

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 Twenty-seven: *God's Husbandry*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church as revealed in the figure of a vineyard.

Lesson Text: John 15:1–27

Memory Verse: 1 Corinthians 3:9

Lesson Readings

John 15:1–27; 1 Corinthians 3:1–17; Matthew 21:33–46; Mark 12:1–12; Luke 13:6–9; 20:9–19;
1 Kings 21:1–29; Isaiah 5:1–7; Jeremiah 2:20–28; Ezekiel 17:1–21

Review Questions

1. What does the expression “ye are God’s husbandry” mean?
2. In the figure of the vineyard how are the following represented?
3. Jesus
4. The Father
5. The Church
6. A Christian
7. The Apostles
8. Salvation
9. An Apostate
10. What in this figure is used to represent reproof, rebuke and correction?
11. What is the significance of being “purged”?
12. What do being “cast forth,” “withered” and “burned” signify?

Discussion Questions

1. What does it mean to abide in Christ? (Consider 1 John 2:6 in your answer.)
2. How does the Old Testament use of the “vine figure” prepare us to understand the use which Jesus and the Apostles make of it in their teaching?

Research Project

Research the ancient methods of horticulture for planting vineyards and growing grapes. On the back of this page sketch how an ancient vineyard might appear.

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Lesson Twenty-eight: *The Church of Christ in Troas*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the history of the Church in Troas in Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Acts 20:1–12

Memory Verse: 2 Timothy 2:12

Lesson Readings

Acts 16:6–12; 2 Corinthians 2:1–13; 7:4–8; Acts 19:8–12, 21–23, 24–26; 20:1–12; 2 Timothy 4:13

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. Under what circumstances was this Church established? (see: 2 Corinthians 2:12)
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this place?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Who were the first preachers to have any influence upon these Christians?
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
8. Describe the worship in which the members of this Church engaged.
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. What in the context of Acts 20:7 demonstrates that the Church at Troas engaged in the Lord's Supper every first day of the week?
2. Prove that the "breaking of bread" at Troas was the Lord's Supper eaten by the whole Church and not what is commonly referred to as the "agape" or "love feast."

Research Project

Learn what you can about the city of Troas that would have some influence on the success or failure of introducing the Gospel of Christ. Include in your research the city's relation to Rome, its religious heritage, the Jewish community, etc.

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Lesson Twenty-nine: *The Body of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church revealed in the figure of a human body.

Lesson Text: 1 Corinthians 12:1–31

Memory Verse: Colossians 1:18

Lesson Readings

1 Corinthians 12:1–31; Ephesians 1:15–2:22; 3:1–7; 4:1–16; 5:22–30; Colossians 1:9–22; 2:10–23; Colossians 3:1–15; Romans 12:1–8; Isaiah 7:7–10; 9:14–16; Daniel 2:32–40

Review Questions

1. What significance does the Old Testament attach to being the “head”?
2. In the figure of the human body how are the following represented?
 - a) Jesus
 - b) The Church
 - c) A Christian
 - d) The Father
 - e) Salvation
3. What truths about the Church do we learn from this figure? (List at least three.)
4. What relationship does Christ sustain as head to the body?
5. What does Paul mean by saying “Ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular”?

Discussion Questions

1. How should the members of the body of Christ feel toward one another?
2. What inherent advantage is there in the members not all having the same office?

Research Project

Demonstrate how denominationalism is irreconcilable with the concept of the Church presented in the body figure. Give particular attention to the terms “head,” “members,” “reconciliation” and “one”.

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Lesson Thirty: *The Church of the Colossians*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Church at Colossae in Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Colossians 4:7–17

Memory Verse: Colossians 2:1–3

Lesson Readings

Acts 14:24; 16:6; 18:23; 19:9, 10, 20–23; 28:30,31; Colossians; Philemon

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. Under what circumstances was this Church established?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this place?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Who were the first preachers to have any influence upon these Christians?
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
8. Describe the worship in which the members of this Church engaged.
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. Establish the time and place of the writing of the Epistle to the Colossians.
2. Briefly outline the book of Colossians chapter by chapter.

