in Matthew 3:16-17
 - 2. Christ’s prayer to the Father for the Holy Spirit in John 14:16-17
 - 3. The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20
 - 4. Paul’s conclusion in II Corinthians 13:14
- F. Henri Thiessen states ... “the three are equal. And yet this does not exclude the arrangement by means of which the Father is first, the Son second, and the Spirit third. This is not a difference in glory, power, or length of existence, but simply one of order.”

III. The Attributes of God

- A. (I’m stealing this outline from Bro. Jonathan Stewart...)
- B. His GENUINENESS
 - 1. Spirit - John 4:24
 - 2. Transcendence - Isaiah 55:8-9
 - 3. Immanence - Jeremiah 23:23-24

4. Independence - Psalm 90:2, 115:3
 5. Person - Jeremiah 10:10
 6. Triune - see notes above...
- C. His GREATNESS
1. Eternal - Psalm 90:2
 2. Unchanging (Immutable) - Malachi 3:6
 3. Glorious - Psalm 19:1-4
 4. Omnipresent - Psalm 139:8
 5. Omniscient - Psalm 147:4-5
 6. Omnipotent - Matthew 19:26
- D. His GOODNESS
1. True - Hebrews 6:18
 2. Holy - I Peter 1:16
 3. Just - Deuteronomy 32:4
 4. Loving - I John 4:6
 5. Merciful - Psalm 116:5
 6. Gracious - Joel 2:13

Theology 101

God the Father

We now focus our attention on the First Person of the Trinity. Surprisingly, this area of Theology is largely neglected. For example, Lewis Sperry Chafer's *Major Bible Themes* has seven chapters devoted to God the Son, six chapters devoted to God the Holy Spirit, and only *one* devoted to God the Father!

- I. God the Father as God
 - A. We have already established that God's very nature is expressed as a Trinity.
 - B. Each Person of the Godhead is equal in deity and glory. The Divine attributes and characteristics we looked at last week apply to all Three.
- II. The Four-Fold Fatherhood of God
 - A. Father through Creation
 1. God is the Father of Creation in that everything that is was created by God.
 - a) God is the Father-Creator of everything - Genesis 1:1
 - b) God is the Father-Creator of angels - Job 1:6 etc., Hebrews 12:9
 - c) God is the Father-Creator of the first man - Genesis 1:26-27, Luke 3:38
 - d) God is Father-Creator of all men - Malachi 2:10, Acts 17:29
 2. This doctrine can be abused by those that claim since we are all children of God then we must all be saved.
 - B. Father by Intimate Relationship
 1. Not only is God the Creator, He also expresses closeness and kinship towards people.
 - a) Toward Israel - Exodus 4:22
 - (1) This goes beyond simply creating Israel and does not mean that all Israelites were righteous. It does express affection and care on a personal level.
 - b) Toward Solomon (or individually) - II Samuel 7:14
 - c) In his care toward all - Psalm 103:13
 - C. Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ
 1. Mentioned in the Old Testament - Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6-7
 2. Clearly taught in the New Testament - John 3:16, Ephesians 3:14-15
 3. The Father acknowledges this - Matthew 3:17, 17:5
 4. The Son acknowledges this - Matthew 11:27
 5. Men recognized this - Peter in Matthew 16:16, the Centurion in Mark 15:39
 6. Even demons recognize this - Matthew 8:29
 - D. Father of all who believe in Christ
 1. God is the Father (physically) of all men through Creation, but He is the Father (spiritually) through Christ.
 2. Through Salvation we become the sons of God - John 1:12, Galatians 3:26, Ephesians 2:19
 3. It is carefully expressed that the lost are *not* sons of God - John 8:44, Matthew 13:38, Ephesians 2:2-3

Theology 101

God the Son

Christ is the centerpiece of the Scriptures and the focal point of all eternity. We are going to hit some of the key areas of doctrine that involve Christ.

