

BASIC BIBLE
DOCTRINES
FOR
BEGINNING
BELIEVERS

Dr. Stinnett Ballew

Forward

This material was first prepared for the new believers in foreign countries in 1994. After receiving many request, and much encouragement by the brethren that I make it available in English, I released the first English printing in 1998. Even though this is not a revision, some small changes are made in this second printing released in 2002 for clarification of contents and correction of typographical errors.

Basic Bible Doctrine for Beginning Believers is written in a workbook format with questions at the end of each chapter. It is not an in-depth study for the well-trained theology student. It was written for the many people around the world, who have little or no knowledge of the doctrines of the Bible. Keeping it simple, and yet being as thorough as possible, has made the task of writing much more difficult. I believe that as you go through these pages you will be warmly blessed, and drawn into a deeper study of the Word of God and a greater appreciation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since many of the Scriptures mentioned are not printed out, it is of utmost importance that you use the Word of God alongside this material as you study it. This will make the study much more beneficial for you. This book has proven to be a very helpful study tool for Sunday School Classes and especially for new convert classes. Pastors have found this to be a good study tool for Wednesday night Bible Studies. As you move on into this book, you will discover that there is plenty of studying material for even most mature Christians.

We are instructed in II Timothy 2:15 to, “***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***” May God bless you richly as you study the Word of God.

All Scriptures used in this book are from the King James Authorized Version of the Word of God.

Stinnett Ballew

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can be ordered from:*

CHURCH OUTREACH IN MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM
179 Promiseland Drive
Resaca, Georgia 30735

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INTRODUCTION

GROWING AS A CHRISTIAN

The Word of God says in II Peter 3:18, ***“But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ...”*** Now that you are saved, you need to know how to live the life that you have in Christ Jesus to your fullest potential. In this series we will be studying some of the things the Bible teaches Christians should do in order to grow in the grace of God.

We are taught in our text verse that the Lord wants everyone who is saved to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Also in I Corinthians 3:1-3, the Word of God calls the believers in the Church at Corinth babies and instructs them to grow up and become mature Christians. He describes their envying and strife as a sign that they are spiritual babies.

Notice I Corinthians 3:1-3

1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.

2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.

3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

In this chapter we will study four things that are essential for Christian growth. We might call them spiritual vitamins that are necessary for our spiritual growth and development into a mature Christian. As we go through this study please remember when we speak of growth it is always growing in grace and not growing INTO the grace of God. Please understand you do not grow up in order to be saved, but you are to grow up because you are saved. The Lord does not want you to be a baby Christian all of your life.

I. READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY

In I Peter 2:2, the Bible says, ***“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.”*** A good diet of the Word of God is necessary every day for the child of God to grow in God’s grace. Here we are told that the Word of God is like milk to the baby Christian. The newborn Christian is to desire the milk of the Word of God just like a newborn baby desires its milk. In I Corinthians 3:2, the Word of God also compares the deeper doctrines of the Word of God as being meat which the more mature Christians are to feed on.

One of the greatest chapters in the Bible concerning the Word of God itself is Psalms 119. Almost every verse in this long Psalm mentions either: the Law of the Lord, His Word, His Testimonies, His Statutes, or His Precepts. Each one of these speaks of the Scriptures. Let me point out in Psalms 119 some great things that the Word of God does for a Christian who reads the Bible.

Psalms 119:9, Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

Psalms 119:11, Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:89, For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.

Psalms 119:105, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:130, The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

Psalms 119:165, Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.

Here we see five things the Word of God will do for us:

1. In verse 9, the Word of God will cleanse our ways
2. In verse 11, the Word of God will keep us out of sin
3. In verse 105, the Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path
4. In verse 130, the entrance of the Word of God giveth light
5. In verse 165, the Word of God gives great peace

Other great verses that show the importance of the Word of God in our daily lives are:

1. The Word of God is the means of reaching the unsaved and bringing them to Christ, John 5:24; Romans 1:16; I Peter 1:23
2. The Word of God gives assurance of salvation and eternal life John 5:24; 10:27-28 and I John 5:13
3. The Word of God sets us free, John 8:32
4. The Word of God cleanses us, John 15:3, John 17:17, and Ephesians 5:26
5. The Word of God builds our faith, Romans 10:17
6. The Word of God makes us wise unto salvation, II Timothy 3:15
7. The Word of God is quick and powerful, Hebrews 4:12-13
8. The Word of God will judge those who reject it, John 12:48
9. The Word of God will never pass away, Psalms 119:89; Matthew 24:35; I Peter 1:25

Even though there are many other things that studying the Scriptures will do for you, I have listed enough for you to see that it is very important for you to study the Scripture daily as the young believers at Berea did in Acts 17:11.

The Word of God is the soldier's sword, the shepherd's staff, and the sower's seed. It gives light to those in darkness, life to those who are dead in trespasses and sin, and liberty to those who are in the dungeon of sin. It is bread for the hungry, water for the thirsty, and rest for the weary. It will build faith, fellowship, freedom, and a fortress for anyone who will read it regularly.

May God help us to study the Bible diligently, carefully, and prayerfully. We must learn its doctrines, precepts, and commandments until they become a part of our life. Read the Word of God to be wise, believe it to be saved, practice it to be holy, and then share it to be blessed. It is a map for direction, a mirror for our discipline, a manual for our discretion, and a mold for our development.

We can better understand how important of the Word of God is in our daily lives by looking at II Timothy 3:16-17 ***“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.”***

All English-speaking people should use the King James 1611 Authorized Version of the Scriptures. The modern versions are not translated from the same Greek Manuscripts as the King James and many changes have been made in them. Many verses are completely left out.