Research Project

Locate on a map the city of Colossae. Find out as much as possible about the people who lived there, any important events that took place there and what importance it had in the first century.

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Lesson Thirty-one: *The Bride of Christ*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church revealed in the figure of the bride.

Lesson Text: John 3:26–36

Memory Verse: Matthew 25:6

Lesson Readings

Matthew 9:14–17; 22:1–14; 25:1–13; Mark 2:18–22; Luke 5:31–39; John 3:26–36; Romans 7:1–4;
Luke 12:35–37; Ephesians 5:22–31; 2 Corinthians 11:1–4; Revelation 19:1–10; 21:1–4

Review Question

1. In the figure of the bride how are the following represented?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Father
 - c) The Universal Church
 - d) Christians
 - e) John the Baptist
 - f) The Apostles
 - g) Salvation
 - h) Apostasy
2. What characteristics of marriage are emphasized in our relation to Christ in the Church?
3. How does Christ fulfill his role as the “bridegroom” or “husband” of the Church?
4. How do we marry Christ? (see: Romans 7:1–4; 2 Corinthians 11:2; 1 Corinthians 4:15)

Discussion Questions

1. How is Israel represented under the figure of a bride or wife in the Old Testament?
2. If the Church is the bride of Christ, what must be true about denominationalism?

Research Project

Research the ancient oriental customs regarding the marriage feast, the marriage garments, the invitation of guests and the arrival and reception of the bridegroom.

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Lesson Thirty-two: *The Roman Church*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Roman Church and Paul's unique relationship with it.

Lesson Text: Romans 1:1–17

Memory Verse: Romans 1:15–17

Lesson Readings

Acts 2:1–11; 28:13–31; Romans; Philippians 1:1–30; 2:19–30; 4:22;
Ephesians 6:18–24; Philemon

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. Under what circumstances was this Church established?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this place?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Who were the first preachers to have any influence upon these Christians?
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
8. Describe the worship in which the members of this Church engaged.
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. Establish the time and place of the writing of the book of Romans.
2. Briefly outline the book of Romans chapter by chapter.

Research Project

Locate Rome, Three Taverns, Puteoli and Appii Forum on a map. Gather as much information as you can about the significance of each place. Why was Rome so important to the spread of Christianity?

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Lesson Thirty-three: *The Family of God*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church revealed in the figure of a family.

Lesson Text: John 3:1–21

Memory Verse: Matthew 12:50

Lesson Readings

Matthew 12:46–50; Mark 3:31–35; Luke 15:11–32; John 3:1–21; Galatians 3:24–29; 4:19–31; Galatians 6:10; Ephesians 2:18–22; 3:13–19; 1 Timothy 3:14–16; Hebrews 2:11–18; 3:1–6

Review Questions

1. What does Jesus regard as the defining characteristic of a child of God?
2. In the figure of a family how are the following represented?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Father
 - c) The Christian
 - d) The Church
 - e) Salvation
 - f) The hypocritical
 - g) The apostate
3. How is one born into the Family of God?
4. What is the meaning of the word “brother”? What does it signify concerning Christians?
5. How is the Church “the mother of us all”?

Discussion Questions

1. Explain John 3:5; specifically, what does it mean to be “born of water and the Spirit”?
2. How are the Children of God Abraham’s seed? (see: Galatians 3:24–29)

Research Project

Research the Hebrew custom of primogenitor. Apply what you learn to Romans 8:17, Galatians 3:29 and Titus 3:7. What do these passages teach about the heirship of Christ.

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Lesson Thirty-four: *The Church on Crete*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the history of the Church on the island of Crete.