- I. The Deity of Christ
 - A. The Bible is VERY clear that Christ was not simply a man, but was God.
 - B. The Testimony of the Prophets - Isaiah 9:6-7
 - 1. note: Immanuel means "God with us"
 - C. The Testimony of Christ Himself - John 8:58, 17:5
 - D. The Testimony of Apostles - John 1:1-2, Matthew 16:16
- II. The Incarnation of Christ
 - A. Christ did not begin with His birth at Bethlehem, as He is *eternal*.
 - 1. Christ was before Creation - Colossians 1:15-17
 - 2. Christ took human form at His First Coming - John 1:14
 - B. Christ became flesh and was both God and Man
 - 1. Christ was conceived and born in human form - Luke 1:26-38, 2:5-7
 - 2. He humbled Himself to take up human form - Philippians 2:5-8
 - 3. Yet He was still God - John 10:30
 - C. Christ, though in flesh, was not sinful ("likeness of sinful flesh") - Romans 8:3
 - D. Some purposes of the Incarnation
 - 1. To reveal God to man - John 1:18
 - 2. To be the sacrifice for our sins - Hebrews 10:1-10
 - 3. To fulfill the Davidic Covenant - II Samuel 7:16
- III. The Substitutionary Sacrifice of Christ
 - A. Seen in prophecy - Isaiah 53
 - B. Christ's death proves God's love for us - John 3:16
 - C. Christ's death was the necessary payment for salvation - Galatians 1:4
 - D. Christ's death was for the whole world - I John 2:1-2
- IV. The Resurrection and Ascension of Christ
 - A. Christ predicted His resurrection MANY times - for example, John 2:18-22
 - B. The FACT of his resurrection is testified to hundreds of witnesses - I Corinthians 15:3-8, and we could add over one dozen more.
 - C. His resurrection is proof of our own to come - I Corinthians 15:20-23
 - D. He ascended up to heaven - Acts 1:9-11
- V. The Second Coming of Christ
 - A. First, at the Rapture - I Thessalonians 4:16-17
 - B. Second, at Armageddon - Revelation 19:11-16
 - C. Then, He rules during the Millennial Kingdom - Revelation 20:1-6

Theology 101

God the Holy Spirit

Often overlooked and neglected, the doctrine of the Holy Spirit is our focus today.

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. First we must establish that the Holy Spirit is a *person* and not an influence, force, etc.
 - B. He performs actions
 1. He speaks - Galatians 4:6
 2. He guides - Acts 13:2
 3. He reproves - John 14:26
 - C. He can be affected
 1. He can be grieved - Ephesians 4:30
 2. He can be quenched (or resisted) - I Thessalonians 5:19
 3. He can be lied to - Acts 5:3
- II. The Deity of the Holy Spirit
 - A. He is called God - Compare Acts 28:25-26 to Isaiah 6:8-9, Acts 5:3-4
 - B. He is eternal - Hebrews 9:14
 - C. He works in salvation - I Corinthians 6:11
 - D. He worked in Creation - Genesis 1:2
 - E. He is part of the Trinity - Matthew 28:19
- III. The Holy Spirit's work through the ages
 - A. In the Old Testament
 1. He worked in people - Exodus 31:3
 2. His work was known - Job 33:4
 3. He moved on men at certain times - Judges 14:6,19
 - B. In the Gospels
 1. In Christ's conception - Luke 1:35
 2. Christ worked in the Spirit's power - Matthew 12:28
 3. Christ promised fullness of the Spirit's power after His Ascension - Acts 1:7-8
 - C. In the Church Age
 1. The power of the Spirit is poured out at Pentecost - Acts 2:1-13
 - a) NOTE - this is not the start of the church, but its empowering
 2. He convicts men of their sin - John 16:8
 3. He in regeneration - Titus 3:5
 4. He works in enabling people for God's work - I Corinthians 12:11
 5. He seals us - Ephesians 1:13
 6. He fills the Spirit with His power - Ephesians 5:18

Theology 101

God the Holy Spirit - Part II

As we touched on last week, the Holy Spirit's work is a major doctrine for the age in which we live. Christ made many bold promises concerning the Spirit's power and we can today reap those benefits of salvation.

