



A Declaration of Those Things Most Surely Believed Among Us

FOR WE PREACH NOT OURSELVES, BUT CHRIST JESUS THE LORD; AND OURSELVES
YOUR SERVANTS FOR JESUS' SAKE. 2ND CORINTHIANS 4:5

Introduction

Welcome to Pinecrest Baptist Church; and thank you for your interest in this body of believers. This booklet is dedicated to educating those people who enter the doors of these buildings and desire to know the devotions, duties and decorum of this church.

We hope and pray that this booklet will be an aid to you as you seek to understand this work. Our intent is to make plain that which is profound, and to provide sound teaching of that which is sacred. This is our meager effort to declare to you the doctrines of our preaching and the design of our practices.

Above all of that, we desire for you to become a true disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ. We would love for you to join with us as we serve the Lord and care for one another. Our theme verse at Pinecrest is 2 Corinthians 4:5: “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake.” It is that verse that sums up the right order of the ministry of this church.

As you begin your study of Pinecrest 101; I encourage you to approach it with much prayer, sincere study and a persistent dedication to discovering the Lord’s will for your life. May God guide and bless you as you open yourself up to the influence of the ministry of this church. I wish you a profitable study.

Bro. Jeff Haney – Pastor

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Chapter One - Jesus Is Our Founder

"...upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Matthew 16:18-19

In order to understand Pinecrest from a biblical point of view, we must understand what the Bible has to say about this institution called the church. There are many concepts and ideas about what a church is, why it is, and what its role in society is. While the views may vary, the truth stands firm. The church is not to be defined by our social world but by God's Sacred Word.

What the Church is Not:

- A man-made social club
- A civic organization
- A great humanitarian group
- A political movement

One hundred religious persons knit into a unity by careful organization do not constitute a church any more than eleven dead men make a football team.

A.W. Tozer

What the Church is:

- By definition, it is "a called out assembly of baptized believers, in covenant together to carry out the Great Commission".

4 characteristics that define the Bible word Church

1) By Word Definition-When we peel back the King's English in the KJV for the word *church*, we find the word *ecclesia*. The word *ecclesia* simply means "a calling out". By definition of the Miriam Webster Collegiate Dictionary the ancient word and expression of the word meant – "a political assembly of citizens of ancient Greek states; especially : the periodic meeting of the Athenian citizens for conducting public business and for considering affairs proposed by the council" – This was the word that Jesus used to describe the gathered body of the people that He calls out.

2) By Working Application- All throughout the New Testament, the word is used to describe an “assembly”, “congregation”, or a “company”. Many language scholars describe the word as a “gathering”.

3) By Way of Illustration- In Acts 2:41, we can see that believers were baptized before they were allowed to be counted as a member of the assembled church.

4) By Way of Implication- In Acts 2:44 & 46 and Acts 4:32, we find in the first church that “all that believed were together”, that they were with “one accord”, and that they were “of one heart and one soul”. The examples given teach that the first church was “in covenant together” in the apostles’ doctrine.

When we put these things in context together, we come up with a working Biblical definition for the “church”. It is a “called out gathering of baptized believers, who are in covenant together in the apostles’ doctrine”. These characteristics distinguish it from all other “groups” or assemblies’?

our call

If the definition of the word *ecclesia* means to be called out”, then there are obvious things to ask. Who called? To where? For what? When was the call? These questions need to be answered in order for us to hold the right convictions about our identity.

Who Called? Jesus did. Read Mark 2:14.

What did Jesus say to Levi?

What did Levi do?

The calling is for men to follow Christ. This “following” of Christ requires faith in Christ. Where there is no real personal faith, there is no real practical fellowship. Jesus said, “Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”(Luke 6:46). You cannot walk His way if you don’t receive His word. The church is made up first of those who have made the decision to follow Jesus Christ. There are many who want to be identified with a church but have no relationship with Christ. If Christ were separated

from the church, then the church would cease to be a church. According to Acts 2:41, they “gladly received His Word”; this was the first item of business in their journey towards church membership. To “gladly receive His Word” is an expression of the act of getting saved. Acts 13:48 says “and when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed”. This too shows us how someone not only hears the call, but answers that call; they do so by placing their personal faith in Jesus Christ.

He has called all people to come out of their sins, come to Him for forgiveness, and trust Him. Only then do you truly become a “believer” in Jesus Christ.

Each true member of Pinecrest Baptist Church has heard the call of Christ to come to Him for Salvation. We are not a group of all kinds of people. We are a group of only one kind of people- Saved people. Now all kinds of people can be saved people, but any who aren’t saved, are not the Bible kind of people that are allowed by Christ to be in His church. Have you answered that call to repent and believe the gospel?

When did He first call?

Read Matthew 4:18-19, Matthew 16:18
and Mark 1:16-20.

- 1.) Where was Jesus when He began calling?

- 2.) Who did Jesus say would construct the church?

Answering the Call to Salvation

“Lord Jesus, I don’t ask for a feeling, I don’t seek for a sign, but I simply take you at your Word.” Dr. Adrian Rogers

A very popular believe is that the church began on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came and indwelled it. The reality is that the “calling, baptizing, gathering, and covenanting together” started taking place before the day of Pentecost. In truth, the first church was functioning while Christ was still walking the Earth. In Acts 1, before Pentecost came, we find that baptized believers had “assembled together” (vs.4&6) with Jesus and were in covenant together, “one accord”, (vs. 14) in obedience to the Lord.