Lesson Text: Titus 1:1–16

Memory Verse: Titus 1:5

Lesson Readings

Acts 15:1–19; Galatians 2:1–16; Titus; 1 Timothy 1:3; 3:14,15; 2 Timothy 1:16–18; 4:13,20

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. Under what circumstances was this Church established?
4. Who were among the very first converts made in this place?
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. Who were the first preachers to have any influence upon these Christians?
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
8. Describe the worship in which the members of this Church engaged.
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. Establish the time and place of the writing of the Epistle to Titus.
2. Briefly outline Titus chapter by chapter.

Research Project

Make a time line showing the chronology of the life of Paul after his release from prison in Rome (See: *A Harmony of the Life of Saint Paul* by Frank Goodwin, pp. 171–186). Locate the island of Crete on a map.

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Lesson Thirty-five: *The Household of God*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of a household.

Lesson Text: Matthew 20:1–16

Memory Verse: Romans 6:17, 18

Lesson Readings

Matthew 10:24,25; 18:23–35; 20:1–16; 24:43–45; 25:14–30; Mark 13:34–37; Luke 12:37–48; Luke 17:7–10; 19:11–27; Romans 6:12–23

Review Questions

1. What favorable attribute of a servant does Jesus emphasize in this figure?
2. In the figure of a household how are the following represented?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Father
 - c) A Christian
 - d) Salvation
 - e) Apostasy
 - f) The Jews
 - g) The Gentiles
 - h) The Christian Dispensation
 - i) The judgment
3. What kind of Master is Christ?

Discussion Questions

1. What do the Eleventh Hour Laborers teach us concerning the nature of salvation?
2. Compare and contrast our service to Christ with our former service to Satan.

Research Project

Determine the value of a denarius, a pound and a talent. What is the significance of each of these coins in determining the character of our service to Christ?

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Lesson Thirty-six: *The Strangers Scattered Throughout Pontus, Cappadocia and Bithynia*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the history of the Churches of northern Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Acts 16:1–12

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 1:3–5

Lesson Readings

Acts 2:8–11; 1 and 2 Peter

Review Questions

1. When were these Churches established?
2. By whom were these Churches established?
3. Under what circumstances were these Churches established?
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. Who were the first preachers to have any influence upon these Christians?
7. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems challenging Churches?
8. Describe the worship in which the members engaged.
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. Establish the time and place of the writing of 1 Peter.
2. Briefly outline 1 and 2 Peter chapter by chapter.

Research Project

Locate Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia and Bithynia on a map. Find out the historical context in which Peter's letters were written that made this region significant to Christianity at that time (See: *Commentary on New Testament Epistles, Vol. VII* by Guy Woods, pp. 16,17).

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Lesson Thirty-seven: *An Habitation of God*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of a temple.

Lesson Text: Ephesians 2:19–22

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:5

Lesson Readings

Matthew 16:16–19; 1 Corinthians 3:5–17; 2 Corinthians 6:14–18; Ephesians 2:14–22;
1 Timothy 3:14,15; 2 Timothy 2:19–21; 1 Peter 2:4–10; Revelation 3:1–12

Review Questions

1. What is a temple?
2. In the figure of a temple how are the following represented?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Father
 - c) A Christian
 - d) The Apostles
 - e) Salvation
 - f) Persecution
 - g) Apostasy
3. What will happen to all work which is built upon the foundation of Christ?
4. What personal attribute is essential to being included in the temple of living stones?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the significance of being “a living stone”?
2. How are we “fitly framed together” to become the temple of God?

Research Project

Research the ancient techniques of carpentry and stone masonry. Now, consider Paul’s description of himself as a wise masterbuilder. What does this expression mean?

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Lesson Thirty-eight: *The Church at Pergamos*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Church at Pergamos.