- I. The Promise of the Spirit
 - A. Prophesied in the Old Testament - Joel 2:28-29
 - B. Promised by Christ - John 14:15-18, 16:7
 - C. With Christ's payment for sin, the door is opened for the Holy Spirit to work in a believer's life like never before - John 7:39
- II. The Indwelling of the Spirit
 - A. The Holy Spirit is given to every believer - Romans 5:5
 - B. When we are saved, the Holy Spirit takes residence in our hearts - Romans 8:8
 - C. This differs from the Old Testament age when the Holy Spirit moved temporarily on men - 1 Samuel 16:14, etc.
 - D. Therefore, every believer today has the Holy Spirit in them, to guide and empower them - John 14:26
 - E. This is also seen as the Holy Spirit's sealing the believer - Ephesians 4:30
- III. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - A. This is an area where many good men will disagree, mainly on semantics (Baptism vs. Filling of the Spirit, for example). Most seem to believe essentially the same things, they just use differing terminologies.
 - B. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not the same as Believer's Baptism.
 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is essentially spiritual
 2. Believer's Baptism is essentially physical
 - C. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Spirit uniting us in the redemptive work of Christ - Romans 6:1-4, Colossians 2:12-13
- IV. The Filling of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Lewis Sperry Chafer defines it: "a spiritual state where the Holy Spirit is fulfilling all that He came to do in the heart and life of the individual believer. It is not a matter of acquiring more of the Spirit, but rather the Spirit of God acquiring all of the individual."
 - B. Through the Indwelling of the Spirit, we have the Spirit's presence entirely.
 - C. Through the Baptism of the Spirit, we have the Spirit's work entirely.
 - D. Through the Filling of the Spirit, we have the Spirit influence and effect grows in proportion to our surrender, faithfulness, and holiness.
 - E. Illustrated by Peter (Acts 4:8), Paul (Acts 9:17), Stephen (Acts 7:55), and more.
 - F. The command to "walk in the Spirit" is the command for us to let the Holy Spirit fill our lives - Galatians 5:16
 - G. Results of the Spirit's filling
 1. Holiness - Galatians 5:22-23
 2. Guidance - Romans 8:14
 3. Instruction - John 14:26

4. Christ-centeredness - John 16:13-14
5. Assurance - Romans 8:16
6. Power - John 7:38-39

Theology 101

Dispensations and Covenants

Theologians sometimes divide the Bible and history into eras based on certain criteria. Today, the most prevalent of these are Dispensations and Covenants. I believe there are elements of truth in these systems, but that many people take them too far.

I. Dispensations

- A. Although they will not admit it (or may even know it), many in our circles are Dispensationalists in how they view the Scripture
- B. Basically, Dispensationalists see defined periods in the Scripture where God deals with man in differing ways.
- C. There is a danger in taking this idea too far, often called hyper-dispensationalism.
- D. The Seven Dispensations
 1. Age of Innocence
 - a) From Creation to the Fall of Man
 - b) Genesis 1:26-29
 - c) Basically man had it perfect conditions, with only one rule to obey, and yet fell into sin.
 2. Age of Conscience
 - a) From the Fall of Man to the Flood
 - b) No law or code for man to live by, but still they fall into sin.
 3. Age of Government
 - a) From the Flood to Abraham
 - b) Genesis 8:20-9:17
 - c) Human government is ordained (9:5-6), but still man falls into sin.
 4. Age of Promise
 - a) From Abraham to the Law
 - b) Genesis 12:1-3 and others
 - c) God makes big promises to Abraham and his descendants, but still they fall into sin.
 5. Age of Law
 - a) From the Law to the Christ
 - b) Exodus 20 (Ten Commandments) and more
 - c) God gives man a religious and moral code in explicit detail, but still man falls into sin.
 6. Age of Grace
 - a) From Christ to Tribulation
 - b) Romans 3:22-28 and others
 - c) With the payment now made for sin and God revealed through his Son, man still falls into sin.
 7. Age of the Kingdom
 - a) Tribulation and the Millennial Kingdom