The truth is that the Holy Spirit did not begin the church; it empowered the existing one. In Acts 2:1, Dr. Luke records, “*When the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place*”. The church existed before the Holy Spirit came. However, it was the coming of the Holy Spirit that unleashed Heavenly power into the earthly church.

What did He call us for? Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts1:8 and Ephesians 3:21.

<p>No other organization on the face of the earth is charged with the high calling to which the church is summoned: to confront men with Jesus Christ.</p> <p>J. W. Hyde</p>
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List three assignments given to the church by Jesus before He ascended to Heaven:

- A.) _____
- B.) _____
- C.) _____

We find in the Bible a threefold assignment for the Lord’s church. It is to 1.) Glorify Christ 2.) Preach the Gospel to lost people everywhere and 3.) Keep the Faith.

What does all of this mean for Pinecrest Baptist Church? It means that, in Christ alone, we find our Beginning, our Building, our Blessing and our Bright future. The church He began so many generations ago started other churches that started other churches and on down the line. Christ’s church has always existed since the days of the seashore calling. Ephesians 3:21 tells us, “*Unto Him be glory in the church, by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. Amen*”. What does that mean? It means that the New Testament church has maintained its existing presence from Christ’s day to our day. This church is under the same direction and command as the first church. Generations may change, but the charge of the church does not.

Our Congregation

Pinecrest Baptist Church assembles on Sunday mornings, Sunday evenings, and Wednesday evenings as our times of regular worship and Bible Study. Occasionally we assemble at different times for special occasions.

Why do we assemble on Sunday mornings? Read Acts 20:7, 1 Corinthians 16:2, and Revelation 1:10.

1.) On what day did the first church meet in Acts 20:7?

2.) When was the church of Corinth commanded to receive the offerings?

In Revelation 1:10, the Apostle John spoke of the “Lord’s Day”. The Lord’s Day is the day that Jesus rose from the grave, which was on the first day of the week. Since that time, the church of the New Testament met for regular worship upon the first day of the week.

Why do we assemble on Sunday evenings? Read Psalm 134 and Acts 20:7 again.

Pinecrest Baptist Church assembles on Sunday nights for three basic reasons:

- A.) We have an example of the early church having service in the evenings. We have no command to meet until midnight or any set ritual. However, the example the first church set for us is a good one.
- B.) In Psalm 134, we find a special Bible Blessing mentioned for those who worship the Lord at night. Now that scripture is not intended to be a doctrinal mandate, but it does reveal a special notice, and blessing for those who end their evening in the Lord’s house.
- C.) We just want to. Our God is too good, our Lord is too loving, and He’s given too much to have only one service. Two or three isn’t enough. However, we’ll never be convinced that saints grow more with less worship. The more we worship together, the more we grow in the Lord.

Why do we assemble on Wednesday evenings?

It's just too long between Sundays to go without gathering to praise the Lord and preach His Word. The New Testament gives us freedom to not only meet on the first day of the week, but also any other day of the week. We've chosen Wednesday because it's right in the middle.

That being said, some may ask whether or not the members of Pinecrest are obligated to be at every single service? That's a fair question with a Biblical answer. Jesus never forced anyone to do anything. He has given each of us freedom. The truth is though that we may either use that freedom to worship at our pleasure or, more appropriately at His. He has given us a word to remember as individual believers in Hebrews 10:25. The Bible tells us *"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."* In other words, do not forsake the assembly, whenever the assembly gathers. Why is that? The Psalmist gave us the best answer in Psalm 92:13 when he said, *"Those that be planted in the house of the Lord, shall flourish in the courts of our God."* When men dwell in God's home, they do well at God's throne. David said, *"... a day in thy courts is better than a thousand, I had rather be a doorkeeper in the House of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."*

Some Points to Ponder Another popular belief is the teaching that "All of the saved of all the ages make up an invisible body called the church." This is not the teaching of Pinecrest Baptist Church. What is true is the fact that all the saved of all the ages do in fact make up the Family of God, and the Kingdom of God. However, the nature of the "church" is that it is always a local visible institution, with each one, in and of itself being "the body of Christ", and "the bride of Christ." Several reasons for this exist. Just to name a few; 1.) In the book of Acts, Biblical water baptism was required before they were allowed to be considered "added to the church." Not all saved people follow through with this. 2.) The sheer definition of the ecclesia demands an actual assembly. There is no such thing as an "invisible, mystical, spiritual only, assembly." Assemblies are only physical in nature, and are made up of personal presence. It is not mystical or invisible term. To remove "assembly" from the definition of the Ecclesia, is to no longer have an "ecclesia." 3.) Furthermore, there is always the matter of being in "covenant together." – Consciously and intentionally being "in one accord" with other Christians is a tangible act.

