

ONE
HOUR
BIBLE
STUDY

Into His Marvelous Light



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NLT

*The teaching of
your word gives light,
so even the simple
can understand.*

Psalm 119:130

In Preparation

The following Bible study was prepared to explain the plan of salvation in a simple, one-lesson condensed form with a teacher to guide discussion, or by self-study. If desired, it can be divided into two parts by taking a short break between each of two 30-minute sessions. A recommended place for a break is after the section "Into The Gospels."

Each participating student should have a copy of the study along with a Bible and a pen or pencil. As each scripture is read, the student is asked to become involved, sometimes by completing a "fill-in-the-blank" or responding to a question. Additional comments and supplementary scripture references (designated throughout the text by small numerals in parenthesis) are provided on page 14 for further in-depth study at a later time.

May we also suggest that all participants take a moment to ask the Lord's help in understanding His Word, as King David once did when he prayed, "Open my eyes to see the wonderful truths in your instruction." May God bless you as we travel together "into His marvelous light."

"You can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light." — 1 Peter 2:9

Introduction

When walking out of a dark room into the sunshine, light can be blinding. As our eyes become accustomed to the light, we can see more clearly and enjoy the scenery that surrounds us. Likewise, when we look into the light of the Scriptures, the brightness of truth can sometimes hurt. However, as our spiritual eyesight becomes adjusted we can enjoy “walking in the light.”

This Bible study is designed to allow us to “walk” in the marvelous light of the Word of God. We will be journeying into the Scriptures by imagining we are back in the days of Jesus and the Apostles, listening to them teach and preach the plan of salvation. In order to do this, we will be careful to “correctly explain the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15) by concentrating on the highlights of the three main divisions of the New Testament in chronological order, including:

1. THE GOSPELS

Covering the words and works of Jesus Christ

2. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Covering the actions and preaching of the Apostles

3. THE EPISTLES

Covering the letters written by the Apostles to the churches they started in the Book of Acts

We believe the Scriptures are divinely inspired and “no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet’s own understanding, or from human initiative.” (2 Peter 1:20,21). Therefore, every effort has been made to present the pure Word of God without adding to it or taking away from its teachings (Deuteronomy 4:2; Proverbs 30:5,6). It is not our intention to diminish any personal relationship you may have with our Lord. Neither do we desire to convince you of our own personal ideas or the creeds of any denomination. We simply desire to share the truth as it is written. Only by claiming the Bible as our sole authority can any of us be confident of our salvation, for it is the Word of God and not the traditions of men that will judge us all in the end.

*Let us read **2 Timothy 3:15,16** as we begin
our journey into the Word of God...*



THE GOSPELS

John 1:1-5,14

The _____, which was in the beginning, and was God, became flesh. Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God.

John 1:11-13

If we believe in Him and receive Him, Jesus gives us power to become the children of _____ by a supernatural birth. He spoke further about this new birth one night to a ruler of the Jews...

John 3:1-8

The Lord told Nicodemus that everyone who wanted to see or enter the kingdom of God must be born again of _____ and the _____.

John 3:16-21

Jesus also told Nicodemus that everyone who _____ in Him shall have eternal life. Jesus mentioned two seemingly different requirements for salvation, one is being born again, the other is believing. Yet, this is not a contradiction. The next scripture explains how believing is related to experiencing the birth of the Spirit.

John 7:38,39

Here we discover that if we believe on Him we will receive His _____. We find that scriptural belief is more than just a change in the way we think. It also results in a scriptural experience. Faith motivates us to obey and obedience brings God's acceptance and blessing.

John 12:35,36 & 42,43

Today, just as in Jesus' day, many believe on Him. But, they did not _____ it for fear of what others will do or say.

John 12:44-48⁽¹⁾

In response to their fearfulness, Jesus warns that His _____ will judge us, so we must be careful not to reject it. Rather, we should believe and obey it...no matter what others say or do!