- b) Revelation 19
 - c) Christ Himself rules on the earth, yet men rebel and fall into sin.
- II. The Covenants
- A. There are certain promises that God makes in the Scripture that transcend all others. Special note needs to be paid to these.
 - B. Definition of covenant: “an agreement that brings about a relationship of commitment between God and his people”.
 - C. The Covenants
 - 1. The Edenic Covenant - Genesis 1:26-31, 2:16-17
 - 2. The Adamic Covenant - Genesis 3:16-19
 - 3. The Noahic Covenant - Genesis 9:1-18
 - 4. The Abrahamic Covenant - Genesis 12:1-4, 13:14-17, 15:1-7, 17:1-8
 - 5. The Mosaic Covenant - Exodus 20:1-31:18
 - 6. The Palestinian Covenant - Deuteronomy 30:1-10
 - 7. The Davidic Covenant - 2 Samuel 7:4-16, 1 Chronicles 17:3-15
 - 8. The New Covenant - Jeremiah 31:31-33
- III. Misc. Comments
- A. Note some overlap between the Dispensations and the Covenants? Maybe there are bigger truths behind them!
 - B. Man is still saved by grace through faith in EVERY age, era, dispensation, year, or period! Each era does not change God’s requirement of faith but may differ in how God reveals the fact to man.
 - C. Remember the Bible is a complex book written by an infinite God. Some things simply do not fit simple systems like these to fully understand the Scriptures
 - 1. Example - see the varied opinions of Dispensationalists on Acts, James, and the Tribulation.
 - D. There is truth in these systems of interpreting the Bible. However, too many get it backwards and try to fit the Bible into their system instead of letting the Bible be the final authority.

Theology 101

Angels

This is probably the area of theology most influenced by the world of fantasy and fiction. Most people think of angels as being like Clarence from “It’s A Wonderful Life”, or maybe a haloed figure strumming a harp while floating around on a fluffy cloud. Let’s attempt to set the record straight, shall we?

- I. What are Angels?
 - A. The word *angel* simply means “messenger”.
 - B. The word is used sometimes in Greek for human messengers - Luke 7:24
 - C. Appearances by the pre-Incarnate Christ in the Old Testament often call Him “the Angel of the Lord”.
 1. Some instances - Genesis 16:1-13, 21:17-19, 22:11-16
 - D. Angels are created beings - Nehemiah 9:6, Colossians 1:16
 - E. Angels are NOT glorified human spirits - Matthew 20:30 (as = like)
 - F. Angels appear to be incorporeal (Ephesians 6:12), but can take the form of humans (Genesis 18:1-3 for example)
 - G. They are greater than men in knowledge and strength (II Peter 2:11)
 - H. Described as being great in number or numberless - Daniel 7:10, Hebrews 12:2
- II. Types of Angelic Beings
 - A. Holy angels
 1. Angels
 - a) Seen as ministering spirits
 2. Cherubim
 - a) Seen in Genesis 3:24 and Ezekiel 10:1-20
 - b) The Four “Beasts” in Revelation 4:4-9 are possibly Cherubim.
 - c) These defend God’s holiness from the defilement of sin
 3. Seraphim
 - a) Seen in Isaiah 6:2-7
 - b) These lead in praising God and His Holiness
 4. Archangels
 - a) Mentioned in I Thessalonians 4:16 and Jude 9.
 - b) Michael is named as one in Jude 9. He is seen multiple times in the Scripture as in Daniel 10:21 and 12:1.
 - c) Gabriel is often counted as an archangel but is not expressly named as one - Daniel 8:16, Luke 1:26-38.
 - B. Fallen angels
 1. Satan was originally an angel, and with his fall many angels followed after him.
 2. We will deal more with this area next week...
- III. The Ministry of Angels
 - A. They worship God - Matthew 18:10
 - B. They protect and deliver God’s people - Psalm 91:11
 - C. They guide and encourage God’s people - Psalm 28:5-7

- D. They reveal or interpret God's will to men - Daniel 7:16
- E. They are executors of judgment - Acts 12:23
- F. They escort the saved home - Luke 16:22
- G. They DO NOT accept worship or praise - Revelation 22:8-9
 - 1. It is forbidden - Exodus 20:4-5, Colossians 2:18

Theology 101

Satan and Demons

We have looked thus far at the Holy God and His holy angels, so now we turn our attention to the forces of darkness that battle against God.