Our Covenant

The first thing we need to do is define “covenant”. Very simply put, it is a binding, mutual agreement. It isn’t a contract. Contracts are negotiable, changeable, and full of clauses. A covenant is a personal commitment to an agreement with another party. We are literally a “New Covenant” church. The New Testament is a New Covenant between God and man. Hebrews 9:15 illustrates it best by showing us Christ’s covenant with men. *“For this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.”* In other words, Christ is the mediator of God’s promise to redeem men.

We as a church have a covenant. It is the “one accord” among ourselves that we collectively agree to abide by; and it is under the Lordship of Jesus Christ. It is Biblically binding in the sense that it is our word to each other, and the scripture mandates that we keep our word. Everything in our covenant is a Biblical principle. What binds us to it is our agreement with each other to behave according to this agreement. For example, I am not Biblically bound to give you a new watch. Nowhere in the Bible am I directed to give you a gift- until such a time that I tell you I’m going to. Once I’ve told you I will, I am bound by that covenant, or agreement, to fulfill what I said I would do.

When this church began, it voted to be in covenant together. It agreed that all members would voluntarily submit themselves to the standards set forth in the covenant.

Our covenant with each other hangs on our back wall. When someone presents themselves for church membership, they are saying, “I want in on this agreement.” They are saying, “I agree with the rest of the body, and I am willing to be subject to all the principles of that agreement.”

There are many people who sin against God and His church by simply not living up to what they have agreed to live up to, not because there is authority in the principles of the covenant, but because they have failed to do what they agreed to do.

The Covenant of the Members of Pinecrest Baptist Church

Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy spirit, we do now in the presence of God, angels, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

We engage therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the gospel through all nations.

We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion; to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world; to be just in our dealings, faithful in our deportment; to avoid all tattling, backbiting, and excessive anger; to abstain from the sale and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember each other in prayer; to aid each other in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will as soon as possible unit with another church of like faith and order, where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's Word.

Principles to Plant

Things to write and remember

- 1.) In your own words define the New Testament Church.

2.) What are three assignments given to this new Testament Church?

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

3.) Why does Pinecrest assemble three times a week?

4.) How would you explain “what binds us” to our covenant?

5.) How would you define or describe the responsibility to the church that each member has?

6.) Is there anything that you didn't know about Pinecrest that you do now, through the lesson?

Chapter Two - The Bible is Our Book

“Sanctify them through Thy truth, Thy Word is truth.”
John 17:17

At Pinecrest Baptist Church, we believe that the Bible is the Word of God, not merely that the Bible *contains* the Word of God. There is a difference. We do not just believe it generally, but we believe it specifically.

This lesson undergirds the truth that the Bible is the Word of the Living God, not because we simply want it to be or believe it to be, but because it has been proven to be. The reality of faith is not knowing what you believe, but in believing what you know. We know and have been assured of the fact that the Bible is more than believable, more than actual and factual; but it is in every sense absolute truth, from the Creator of all things, God Himself. We will stand on it or be crushed by it, but we cannot change it. We can only receive it or reject it. Here at Pinecrest, we have received it.

Centuries of experience have tested the Bible. It has passed through critical fires no other volume has suffered, and its spiritual truth has endured the flames and come out without so much as the smell of burning

W.E. Sangster

How Do We Know the Bible is Believable?

One way is by EXPERIENCE. A man can only know what is known and knowable. He learns through experience. Isaac Newton experienced gravity, studied it, and it became known to him and the rest of the world.

The reason we know that the Bible is believable is due to the fact of experience.

- 1. - It is Historically Accurate**
- 2. – It is Scientifically Authentic**
- 3. – It is Morally Absolute**
- 4. – It is Prophetically Accomplished**
- 5. – It is Powerfully Accredited**

1. It is Historically Accurate How do we know?

- a. The Bible says it is.

Read 2 Peter 1:16-20 and Romans 15:4. Write the claims of these verses in your own words.

- b. Research says it is.

- i. Dr. Nelson Glueck, famed Hebrew scholar, said “No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference. Scores of archaeological findings have been made which confirm in clear outline or in exact detail historical statements in the bible. And, by the same token, proper evaluation of Biblical descriptions has often led to amazing discoveries.” From Henry M. Morris- THE BIBLE HAS THE ANSWER
- ii. Dr. A. A. McRae: “...Today the Bible is recognized as a dependable historical source, even by many who do not accept its religious teachings, and its statements are generally treated with great respect by archaeologist, in view of the large number of instances where they have been shown to be remarkably accurate.” From MODERN SCIENCE AND CHRISTIAN FAITH
- iii. J. F.H. Vos: “... Certain critics have said that the accounts of Abraham are legendary, that Mosaic legislation was formulated hundreds of years after the time of Moses, that such people as the Hittites were either legendary or insignificant, that the book of Judges was composed of ‘good stories’ and not really historical accounts, that various people ranging from Sargon to Sanballot were unhistorical. Yet archaeological discoveries have shown that these critical charges and countless others are wrong and the Bible is trustworthy in the very statements which had been set aside as untrustworthy.” From ARCHAEOLOGY AND BIBLE HISTORY
- iv. The Bible is supreme from the very first word of the very first verse of scripture. Every attempt man has ever made at explaining our origin has failed. Every man-made theory has been proven false, or completely

unsatisfactory. Only the Bible gives us a clear, unbreakable, and unchallengeable revelation about the origin of man. The first three chapters of Geneses are literal, factual, and can never be disproved. If the Genesis account of creation was merely man-made fantasy, it too would have been full of holes and inconsistencies, yet it is not. The sad commentary of men is that some know this and still refuse to accept the Bible as God’s Word, repent of their sins, and come to Jesus.