II. PRAY MANY TIMES A DAY

I Thessalonians 5:17 teaches us to, ***“Pray without ceasing.”*** *Prayer is you coming into the presence of God.* When a person prays, praying will draw his mind and soul away from the cares of this world and will bring him into the very presence of God. *Prayer is you communing with the person of God.* When you are saved, God is your heavenly father, and you can talk to Him just like you talk to your earthly father and know that He is listening. *Prayer is you claiming the promises of God.* There are many verses like Matthew 7:7-8; Matthew 18:19; Matthew 21:22; Mark 11:24; John 14:13-14; and Jeremiah 33:3 where God promises to hear and answer our prayers. As we ask God for things we must claim the promises given to us in the verses by faith. Genuine faith is exercised when we lay claim on the promises of God in prayer. Do not be guilty of the sin of neglecting your prayer-life. In the last part of James 4:2 the Word of God says, ***“Yet ye have not because you ask not.”*** We will never know in this life how much we miss when we fail to pray.

Even though we are not told exactly how many times a day we should pray, the Scripture mentions that Daniel (Daniel 6:10), and David (Psalm 55:17) prayed three times a day. A Child of God who is a person of prayer will become a person of power, and the person who is slack in his praying will be a weak Christian.

III. BE FAITHFUL IN CHURCH ATTENDANCE

One of the first things that a new Christian should do is join a local church and follow the Lord Jesus in believers' baptism. Baptism is discussed in a later chapter. After you join the church, you should be an active, supporting member of the fellowship of that church. You do not join a church just to have your name on the roll, but you join it to become a part of its functions. The church family should be looked at as your spiritual family, your brothers and sisters in Christ.

Many church members do not attend the services at their church regularly. Some that do attend do not support the church with their prayers and finances. Many church members never or very seldom ever get involved in the work of the church. Failure to attend, support, and get involved in the work of the church is sin and will hinder your growth as a Christian. In Hebrews 10:25, we find God's instruction about attending and getting involved in the services and work of the church. Notice, ***“Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.”*** Here the Lord plainly tells us we are to be involved in church on a regular basis.

There are three basic reasons we need to go to church. The first reason for attending church is *Worship*. Worship is the relationship that we have with the Lord. He is worthy of us taking time to assemble together with other believers and worship Him. The second reason is *Fellowship*. Fellowship is our relationship with others. We draw strength from each other when we go to church. The third reason is for *Instruction*. As we listen to the teaching and preaching of God's Word, God will speak to our hearts about His will for our life.

All the work of the Lord today should be connected to the local church. All the Lord's tithes should be given to the local church. Only the local church has the authority to minister the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper.

IV. TELL OTHERS WHAT THE LORD HAS DONE FOR YOU.

Another great way to grow in the Lord is by telling others about your salvation experience. As you tell others who are saved about your salvation experience they will be blessed and so will you. When you tell the lost how the Lord saved you, they will be faced with their own need of salvation.

As a Christian we are commanded to be a witness for our Lord; Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8, and Acts 5:42. In order for us to be a good witness, we must learn how to use the Scriptures in witnessing. Remember in Romans 1:16, the Bible says, ***“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”***

There are many verses of Scriptures that you can use in leading a sinner to the Lord Jesus. One of the most common plans is known as *the Romans Road*. It is called this because all the verses are found in the book of Romans. Mark these verses in your Bible. Memorize them in the order given until you can go through the whole plan without any problem. Romans 3:10, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23, Romans 5:8, Romans 10:9-10, and Romans 10:13.

Remember that salvation is not in a plan, but in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The plan is only a means whereby we get them to the person. The plan is the steps that lead us to the door, the Lord Jesus Christ, John 10:9. As you witness to someone, pray that the Lord will help you and that the Holy Spirit will work in the heart of the sinner. Present the Scriptures given above to them, and encourage them to call upon the Lord for salvation immediately.

Other good verses to use are John 1:11-12, John 3:16, John 5:24, John 6:37, John 6:44, Acts 16:31, Ephesians 2:8-9, and II Corinthians 7:10. Mark all these verses in your Bible and memorize them so that you can use them effectively.

After you have led a person to Christ, go over some of these verses again. This will give them Biblical assurance of their salvation. Then instruct them of the need of coming to church with you where they can follow the Lord in believers' baptism and start serving the Lord in the local church. Remember, every person you win to Christ is a person who will not have to go to hell, but will spend eternity with you in heaven. May God help us all to be faithful witnesses. There are many other things that will help you to grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord, but these four will give you a great start.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Did you read each passage of Scripture that is mentioned in this chapter? If you did not, then do so right now.

2. What does the Lord compare the Word of God to for newborn babies?

3. Name at least ten things that are listed in this study that the Word of God will do for you.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | f. |
| b. | g. |
| c. | h. |
| d. | i. |
| e. | j. |

4. In II Timothy 3:16, name the four things that the Scriptures are profitable for.

- | | |
|----|----|
| a. | c. |
| b. | d. |

5. Which Bible should the English-speaking people of the world use and Why?

6. List the three statements that describe what prayer is.

a.

b.

c.

7. How often did Daniel pray?

8. Name three basic reasons for going to church.

a.

b.

c.

9. What does Romans 1:16 teach us is the power of God unto salvation?

10. List seven Scriptures, chapter and verse, which are used in the Romans Road.

1.

5.

2.

6.

3.

7.

4.

Be sure to study these questions until you know them well before you go to the next chapter.