I. Satan

- A. Satan was originally a holy angel, perhaps among the greatest, but rebelled against God - Ezekiel 28:11-1
 - 1. Note: Though the passage in Ezekiel is addressed to the King of Tyre, it is evident that no mortal man is being described here. This technique is common in the prophetic books.
 - 2. This also means that, though powerful, he is not infinite. He is not omnipresent, omniscient, or any other of the infinite attributes ascribed to the God.
- B. Satan is a real individual and has personality
 - 1. There is a theory today that Satan is simply evil personified, but the Bible is clear that he is a real person!
 - 2. He *acts* through the serpent in Genesis 3:1-15
 - 3. He *accesses* both Heaven and Earth in Job 1:6-12 and 2:1-13
 - 4. He *appears* as an individual to tempt Christ in Luke 4:1-13
 - 5. He *aims* his attacks at God and His children in Ephesians 6:10-12
- C. Satan is extremely powerful
 - 1. The only limits to Satan's power seems to be where God draws line he cannot cross. (See Job chapters 1 & 2)
 - 2. He has power over kingdoms of this world - Luke 4:5, Isaiah 14:12-17
 - 3. He had the power of death - Hebrews 2:14
 - a) Christ has reclaimed this power - Revelation 1:18
 - 4. He has some power over sickness - Job 2:7
 - 5. He can viciously attack - Luke 22:31
 - 6. The Archangel Michael, perhaps mightiest of the angels, will not contend with Satan - Jude 9
- D. Satan is already defeated
 - 1. Through the Blood and the Spirit the Christian can have victory over Satan - Ephesians 6:10-12, I John 4:4, Revelation 12:11.
 - 2. His doom is already foretold - Revelation 20:10
 - 3. However, as with a wounded animal, this makes his attacks more vicious - I Peter 5:8

II. Demons

- A. These are Fallen Angels
 - 1. Many believe that 1/3 of the angels rebelled with Satan against God. This is alluded to in Revelation 12:3-4,9.
 - 2. According to Scripture, only God has the power to create or give life. Satan's "M.O." is to corrupt. If he could not create demons, he could corrupt once holy angels into being his evil followers."

B. Their work

1. They have the power to indwell humans - Mark 5:1-13
 - a) NOTE - There is no evidence in the Scripture that this can happen to a Believer! The Holy Spirit indwells the believer (Romans 8:9-11) and leaves no place for any other!
2. They know and must recognize God and His authority - Mark 5:7, James 2:9
3. They can cause disorders and insanity - see basically every story involving demons in the Gospels.
4. Some of their work inside Christendom is described in I Timothy 4:1

III. Closing Remarks

- A. Run, run, ***RUN, RUN!*** from any “preacher” that gets off into casting out demons. Those guys are idiots!
- B. While these evil beings exist, I must caution that they should not be a major area of study for a Christian. CHRIST IS GREAT THAN ALL OF THESE! Focus on Christ!

Theology 101

Man

In Psalm 8:4, King David asks God, "What is man, that thou art mindful of him?" In all of God's Creation humankind are unique. We will look today at that special place man holds in the plan of God.

I. His Creation

- A. Despite the lies promoted today, everything we see was made by special acts of creation by God Himself - Genesis 1:1
- B. While God devoted much of the Creation Week to the natural world around us, He made man a special part of Creation - Genesis 1:26-27
- C. God's work of creating man was special amongst His other works:
 - 1. God breathed life (spiritual and not just physical) into man - Genesis 2:7
 - 2. God made man in His image - Genesis 1:27
 - 3. God made woman - Genesis 2:21-22
 - a) Note that this differs from animal life, where God makes male and female at once. God makes woman by a special act.
 - 4. God gave man a task - Genesis 2:15
 - 5. God gave man one command - Genesis 2:17

II. His Fall

- A. Man was created with a capacity to choose good or evil
- B. Satan deceived Eve into breaking God's commandment - Genesis 3:1-6
- C. Adam *was not deceived*, but choose willingly to disobey God - II Timothy 2:14
- D. Results of Man's Fall
 - 1. The Curse - Genesis 3:16-19
 - 2. A fallen nature that is passed down to all mankind - Romans 5:12

III. His Nature

- A. Two- and Three-Fold Natures
 - 1. Man has essentially two parts to his nature, the physical and the spiritual - Genesis 2:7, 2 Corinthians 4:16-17
 - 2. The physical is temporal, but the spiritual is continuing forever - Ecclesiastes 12:7
 - 3. Man also can be seen as having a three-fold nature (by further dividing the soul and spirit)
 - a) Body - the physical form
 - b) Soul - the forever form
 - c) Spirit - the personal form
- B. Sinful Nature
 - 1. Man is born with a nature that is bent toward sin and imperfection - Romans 3:23, 5:12
 - 2. While certain aspects of man's unfallen, perfect nature exist, they are corrupted by man's fallen nature - Romans 7:14-25.