Notes: _____

- v. George Wald, Nobel Prize winner in science, “When it comes to the origin of life on this earth, there are only two possibilities: creation or spontaneous generation. There is no third way. Spontaneous generation was disproved 100 years ago, but it leads us only to one other conclusion: that of supernatural creation. We cannot accept that on philosophical grounds; therefore we choose to believe the impossible: that life arose spontaneously by chance.” -

Quoted by Adrian Rogers, in TEN SECRETS FOR A SUCCESSFUL FAMILY

2. **It is Scientifically Authentic** One of the most amazing things about the Bible that proves its truthfulness is the fact that yesterday’s writings still harmonizes with today’s science. The fact is that the Bible revealed many scientific truths before the scientific community recognized them.

- a. Leviticus 1:11 says *“For the life of the flesh is in the blood.”* Do you remember how our first president, George Washington, died? He was bled to death. The best doctors in the country believed that you could bleed the sickness out of someone. It took medical science centuries to discover what the Bible revealed from the very beginning.
- b. Genesis 22:17 says, *“I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the seashore;...”* When God gave His promised blessing to

Abraham, He told him that these descendants would number the same as the stars in the sky and the sand on the shore. In doing so, He told us that just as there are an incalculable number of grains of sand, the same could be said of the stars.

- c. Hipparchus, a Greek astronomer of about 130 B.C. counted exactly 1022 stars. Ptolemy later found four more. Then a man named Galileo came along in the early 1600's and built a telescope that revealed literally millions of stars. Now in our jet age, science laboratories are finding out that there are not millions of stars, but billions of stars. The longer we go, the more we find. The fact is that the Bible has said all along that there were more stars than our fleshly eyes could see.

"As the host of heaven cannot be numbered, neither can the sand of the sea be measured..." Jeremiah 33:22

- d. Isaiah 40:22 says, *"It is He who sits above the circle of the earth."* For centuries men believed that the earth was flat. Some will say, "Well now because of modern science we know better. The Bible contended from the very beginning that the earth was a globe in outer space. *"He stretcheth out the north over the empty place, and hangeth the earth on nothing."* Job 26:7

God's written Word is written for the rotten world. It reveals to us world history. Not only does it tell us where we're going but where we came from. It tells us how to live, and most importantly, how to die. It can be totally and completely trusted. While it is not written to be a science book, there is no science book that can reveal true science and contradict it. Even mankind's brightest minds cannot darken the lamp for our feet and the light for our path. We know the Bible is the Word of God, and so we believe it.

Notes: _____

- 3. **It is Morally Absolute** How do we know the Bible is believable? Because it is morally absolute. It takes very little eyesight to recognize the fact that mankind is morally confused. In fact, men have been morally confused since Cain killed Abel. Yet, the Bible

maintains moral purity from the first letter to the last period. If the Bible had been the product of human engineering, it too would be full of moral inconsistencies and destructive teachings. The truth is that a skunk doesn't know he stinks. The depravity of humanity could never produce a book that uniformly calls all men to repent of their sins and come to their Savior Jesus Christ.



In regard to this great book, I have but to say, it is the best gift God has given to man. All the good Savior gave to the world was communicated through this book. But for it we could not know right from wrong. All things most desirable for man's welfare, here and hereafter, are to be found portrayed in it.

Abraham Lincoln



Think about of these things:

- The Bible was written over 1500 years ago.
- The Bible was written by 40 different penmen.
- The Bible was written in 3 different languages.
- The Bible has 1 central message.
- The Bible contains 0 contradictions.

As one man said, "The Bible is not a book that man would write if he could, nor could write if he would."

Notes:

Moral Purities of the Bible

It is Monotheistic "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:3. The reality of the command is that we should have no other gods, period. The Bible stands distinct and different from all other ancient cultures. Mankind has been fluently "polytheistic" since Adam and Eve came out of the garden. A world that embraced the frog god, the sun god, the tree god, and an anything that you want to think of god would not have imagined a One God Creator and call all

men to come to Him. The Bible commands that “all *men everywhere repent*” of their idolatry. Acts17:30.

It demands Personal Righteousness “*My defense is of God, which saveth the upright in heart. God judges [defends] the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*” Psalm 7:10-11. The Bible addresses the righteousness of man’s heart in relationship to the Creator. It calls men to a personal standard that no man can meet. If the Bible were a complete conspiracy, it would never have conspired to call men to something so distant from his own tendencies and his own desires.

It demands Social Righteousness Read Exodus 20:12-17. List all the forbidden social practices in your own words.

The Bible is the only book that deals with the issue of sin. Not only does it give us recognition of it, but a remedy for it. In all of man’s many advances, he has never been able to produce a cure for the human nature. The Bible calls it a sin nature. Men have devised temporary ways to turn over a new leaf but have never been able to produce a way to have new life. The very fact that the Bible addresses the issue of sin and the cure for it is evidence that it didn’t come from the imagination of men. In all of the people involved in the compilation of scripture, it will remain that “*every Word of God is pure.*” Proverbs 30:5.