John 17:17-20⁽²⁾

In Jesus' prayer for His disciples, just before His crucifixion, He said God's Word is _____. He also prayed for us; and all those who would believe on Him through the Apostles' word.

To find out what the Apostles' message was to be, let us read what Jesus told them to proclaim. The setting of the following great commission scripture in Luke 24:45-49(3) is just after the Lord's death, burial and resurrection, and just before His ascension into heaven.

"Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures. And he said, "Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: 'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent. You are witnesses of all these things. And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.'"

Questions:

Did the Apostles preach the message Jesus commanded them to proclaim? yes ___ no ___

How was the promise of the Father fulfilled?

Let us continue *our journey into the Word of God by seeing what was preached and what happened at Jerusalem...*

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Acts 1:3-5

As we enter the Book of Acts, we discover almost immediately that the promise of the Father is the baptism of the _____

Acts 2:1-17

When the Apostles were at Jerusalem, they, along with many others, were joyously filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other _____ as the Spirit gave them utterance (the inspiration to speak). The amazed onlookers from many nations who heard them speaking with tongues asked, “What can this mean?” Then Peter explained the promised coming of the Spirit and went on to preach Christ and the original apostolic plan of salvation.

Acts 2:36-39⁽⁴⁾

When the people who heard Peter’s words believed that Jesus Christ was their Lord and Savior, they were sorry for their sins and asked Peter and the Apostles what they should do. Peter replied by preaching the message Jesus commanded to be preached in Luke 24:45-49. In light of this, consider the three elements of the plan of salvation Peter preached in verse 38:

1. Repentance
2. Remission of sins through baptism in Jesus’ name
3. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit

NOTICE

Acts 2:38 is the fulfillment of the two “new birth” requirements Jesus mentioned in John 3:5 that were necessary to enter the kingdom of God!

Water birth = baptism in the name of Jesus Christ

Spirit birth = infilling of the Holy Spirit

Now, let’s look at other examples of people being born again of water and the Spirit as the Word Jesus gave His apostles continued to be preached throughout the Book of Acts...

Philip preaching to the Samaritans in Acts 8...

Some people say when they experienced joy, or when they believed in Jesus, or when they were baptized, they were automatically filled with the Holy Spirit, but what does the Word say?

Acts 8:5-8 Did they have great Joy? yes ___ no ___

Acts 8:12 Did they believe in Jesus Christ? yes ___ no ___

Acts 8:14-17⁽⁵⁾ Were they baptized in His name? yes ___ no ___

Did they receive the Holy Ghost as a separate and distinct experience? yes ___ no ___

Peter preaching to the Gentiles in Acts 10...

Some people say being religious is enough, or that Spirit baptism evidenced by tongues was only for the Day of Pentecost. If the Bible says this is true, then it is true. But if the Word shows us through Cornelius' experience that this is not true...then it is not.

Acts 10:1,2 Was Cornelius a religious man? yes ___ no ___

Acts 10:5,6⁽⁶⁾ Did God have more for him to do? yes ___ no ___

Acts 10:44-46 Did they receive the Holy Ghost and speak in tongues after the day of Pentecost? yes ___ no ___

Acts 10:47,48 Did they still have to be baptized in Jesus' name? yes ___ no ___

Paul preaching to John's disciples in Acts 19...

Many people who are believers have not even heard about the Holy Spirit that is promised to them. Also, some people say it is not necessary to be baptized or rebaptized. (If you were baptized by John the Baptist, would you think it would be necessary to be re-baptized using a different baptismal formula?) Others say it does not matter what is spoken when you are baptized. If the Bible indicates it does not matter, then it does not matter. But what if the Bible shows us it DOES matter?

Acts 19:1,2 They were believers, but had they heard of or received the Holy Ghost? yes ___ no ___

Acts 19:3-5⁽⁷⁾ Did those baptized by John the Baptist have to be re-baptized in Jesus' name? yes ___ no ___

Acts 19:6 Was receiving the Holy Spirit accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking with other languages? yes ___ no ___

NOTICE

We have found that the Apostles preached the following salvation message:

- ... The life of Christ and His death, burial and resurrection
- ... Repentance toward God and belief in Jesus Christ as Savior
- ... Baptism in water by immersion in Jesus' Name
- ... Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit (which was accompanied by the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues.)