Lesson Text: Revelation 2:12–17

Memory Verse: Revelation 2:13

Lesson Readings

Acts 19:9, 10, 22; Revelation 2:12–17

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. With what negative spiritual circumstances did this Church contend?
4. Name some of the leading members of the Church.
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
7. What did Jesus commend about this Church?
8. What did Jesus condemn about this Church?
9. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this Church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the solution to the problems in the Church at Pergamos?
2. What does Jesus know about the Churches? (cf. Revelation 1:12–20)

Research Project

Locate the seven Churches of Asia on your map. Research the city of Pergamos to determine what in its history, religion and culture would affect the Christians that lived there during the first century.

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Lesson Thirty–nine: *A Royal Priesthood*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of a priesthood.

Lesson Text: Hebrews 7:1–28

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 2:9

Lesson Readings

Hebrews 2:17,18; 4:14–16; 5:1–10; 6:19,20; 7:1–28; 10:19–22; 13:15,16; Romans 12:1,2;
2 Corinthians 2:15; Philippians 2:17; 4:18; Revelation 1:5,6; 5:6–10; 1 Peter 2:5–10;
Genesis 15:17–24; Zechariah 6:9–15; Psalm 110

Review Questions

1. What attributes of the kingdom does the priesthood figure emphasize?
2. In the figure of a priesthood how are the following represented?
 - a) The Father
 - b) Christ
 - c) The Christian
 - d) The Church
 - e) Salvation
 - f) Worship
 - g) Holy living
 - h) Heaven
 - i) Baptism
3. What is the significance of being designated as a “royal” priesthood?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship of the Church to the Old Testament revealed in this figure?
2. When Christ died the veil in the temple was rent (Mark 15:38)? What did this mean?

Research Project

Sketch a schematic of the Mosaic Tabernacle. Identify its parts and their significance as a figure of the true tabernacle of Hebrews 8:2.

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Lesson Forty: *The Church at Thyatira*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Thyatira Church of Christ.

Lesson Text: Revelation 2:18–29

Memory Verse: Revelation 2:21, 22

Lesson Readings

Revelation 2:19–29; Acts 16:1–15

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. With what negative spiritual circumstances did this Church contend?
4. Name some of the leading members of the Church.
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
7. What did Jesus commend about this Church?
8. What did Jesus condemn about this Church?
9. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this Church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the solution to the problems at Thyatira?
2. What does Jesus expect of His faithful saints in such circumstances as these?

Research Project

Research the historical, religious and cultural conditions at Thyatira which may have contributed to the problems they were facing when John wrote Revelation.

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Lesson Forty-one: *One Fold and One Shepherd*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of the sheepfold.

Lesson Text: John 10:1–42

Memory Verse: John 10:16

Lesson Readings

Matthew 7:15–19; 18:12–14; 25:31–46; John 10:1–42; Luke 12:22–32; 15:3–10; Acts 20:25–32;
1 Corinthians 9:7; 1 Peter 2:20–25; 5:1–4; Hebrews 13:20; Ezekiel 34:1–10

Review Questions

1. What aspect of the nature of the Church is emphasized in the figure of the sheepfold?
2. In the figure of the sheepfold how are the following represented?
 - a) Christ
 - b) A Christian
 - c) The Church
 - d) Being in sin
 - e) Salvation/death of Christ
 - f) Heaven
 - g) False prophets
 - h) Elders
 - i) False Christs
 - j) Pharisee/Scribe

Discussion Questions

1. How is the atoning sacrifice of Christ represented in this figure?
2. How is eternal life described in this figure?

Research Project

Research the work habits and general expectations for the ancient shepherds in order to be able to discuss the allegory of the Good Shepherd.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Forty-two: *The Church at Sardis*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the history of the Church of Christ in Sardis.

Lesson Text: Revelation 3:1–6

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:2

Lesson Readings

Revelation 3:1–6; Acts 19:9,10 , 20–23

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. With what negative spiritual circumstances did this Church contend?
4. Name some of the leading members of the Church.
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
7. What did Jesus commend about this Church?
8. What did Jesus condemn about this Church?
9. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this Church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the solution to the problems in the Church at Sardis?
2. Revelation 3:4 speaks of saints that have not “defiled their garments,” make a modern day application of this truth.