4. **It is Prophetically Accomplished** “*Remember the former things of old; for I am God and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me. Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, “My Counsel shall stand and I will do all my pleasure.”* Isaiah 46:9-10. The Bible itself uses fulfilled prophecy as proof of its authenticity. Let’s look at some prophecies that were miraculously fulfilled:

- a. Isaiah 44:28 says, “that saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy

foundations shall be laid.” Isaiah prophesied that a king named Cyrus would issue a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. When he wrote this prophecy, Jerusalem hadn’t even been destroyed. Nearly 100 years after he wrote this prophecy, king Nebuchadnezzar destroyed the city of Jerusalem. However, nearly 60 years after the city’s destruction, Nebuchadnezzar and his Babylonian kingdom were conquered by Persia and a king named Cyrus. Following Persia’s victory over Babylon, Cyrus ordered the city of Jerusalem to be rebuilt.

- b. Psalm 22:16 “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: thy pierced my hands and my feet.” This prophecy of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ is expressly amazing. When this psalm was penned, crucifixion had yet to be invented. At the time of the writing people were executed by stoning.
- c. Look at this short list of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus Christ:
 - i. The place of his birth- Micah 5:2
 - ii. The person to give birth- Isaiah 7:14
 - iii. The procedure for His death- Psalm 22:16
 - iv. The people He would die with – Isaiah 53:9-12
 - v. The price of His betrayal –Zechariah 11:12

There are literally 300 Old Testament prophecies that Christ fulfilled in His life. Some have contended that He manufactured His life to fit those prophecies. In a way they’re right. Only the Lord of life could decide who would give Him birth and where He would be born. Only the Lord of life could arrange for those who hated Him to kill Him at the time and manner of His own choosing. The fact remains that prophecy fulfilled is permanent proof of the supernatural origin of this book. This book has one theme, and every prophecy proves that theme. Revelation 19:10 says, “...for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.”

5. **It is Powerful Accredited** The ultimate proof of the divine experience of the Bible is seen most clearly in the hearts and lives of men and women who have been changed by it for centuries. A seminary professor told his students one time that “No one can tell you what you haven’t been through.” Multitudes of people have experienced the life changing power of the Bible. They have experienced its:

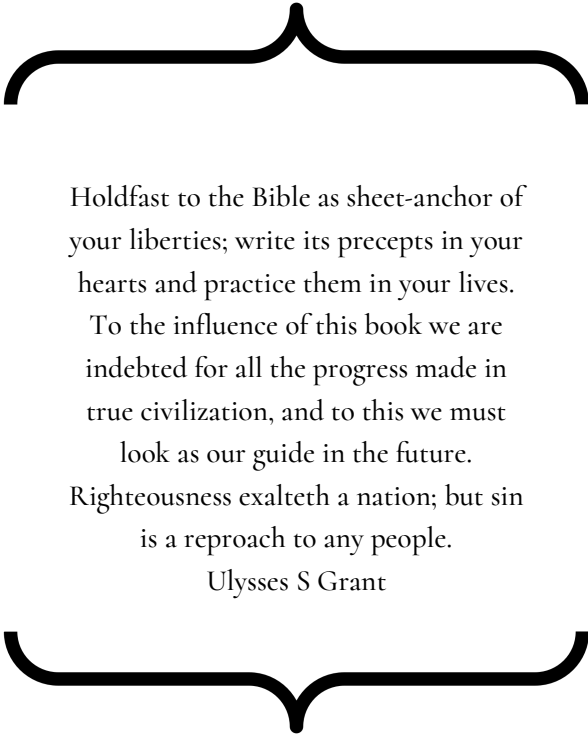
a. Conviction - *“That my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments.”* Psalm 111:5-6

b. Conversion- *“the law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”* Psalm 19:7

c. Comfort- *“This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word quickened me.”* Psalm 119:50

d. Clarity- *“The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes.”* Psalm 19:8

e. Control- *“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee.”* Psalm 119:11



Holdfast to the Bible as sheet-anchor of your liberties; write its precepts in your hearts and practice them in your lives.

To the influence of this book we are indebted for all the progress made in true civilization, and to this we must look as our guide in the future.

Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.

Ulysses S Grant

Every heaven-bound saint has experienced that the Bible is true. It is the Bible that tells us about the Lord Jesus Christ who died on a cross for our sin and came back to life for our Salvation. Many have obeyed the call of the Bible to believe on Jesus and have found that Jesus Christ is the Living, Loving Son of God that forgives sin, heals hurts, and restores hope. We have experienced that the Bible is both true and real.

Another way that we know that the Bible is the Word of God is because it says it is. *“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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”* 2 Timothy 3:16-17

Many people will say they believe part of the Bible. Some will say they believe most of the Bible. Those who only believe parts of the Bible are saying something they don't realize they are saying. What they are saying is, “I get to decide what God really said and what God didn't say.” The reality is that if any

part of the Bible is not true, then every part of the Bible is suspect. If one verse can't be trusted, no verse can be trusted.