IV. His Destiny

- A. Because of sin and the Fall, man is doomed to die - Romans 5:12

- B. This death is not just physical, but spiritual also. - Revelation 20:11-14
- C. THEREFORE, mankind needs a Savior! - Romans 5:8
- D. Through Christ, man can change his destiny and have eternal life with God -
John 3:16

Theology 101

Salvation

In our last study we looked at Man and touched open Sin's affect on him. Today, we will delve deeper into the subject of Sin.

- I. The Need for Salvation
 - A. Every man is born a sinner - Romans 3:23
 - B. Every man is therefore under God's condemnation - Romans 6:23
 - C. Man, in and of Himself, cannot merit his own salvation - Ephesians 2:8,9
- II. The Purchase of Salvation
 - A. Only God could provide salvation - Romans 6:23
 - B. ONLY through Christ's shed blood could Salvation by bought - Colossians 1:14, Ephesians 1:7
 - C. Christ's sacrifice is good for the complete defeat of sin - Romans 3:24
- III. The Method of Salvation
 - A. First, we must confess that we are sinners - Romans 3:10,23
 - B. Second, we must realize the penalty for our sins - Romans 6:23
 - C. Third, we must accept Christ's payment for our sins - Romans 6:23
 - D. Fourth, we must claim salvation by our faith - Romans 10:9,13
 1. 115x in the New Testament salvation is said to be based on *believing*
 2. 35x in the New Testament salvation is said to be based on *faith*
- IV. The Three Tenses of Salvation
 - A. We were saved from Sin's Penalty
 1. Once a person accepts Christ, the gain eternal life and the death penalty is now longer upon him - John 3:16
 - B. We are being saved from Sin's Power
 1. Although sin was defeated on the Cross, it is still present in the world and we battle against it daily.
 2. Our salvation empowers us to overcome sins temptation and effects - Romans 8:12-16
 - C. We will be saved from Sin's Presence
 1. There will come a day when sin will be totally eradicated and we will dwell in a world untainted by its effects - Revelation 21:4
- V. Overcoming Sin in our Lives
 - A. Even though we are saved by our faith in Christ, sin is not completely destroyed in our lives. We still battle it every day, even though we have been guaranteed victory over sin's penalty.
 - B. The "old nature" and the the "new nature" battle within us - Glaciations 5:17
 - C. Just as we cannot overcome sin's penalty by our own power, we cannot overcome sin's power by our own selves - Romans 7:7-25
 - D. God works in us to give us that victory if we allow Him to work - Philippians 2:12-13

Theology 101

Sin

In our last study we looked at Man and touched open Sin's affect on him. Today, we will delve deeper into the subject of Sin.

- I. What is Sin?
 - A. "The teaching of Scripture is that sin is any want of conformity to the character of God, whether it be an act, disposition, or state" - Chafer
 - B. Sin, even if not directed at Him, is *always* against God - Psalm 51:4, Luke 15:18
 1. Remember that God's key attribute is His Holiness! - Leviticus 20:26
- II. Four Aspects of Sin Presented in Scripture
 - A. Personal Sin
 1. That which occurs in our daily walk as we fail to conform to God's Holiness
 2. Romans 3:23
 - B. Sin Nature
 1. That fallen, depraved condition of man that precludes mankind from holiness.
 2. Romans 5:19, Ephesians 2:3
 3. The only victory for the Christian in this struggle is the power of the Spirit - Romans 8:4
 - C. Imputed Sin
 1. Think of this as a starting balance in our "sin account". Even though we have a sinful nature and will commit personal sin, we begin our account with God as a sinner.
 2. Romans 5:12-18
 - D. State of Sin
 1. This looks at the broadest aspect of man's state under the affects of sin. It is in some ways a classification but also the results, present and eternal, of sin.
 2. Romans 3:9
- III. God's Plan For Sin
 - A. He permitted Sin
 1. Sin did not originate in God, but it was allowed in the His system
 2. James 1:13-14
 - B. He overrules Sin
 1. Although sin and evil exist, they do not trump God's power or plan.
 2. Genesis 50:20
 - C. He saves from Sin
 1. Only God can bring total victory over sin
 2. I John 1:9
- IV. The Three "P"'s of Sin
 - A. NOTE - *We'll revisit these next week...*
 - B. Sin's Penalty
 - C. Sin's Power
 - D. Sin's Presence