Research Project

Research the historical, religious and cultural conditions at Sardis. How may these things have affected the Church so that Jesus would say of them that they were “ready to die”?

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Lesson Forty-three: *The Kingdom of Heaven*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of a kingdom.

Lesson Text: Luke 19:11–27

Memory Verse: Matthew 16:18, 19

Lesson Readings

Matthew 16:13–20; 22:1–14; Luke 1:26–34; 18:15–30; 19:11–27; 22:13–30; John 3:1–10; John 18:33–38; Romans 14:16; 1 Corinthians 6:9–11; 15:24; Galatians 5:19–26; Ephesians 2:19; Philippians 3:20,21; Hebrews 1:4–14; 1 Peter 2:11; Daniel 2:1–49; 7:9–14; Zechariah 6:9–15

Review Questions

1. Demonstrate that Jesus used “kingdom” in a figurative sense relative to the Church?
2. What aspect of the nature of the Church is emphasized in the figure of a kingdom?
3. How are each of the following represented in the figure of a kingdom?
 - a) The Father
 - b) Christ
 - c) The Church
 - d) The Apostles
 - e) A Christian
 - f) The Unbelieving
 - g) Salvation
4. How does the figure of a kingdom relate to the question of authority in the Church?
5. What is the nature of the authority of the Apostles? Do they still exercise that authority?

Discussion Questions

1. To what domain does Christ’s kingdom extend? (see: Matthew 13:24–30; 36–43).
2. Are the terms “Kingdom” and “Church” synonymous?

Research Project

Research the Old and New Testaments for evidence of the time of the establishment of the kingdom of heaven. Draw a time line representing the chronology of the Bible predictions.

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Lesson Forty-four: *The Church at Philadelphia*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Church at Philadelphia in Asia Minor.

Lesson Text: Revelation 3:7–13

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:8

Lesson Readings

Revelation 3:7–13; Acts 19:9, 10, 20–23

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. With what negative spiritual circumstances did this Church contend?
4. Name some of the leading members of the Church.
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
7. What did Jesus commend about this Church?
8. What did Jesus condemn about this Church?
9. What were some of the doctrinal and moral problems which challenged this Church?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this Church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. What is unique about the Church at Philadelphia in comparison to the other Churches of Asia?
2. What does it mean to be a “pillar in the temple of God”?

Research Project

In each of the letters to the Churches Jesus offers a reward. Compare these rewards to each other and draw a conclusion about what Jesus is offering His saints.

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Lesson Forty-five: *The Army of the Lord*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of an army.

Lesson Text: Revelation 19:11–21

Memory Verse: 1 Thessalonians 5:8

Lesson Readings

1 Corinthians 9:1–14; 2 Corinthians 10:1–6; 1 Timothy 18–20; 2 Timothy 2:1–7; 1 Peter 2:1–12;
Hebrews 2:10–18; Ephesians 6:10–20; 1 Thessalonians 5:8–11; Revelation 6:1,2; 19:11–21

Review Questions

1. What attribute of the Church is emphasized in the figure of an army?
2. How are the following represented in the figure of an army?
 - a) Christ
 - b) A Christian
 - c) The Church
 - d) Satan and his ministers
 - e) The Word of God
 - f) Temptation
3. How would one describe a mature child of God in this figure?
4. What is the significance of the description of Jesus in this figure of an army?
5. What are the weapons of our warfare?

Discussion Questions

1. How should we use each of the weapons we have in our spiritual arsenal?
2. How did Christ “spoil” Satan and “triumph” over him? (Colossians 2:9–15)

Research Project

Research the implements of war mentioned in Ephesians 6 and 1 Thessalonians 5 used by the ancient soldier in battle. How does each relate to the “panoply” of the Christian?

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Lesson Forty-six: *The Church at Laodicea*

Lesson Aim: Learn the history of the Laodicean Church.