It remains the fact that the Bible experience has been proven; the Bible claim is unbroken. The message of the Word of God is sure, pure, and secure. You can test it, trust it, and rest in it. If His Word is no good, then He is no God. Here at Pinecrest Baptist Church, the Bible is our Book!

Principles to Plant

In your own words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Bible.

1.) What are five experiences that tell us the Bible is not a product of human engineering?

2.) Who is the Bible centrally about?

3.) Is there anything that you didn't know about Pinecrest that you do now, through this lesson?

Chapter Three - Sin is Our Problem

“For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good and sinneth not.” Ecclesiastes 7:20

At Pinecrest Baptist Church we do not believe that the world has very many problems at all. In fact, we believe that the world has only problem. That one problem though, has a multitude of symptoms. We believe that the world’s single problem is the problem of sin.

Every single problem that exists in any life anywhere can find its foundation and its fuel in sin. All crime is a symptom of sin. All conflicts, all poverty, all diseases, and all difficulties find their source planted deep and wide in this fallen nature, and there is no natural cure.

Many have different ideas about what the problems in the world are, and they’ve tried many different things to change it. Some have the idea that education will make things better. Some believe that we need to clean up our environment. Others have the idea that a more tolerant view of things will solve our problems.

This lesson is about the Doctrine of Natural Depravity, what it is, and why we believe it. The truth of the matter is that until man sees himself as a sinner, he’ll never believe he needs a Savior.

Five reasons to believe the doctrine of natural depravity

1. Nature Has Been Corrupted- the first piece of evidence that we are going to look at is the corruption of nature. Nature itself testifies to the Doctrine of Natural Depravity. It testifies first in the Bible that it is dirty and depraved. Not only can we read this, we can see it in our visual experience. Nature is dirty, it is dying and it stands to declare that all of creation is naturally depraved.

- a. What the Bible says
 - i. Genesis 3:17-19- *“cursed is the ground”*
 - ii. Romans 8:20-22- *“the whole creation groaneth.”*
 - iii. Romans 5:12- *“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world.”*

Points to Ponder

1.) According to Romans 5:12, where did sin come to?

2.) According to Romans 8:20, how broad is the sin influence?

3.) When God began revealing the consequences and punishments for sin, according to Genesis 3:17-19, where did God reveal the first curse?

We believe in the Doctrine of Natural Depravity, because the Bible teaches it. The Bible tells us that the natural world bears the marks of the corruption of sin. Fruit trees must be tended, and gardens must be weeded because of sin. They do not do well naturally. Left alone they won't flourish; they'll fail. From earthquakes to hurricanes, sin has made that which is natural a natural disaster. Sin has affected all of nature.

We believe in the Doctrine of Natural Depravity first and foremost because the Bible says it, but we also understand it because we can see it.

b. What a Body Sees

- i. The Second Law of Thermodynamics- the total entropy of any isolated thermodynamic system tends to increase over time, approaching a maximum value." In other words, all things tend toward disorder.
- ii. Suffering in Child Birth- Child Birth was not a painful process until Adam sinned.
- iii. Shame in Nakedness- Man now has to cover his body.
- iv. Shelter from the elements- Nature will destroy a person totally and permanently exposed.

- v. Sorrow in Labor-Tilling and working the ground would come from sweat, producing labor, rather than natural, productive ease.

Notes

2. Mankind has been Contaminated-Romans 5:19-"For by one man's disobedience many were made sinners..."

Men sin because they are sinners. They are not sinners because they sin. We do what we do, because we are what we are. When Adam sinned, three things happened to him and his wife.

And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. Genesis 3:6-7

- a. Their Eyes were Opened- Instead of seeing divine wisdom, they saw depraved wretchedness. After reading Genesis 3:6-7, it is important to note that "they" didn't see, until after "he" sinned. Since Adam was the first, and Eve was part of him, whatever happened to him, would happen to her.
- b. Their Garden was Closed- God drove man out from His presence, because He cannot be in the presence of sinners. Man was not driven out because of what he had done; he was driven out because of what he had become- a sinner.
- c. Their Nature had Changed- Three things happened to the nature of man as a result of sin. Most people say we have a human nature, but the reality is that it is a sin nature.

Ephesians 2:1-3 "And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; an were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. "

Three changes in human nature

1. It is Lifeless- vs. 1- “dead in trespasses and sins’
2. It is Careless- vs. 2 – a nature that is bent according to the world, the devil, and the disobedient
3. It is Shameless- vs. 3- Its desire is now to satisfy our own cravings in the flesh and in our mind.

Human nature is normal, but it didn't use to be. Human nature is the fundamental reason men sin. Men have become what God did not create them to be, or intend for them to become. We now naturally do that which was once unnatural. Without the perfection of innocence, we are left perverted by guilt.

3. Wickedness Has Been Cultivated

In Genesis chapter 1, we find a recurring statement that underscores a permanent principle. Very simply stated, it is this: Like produces like. Ten times in 5 different verses we are told that God created things to produce “after their kind”. This means one simple truth that is repeated in many ways all throughout the scripture. Rotten men cannot produce righteous offspring. Dead men produce dead men; sinners produce sinners.

believing the bible

Job 14:4- *“Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean, not one.”*

Psalm 51:5 – *“Behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”*

John 3:6- *“That which is born of flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.”*

Romans 7:18- *“For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good, I find not.”*

Roman 5:12- *“... and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*

We became what we are when they became what they were. God did not create sinners. He created men in His image with a free moral agency, in order to have free moral fellowship. When Adam disobeyed God, he did that which he was not created to do, but that he had the freedom to do. God had instructed Adam to fill the earth, but by his disobedience he began to kill the earth.