Theology 101

Things to Come

Our plan is to end this series of lessons with two final lessons, on Heaven and Hell. To better understand these two subjects, we really need to have a general understanding of what the Bible says about man's future.

- I. The Present
 - A. "Time of the Gentiles" - Luke 21:4
 - B. Church Age
 - C. The Signs - Matthew 24:4-14, I Timothy 4:1-3
- II. The Rapture
 - A. Saved, dead or alive, rise to meet Christ - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- III. The Great Tribulation
 - A. Daniel's 70th week - Daniel 9:27
 - 1. Seven Years
 - 2. The Antichrist - II Thessalonians 2:8-10
 - 3. Temple rebuilt - Revelation 11:1-2
 - 4. After 3 1/2 years - Antichrist breaks peace treaty with Israel - Daniel 9:27
 - 5. The Seven Seal judgements - Revelation 6:1-8:1
 - 6. The Seven Trumpet judgements - Revelation 8:2-21; 11:15-19
 - 7. The Seven Vial judgments - Revelation 16
 - B. MEANWHILE IN HEAVEN
 - 1. Believer's Judgment - II Corinthians 5:10
 - 2. Marriage Supper of the Lamb - Revelation 19:7-9
- IV. Armageddon
 - A. The armies of the world have gathered at Megiddo - Revelation 19:19
 - B. Christ destroys them - Revelation 19:20-21
- V. The Millennial Kingdom
 - A. Satan is bound for 1,000 years - Revelation 20:1-3
 - B. Christ establishes the kingdom in Jerusalem - Zechariah 14:4-11
 - C. The saved rule and reign with Christ - Revelation 20:4,6
 - D. The state of the earth - Isaiah 65:18-25
 - E. The fulfillment of promises to Israel - Isaiah 11
- VI. The Final Rebellion
 - A. Satan is loosed - Revelation 20:7-8
 - B. Satan and his followers are defeated - Revelation 20:9
- VII. The Final Judgment
 - A. The unsaved from all the ages are judged - Revelation 20:11-13
 - B. The unsaved are cast into the lake of fire - Revelation 20:14-15
- VIII. The Eternal State
 - A. New Heaven and New Earth - Revelation 21:1-2
 - B. The glory to come - Revelation 21:3-22:5



Theology 101

Heaven

Probably the only area of theology more beloved by Christians than the study of Christ Himself must be the study of the Eternal Life that awaits the Believer. Countless sermons and songs have been presented through the ages about our home beyond the grave. Today, let's look at what the Christian has in store for him upon drawing his final breath.