Lesson Text: Revelation 3:14–22

Memory Verse: Revelation 3:18

Lesson Readings

Revelation 3:14–22; Acts 16:6; 18:23; Colossians 2:1–6; 4:13–16

Review Questions

1. When was this Church established?
2. By whom was this Church established?
3. With what negative spiritual circumstances did this Church contend?
4. Name some of the leading members of the Church.
5. What were the principal elements of the gospel presented to these converts?
6. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
7. What did Jesus commend about this Church?
8. What did Jesus condemn about this Church?
9. What were some of the doctrinal and spiritual problems which challenged this Church?
10. Name any outstanding feature of this Church that favorably impressed you.

Discussion Questions

1. What was the solution to the problems at Laodicea?
2. What would happen to the Church at Laodicea if these problems were not corrected?

Research Project

Research the history, religion and culture of Laodicea and determine how these things may have affected the Church there.

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Lesson Forty–seven: *The Israel of God*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of the nation Israel.

Lesson Text: Romans 9:1–33

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:16

Lesson Readings

Matthew 8:5–13; Luke 13:23–30; Acts 7:38; Romans 2:17–29; 9:1–33; 1 Corinthians 10:18–22;
Galatians 6:11–18; Philippians 3:1–14; Colossians 2:10–15; Revelation 3:9

Review Questions

1. What aspect of the nature of the Church does the figure of Israel present?
2. How are each of the following represented in the figure of Israel?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Church
 - c) The Gospel
 - d) The Christian
 - e) Salvation/Justification by Faith
 - f) The Believing Jew
 - g) The Gentile Believer
 - h) The Unbelieving Jew
3. What does Paul mean when he writes, “They are not all Israel which are of Israel”?
4. What hope did a fleshly Israelite have regarding his salvation?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the relationship between circumcision and baptism according to Colossians 2?
2. Who is an Israelite, a Jew, a child of Abraham?

Research Project

Research the Old and New Testaments looking for passages that give some indication that the Gentile would be included in the hope of the fleshly nation of Israel.

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Lesson Forty-eight: *The Church in Babylon*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the history of the Church in Babylon.

Lesson Text: Acts 2:1–11

Memory Verse: 1 Peter 5:13

Lesson Readings

Daniel 4:1–37; Nehemiah 1; Esther; Matthew 2:1–18; Acts 2:1–11; 1 Peter 5:1–14;
Revelation 14:8; 16:9; 17:5; 18:2,10,21

Review Questions

1. What three theories are used to identify Babylon?
2. Locate on your map Elam, Mesopotamia, Parthia and Media?
3. What evidence is there that there were large communities of Jews in the East?
4. If this was the case, what would draw Peter there?
5. When did this Church probably begin?
6. What were the principle elements of the Gospel presented to these first converts?
7. What preachers had influence upon these Christians?
8. When would Peter have been in Babylon?
9. What office did Peter hold in the Babylonian Church?
10. What makes Peter, Silas and Mark a well suited team for this work in Babylon?

Discussion Questions

1. What evidence is there in 1 and 2 Peter which disproves the “Rome Theory” for identifying Babylon?
2. What evidence is there in the Roman Epistle which counters the argument that Peter was ever in Rome?

Research Project

Research the probable origin, religion and occupation of the “wise men” from the East that came to see Jesus following His star.

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Lesson Forty-nine: *The Olive Tree*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church from the figure of the olive tree.