Why is this so important?

The Doctrine of Natural Depravity is the foundational teaching that the necessity of the deity of Jesus Christ stands upon. Even intellectual atheists understand this...

Richard Bozarth, The Meaning of Evolution: American Atheist, p 30 September 20, 1979. - "Christianity has fought, still fights, and will fight science, to the desperate end over evolution, because evolution destroys utterly and finally the very reason Jesus' earthly life was supposedly made necessary. Destroy Adam and Eve and original sin, and in the rubble you will find the sorry remains of the Son of God. Take away the meaning of His death. If Jesus was not the redeemer that died for our sins, and this is what evolution means, then Christianity is nothing. "

4. Humanity has been Convicted - Before Adam took his first bite, he made his worst choice. He chose not to believe God. God had expressly explained to Adam what would happen if he ate of that fruit. However, Satan had told Adam that which was contrary to God's Word. Adam then had a choice as to who to believe. When he chose the fruit, he declared his faith. By choosing the fruit of the wrong tree, Adam was declaring to God by his actions, "I don't believe you." Adam's actions illustrate the foundation of all sin. Romans 14:23 says, "Whatsoever is not of faith is sin." The first sin didn't begin in disobedience; it began in faithlessness. Wrong behaving is a result of wrong believing, and Adam believed the wrong person- Satan.

We see in the world what we see in Adam, and it is the sin of unbelief. Humanity hasn't been convicted of behaving wrong, it has been convicted of believing wrong.

God's Rendered Verdict

Romans 11:32 - *"For God hath concluded them all in unbelief..."*

John 3:18- *"...he that believeth not is condemned already..."*

1 John 5:10- *"...he that believeth not God hath made Him a liar..."*

Romans 14:23- *"...whatsoever is not of faith is sin."*

Hebrews 11:6- *"...without faith it is impossible to please Him..."*

In Your Words

What is the sin that condemns the world and why?

Foundation for Faith

Adam's sin of choice was "unbelief". The only thing that will redeem man is "belief" in the Lord Jesus Christ. When Adam chose to believe Satan, he chose not to believe God, and unbelief became part of our nature. The entire work of the gospel message is to get people to "believe" in Jesus what they deny in God. This is why Jesus came.

John 1:7- "the same came for a witness to bear witness of the Light that all men through Him might believe."

John 6:29- "Jesus answered and said unto them, 'This is the work of God that ye may believe on him whom he hath sent.'"

1 John 5:4-5- "for whatsoever is born of God over cometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?"

Romans 3:22- "Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference."

The fact that by "believing" we are redeemed proves that by "not believing" we are condemned . Men are born outside of faith in the Lord Jesus. That's why they must be born again in the Lord Jesus, which only comes through faith.

5. Depravity has been Confirmed

The final piece of proof of the Doctrine of Natural Depravity rests squarely in the evidence of our own hearts. Jeremiah 17:9 says "*the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?*" men who do not believe that they are born with a sin nature are in plain, simple denial. We know that man is a natural born sinner because of what's inside him. Our hearts are rotten from the

moment of our conception. Left alone we do not have to learn to disobey. We naturally do that which is wrong. Rather we have to be taught to do that which is right.

Proverbs 22:15- *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child...”*

At Pinecrest Baptist Church, we fundamentally believe that the world only has one problem and that is the problem of sin. It is evident in scripture and in nature that all men are sinners, and because of that, they sin.

Because of this, we believe that there is only one solution, and that solution is Jesus Christ.

Principles to Plant

1.) In your own words, define the Doctrine of Natural Depravity.

2.) What are five things that prove the Doctrine of Natural Depravity?

3.) Why is the fact of natural depravity so important to understand?

4.) Is there anything about Pinecrest Baptist Church and what we teach that you learned through studying this lesson? _____

Chapter Four - Jesus is Our Savior, Forever

“...The Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the World.” 1 John 4:14

Our purpose at Pinecrest Baptist Church is not for people to come to church, but for people to come to Jesus. Since we believe that our only problem is sin, we need a sin-solving solution, and that solution is Jesus Christ. The message we preach is that Jesus saves. The Purpose that we worship is because Jesus saves. The reason that we sing is because Jesus saves. The motive of our mission works is because Jesus saves. Everything that we do at Pinecrest is because Jesus saves. If Jesus doesn't save, then nothing is saved, all is lost, and everything else is irrelevant. Our mission is not to make this world a better place to go to hell from. Our mission is to get lost people saved, and saved people serious through Jesus. We are about Jesus Christ and nothing else. Our flagship verse of scripture is 2 Corinthians 4:5, because it so plainly captures our purpose. *“For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.”*

We believe that Jesus is the living Son of God who was born of a virgin, died on a cross, and rose again the third day as a sacrifice for our sins. If that is not true, then it doesn't matter what else is. Here are several reasons that we know assuredly that Jesus alone saves and saves forever.

what we believe about Jesus christ

We believe that Jesus is the exclusive means of salvation. The first thing we believe about Jesus is that, as God's Son, He is the exclusive way to Heaven. The Bible says in Acts: 12, *“neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”* There are three reasons that we believe that Jesus alone is the single solution for sin.