- I. Death and Beyond
 - A. One of the oldest questions mankind has sought an answer to is whether or not life exists beyond the grave - Job 14:14
 - B. The Bible clearly teaches that man lives on even though his body does not - Luke 16:19-31, Hebrews 9:27
 - C. The Bible also clearly teaches two destination await men, which we call Heaven and Hell - Matthew 25:46
- II. After a Christian Dies...
 - A. Upon death, the soul is liberated from the body and continues - II Corinthians 5:8
 - B. This places their soul in Heaven to await the Rapture/Resurrection - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - C. ...But what about Old Testament saint? Did they go to Heaven?
 1. There appears in the Scriptures to be a slight difference before the Cross as to where the righteous souls went after death.
 2. Christ Himself gives us a glimpse of this in Luke 16:19-31.
 - a) Note that the righteous Lazarus does not go to "heaven" as we see later in the New Testament, but instead to "Abraham's bosom".
 3. This place is often called Paradise and was a temporary home until the Cross.
 4. Christ Himself descended here upon death - I Peter 3:18-19
 5. He then brought these saints with Him to Heaven at His Resurrection. - Ephesians 4:8-10
- III. The Saved and their Future
 - A. Saints will be judged, not according to their sins, but in regards to their works and receive rewards - II Corinthians 5:10
 1. This is NOT in regards to salvation!
 - B. Saints will be with Christ in Heaven for the seven years of the Tribulation - John 14:1-3, I Thessalonians 5:9, Romans 5:9
 - C. Saints will return with Christ when He returns at the end of the Tribulation and establishes the Millennial Kingdom - Jude 14-15, Revelation 19:14
 - D. Saints will rule with Christ during the Millennial Kingdom - Revelation 20:4
 - E. Saints will enter into the Eternal State - Revelation 21:3-4
- IV. The Nature of the Saint's Future
 - A. Being with Christ - II Corinthians 5:6
 - B. Absence of evil or trouble - Revelation 21:4

- C. Fellowship - I Corinthians 13:12
- V. Misconceptions about Heaven
 - A. We will have harps and halos while floating on fluffy clouds
 - 1. Bible says nothing at all about this.
 - B. Everyone gets to go to Heaven
 - 1. The Bible is very clear that all will not be in Heaven - Revelation 20:11-15
 - C. Heaven isn't a real place
 - 1. Oh, yes it is! - John 14:1-2
 - D. Heaven is a place we go to and never leave
 - 1. Yes, and no. If you've paid attention you'll see that saints are quite busy in their afterlife! We really do not enter into Eternity until the evens of Revelation 21.

Theology 101

Hell

We conclude (?) our series on basic Bible doctrines with a look at the most sobering truth of Scripture - the reality of Hell.

- I. Death and Beyond (for review)
 - A. One of the oldest questions mankind has sought an answer to is whether or not life exists beyond the grave - Job 14:14
 - B. The Bible clearly teaches that man lives on even though his body does not - Luke 16:19-31, Hebrews 9:27
 - C. The Bible also clearly teaches two destination await men, which we call Heaven and Hell - Matthew 25:46
- II. Heaven or Hell?
 - A. What sends a person to Hell?
 1. Penalty for our sins - Romans 6:23
 2. Rejection of Christ and His Salvation - John 3:18
 - B. How can we escape Hell?
 1. ONLY THROUGH CHRIST! - Acts 4:10-12
 2. ONLY THROUGH FAITH IN HIM! - Romans 10:9,13
- III. After an Unsaved Person Dies...
 - A. Upon death, the soul is liberated from the body and enters Hell - Luke 16:23
 1. Hell is a real place.
 2. Hell was originally for Satan and his fallen angels - Matthew 25:41
 3. Hell is a place of incomprehensible torment - Matthew 13:50, Mark 9:48, Revelation 14:10
 - B. They remain in Hell until the Final Judgement - Revelation 20:11-12
- IV. The Unsaved and their Future
 - A. All those who reject Christ will stand before Him at the Great White Throne Judgement - Revelation 20:11-15
 1. The judgement here seems to me to be two-fold
 - a) Are they guilty of sin? - Revelation 20:12, Romans 3:10,23
 - b) Are they guilty of rejecting Christ? - Revelation 20:15
 2. No argument can be given against God on these charges, no excuse can be made, no leniency will be granted.
 - B. After being judged, the unsaved are cast into the Lake of Fire - Revelation 20:14-15, also see vs. 10.
 1. This is the final destination and doom of the unsaved.
- V. The Nature of the Unsaved's Future
 - A. Eternal - 2 Thessalonians 1:9, Revelation 20:10, Matthew 25:46
 - B. Torment - Luke 16:23, Matthew 25:46
 - C. Fire - Matthew 25:41, Mark 9:44
 - D. Separation from God and His Grace - Matthew 25:41 "depart"
- VI. Misconceptions about Hell
 - A. Those who miss Heaven will get a second chance

1. No - Hebrews 9:27
- B. Everyone goes to Heaven
 1. No - Matthew 25:41
- C. We'll party, sell ice water, etc.
 1. No.