Lesson Text: Romans 11:1–36

Memory Verse: Romans 11:24

Lesson Readings

Romans 11:1–36; Psalm 69; 1 Kings 19:1–18; Isaiah 6:9,10; 59:20; Romans 4:1–25

Review Questions

1. What aspect of the nature of the Church is emphasized in the figure of the olive tree?
2. How are each of the following represented in the figure of the olive tree?
 - a) The Believing Jews
 - b) The Believing Gentiles
 - c) The Church
 - d) Christ
 - e) Salvation
 - f) Apostasy
 - g) The Fathers
3. How might a Jew or a Gentile be “grafted” into the olive tree?
4. What does the figure affirm about the conditions of salvation respecting either a Jew or a Gentile?
5. Who is the “Israel” that shall be saved? (Romans 11:26)

Discussion Questions

1. What is the “fullness” of the Jews in Romans 11:12?
2. What is the “fullness” of the Gentiles in Romans 11:25?

Research Project

Paul says the Jews were “beloved for the fathers sakes.” Who are these “fathers” and what obligation did God have to them and why?

The Church of Christ

Lesson Fifty: *The Church in Dalmatia, Spain & France*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the establishment of the Church in Western Europe.

Lesson Text: Romans 15:18–33

Memory Verse: Romans 15:20

Lesson Readings

Romans 15:18–22; Acts 20:1–6; 2 Corinthians 10:13–16; 2 Timothy 4:10

Review Questions

1. Locate on your map that region of Europe known as Ilyricum and Dalmatia.
2. Who carried the Gospel into this region?
3. When was this part of Europe evangelized?
4. Why was Paul not involved in the spread of the Gospel into this region?
5. Who went to “Gallia” or Galatia?
6. What two possible locations might this be?
7. Where did Paul intend to travel after visiting Rome?
8. When would it have been possible for Paul to visit this place?
9. Is there any evidence that Paul ever completed this journey as he intended?
10. What were Paul’s expectations concerning the Roman Church for any work in Spain?

Discussion Questions

1. How far did the Gospel spread in the first century?
2. What philosophy did Paul have that would help the Church grow today?

Research Project

Construct a timeline of the life of Paul from his release from his first imprisonment until his second imprisonment. Show a possible journey to Spain on this time line.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Fifty-one: *Mount Zion/Jerusalem*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the nature of the Church under the figure of Mount Zion.

Lesson Text: Galatians 4:19–31

Memory Verse: Galatians 4:26

Lesson Readings

Galatians 4:19–31; Psalm 126:1; Isaiah 1:21–31; 2:1–4; 4:1–6; Joel 3:9–21; Romans 11:26;
Zechariah 1:12–17; 8:1–8; Hebrews 12:18–29

Review Questions

1. What aspect of the nature of the Church is emphasized in the figure of Mount Zion?
2. How are each of the following represented in this figure?
 - a) Christ
 - b) The Church
 - c) The Gospel
 - d) The Old Testament
 - e) Christians
 - f) Jews
 - g) Salvation
 - h) The Father
3. What is the significance of comparing Mount Zion with Mount Sinai?
4. What purpose did such a comparison serve for believing Jews? (see: Hebrews 12)
5. In what sense is Jerusalem “the mother of us all”?

Discussion Questions

1. Why does Paul compare fleshly Israel to Ishmael son of Hagar?
2. On what basis are Old Testament saints included in the Kingdom of Heaven?

Research Project

Research the Old Testament background of Galatians 4 and Hebrews 12 for class discussion.

The Church of Christ

Lesson Fifty-two: *The Elect Lady and Her Sister*

Lesson Aim: Learn about the two unknown Churches mentioned in the New Testament.

Lesson Text: 2 John

Memory Verse: 2 John 4

Lesson Readings

2 John

Review Questions

1. How does John address this Church?
2. What precedent is there for such a designation of the Church?
3. What commandment does John give this Church?
4. How do believers demonstrate their love?
5. What would become the character of some in the Church?
6. Against whom does John warn this Church?
7. What are the consequences of not abiding in the doctrine of Christ?
8. What command does John give concerning false teachers?
9. What is the “house” of 2 John 10?
10. Who sent this Church greetings?

Discussion Questions

1. What is the “doctrine of Christ” in 2 John 9?
2. What particular false doctrine is John concerned about in this letter?

Research Project

Find those passages in the New Testament that represent the Church under the figure of a woman with children?