Now, let us read what the Apostles had to say about the message of salvation they proclaimed in the Book of Acts. We can do this by reading the Epistles (letters) they wrote to the converts.

THE EPISTLES

As we read the Epistles, we will notice how strongly the Apostles felt about the gospel (good news) of salvation. This is not because they were being judgmental. It is because they knew the Word Jesus had given them to proclaim was going to judge all men.

What Did Peter Say?

“You were cleansed from your sins when you obeyed the truth...you have been born again...it comes from the eternal, living word of God....And that word is the Good News that was preached to you.” (1 Peter 1:22-25).

Obedience to God’s Word purifies our souls!

Peter Asked...

“What terrible fate awaits those who have never obeyed God’s Good News?” (1 Peter 4:17,18).

Paul Answered...

“When the Lord Jesus appears from heaven. He will come with his mighty angels, in flaming fire, bringing judgment on those who don’t know God and on those who refuse to obey the Good News of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with eternal destruction, forever separated from the Lord and from his glorious power.” (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9).

It is eternally important to obey the gospel!

What Did Paul Say?

“You are being fooled by those who deliberately twist the truth concerning Christ. Let God’s curse fall on anyone, including us or even an angel from heaven, who preaches a different kind of Good News than the one we preached to you. I say again what we have said before: If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed.” (Galatians 1:7-9)

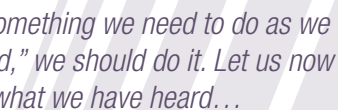
There is only one gospel!

What Did James Say?

“Humbly accept the word God has planted in your hearts, for it has the power to save your souls. But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves. For if you listen to the word and don’t obey, it is like glancing at your face in a mirror. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like.” (James 1:21-24).

The Word is able to save our souls!

James tells us that if we see something we need to do as we look into the “mirror of the word,” we should do it. Let us now consider what we will do with what we have heard...



Conclusion

DO YOU BELIEVE the Word of God is true and will judge us?

DO YOU BELIEVE Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior?

DO YOU BELIEVE it is necessary to repent by determining to turn from sin and giving your life to God?

DO YOU BELIEVE water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is the biblical way to be baptized?

DO YOU BELIEVE the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for you today, and when you receive it you will speak in other tongues, just as they did in the Bible?

If you believe these things, pray right now, asking God to allow you to experience all that He has for you!

Supplemental Scriptures

(1) Matthew 7:13-24

God's warning regarding false prophets, and the importance of being a doer and not just a hearer of the Word.

(2) Matthew 16:15-19

Peter was given the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" because of his revelation of who Jesus Christ was.

(3) Other "Great Commission" Scriptures

In Matthew 28:18-20 the word "name" is singular in this command to baptize. The Apostles obeyed this command when they baptized only in the name of Jesus, and did not use the titles mentioned here (See Acts 4:12). Mark 16:15-18 stresses the importance of water baptism and describes the signs that will follow believers.

(4) Matthew 16:15-19; Acts 2:14-39

Peter, who was given the "keys of the kingdom," uses them to open the "kingdom door" by preaching the original apostolic message of salvation for the first time.

(5) Acts 8:35-39

Philip must have mentioned baptism when he preached Jesus to the Ethiopian official because the Eunuch asked to be baptized in water. The Greek root word for "baptize" is bapto which literally means "to cover wholly with fluid, to dip." (See also Romans 6:3,4.)

(6) Acts 10:34-43

Peter preached the life and lordship of Jesus Christ as well as His death, burial and resurrection.

(7) 1 Peter 3:20,21

According to Peter, baptism is an essential part of the plan of salvation.

We encourage you to read through the Gospels, Acts and Epistles in detail...and continue to walk "into His marvelous light!"

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