Jesus is Exclusive because of his cross

In Hebrews 9:22, the Bible gives us a rule to remember. *“Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission”* of sins. Jesus Christ is the only person ever born to die. No other individual ever born has been born for the sole purpose of dying. You were born to live, but because of sin, you are going to die. Jesus is the only one to die for our sins. It is by His blood alone that our sins can be cleansed.

What do these scriptures list as the “soap for the soul”? 1 Peter 1:19; 1 John 1:7; Hebrews 9:14; Acts 20:28; Revelation 1:5.-----

No other “prophet”, “teacher”, or “religion” can tell you that someone died for our sins. Many have the idea that our good deeds simply have to outweigh our bad deeds. The problem with that is that, regardless of how many good things you’ve done, the bad things still exist in history.

Secondly, no other religions deal with your nature; they only deal with your deeds. Christ didn’t just die for what we’ve done; He died for what we are-sinners. He doesn’t just cleanse us from the deeds we have done; He changes the nature of what we are.

A man was charged with a crime that he knew he committed. As he stood before the judge, his plea was simple. "Yes, I'm guilty of stealing. But, your honor, you still need to let me go for several reasons. I don't cuss, I've never murdered, I go to church, and I've always honored my parents." That may be" replied the judge. "But what you have done doesn't vindicate what you have done." "Good deeds" outweighing bad deeds is a ridiculous idea.

Jesus is exclusive because of his charge

“For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment to the Son.” - John 5:22

The fact is that “Allah’ is not judge; Jesus is. Mohammed is not judge; Jesus is. God the Father doesn’t judge men; Jesus does. Here is the concrete exclusivity of Jesus Christ in His charge from God. Jesus will judge all men of every race in every place. Why is it that worshippers of Mohammed will not be allowed into heaven? Because Mohammed has not atoned for their sin nature, and therefore Mohammed is not the one who will make the decision. There is only One Son of God, one Judge of men, and His name is Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, ultimately Jesus is the only way to God because Jesus is the only God there is a way to. The Gospel of John tells us that *“In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God . . . and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.”* (John 1:1; 14)

We believe that Jesus has an inclusive motive for salvation. *“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” - John 6:37* - It is only the Way of Salvation that is Exclusive, it is not the Will. The “way” to live is exclusive. You have to eat. Regardless of whom you are, where you are, what you think, or what you do, if you do not eat, you will die. If a Tibetan monk doesn’t eat, he will die. If a Buddhist priest doesn’t eat, he will die. Eating is universally required in order to live. Eating (and Breathing) is also inclusive. Everyone can eat. There is not a human being on the face of the earth that, as long as food is provided, cannot eat. It may be with an I.V., a straw, fingers, or forks and spoons, but as long as food

In Bible Words

Usage notes : English

Words used in KJV:

Lord 667; lord 54;

master 11; sir 6; misc 4

[Total Count; 748]

From

kuros(supremacy);supr
eme in authority, i.e.

(as noun) controller;

by implication Mr. (as
a respectful title):-

God, Lord, master, Sir.

-Strong's Talking

Greek and Hebrew

Dictionary.

is available, people can eat. Jesus is the same way. He is the exclusive way to Salvation, but He has an inclusive will. Everyone who desires to be saved can be saved. Just as there is no one so bad that they cannot eat, there is no one so bad, so wrong or so rotten that Jesus cannot save them if they wanted to be saved.

John 3:16- *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.*

1 Timothy 1:15- *This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.*

2 Peter 3:9 – *The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*

Romans 10:11-13 – *For the scripture saith, whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

We believe that Jesus speaks the conclusive Word. It is one thing to acknowledge Jesus as Savior and, yet another, to surrender to Him as Sovereign Lord.

What do we mean when we say that Christ is Lord?

“And they said. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” Acts 16:31

The 23rd Psalm is a wonderful example of the Lordship of Jesus in the life of a believer. The first verse is the sum of the Psalm. “The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.” To paraphrase, it is simply to say, “When the Lord is my shepherd, I am content. “ Very clearly, the idea of Jesus being my Lord means also that He is to be my shepherd. Christ IS Lord over all, but not all live under Him. We don’t “make”

Christ Lord, because He already is. All that we can do is place our will underneath His. Our Savior is also our Shepherd.

Not only do we believe that Jesus Christ is the only solution for sin, we believe that He is the permanent solution for sin. At PBC we firmly believe that once an individual has been “washed in the blood of the lamb” they are forever washed, forever clean, and forever saved. We believe that absolutely once a person is saved, they can never again be unsaved, and there are several reasons for that.

We Have Been Forgiven in Christ -

We believe that Forgiveness is forever. In fact, forgiveness that is not forever is not forgiveness. There are two reasons that we believe that forgiveness is forever.

1.) because his sacrifice was one time for all time

Hebrews 9:12- *“Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.”*

Hebrews 10:10- *“By that which we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”*

The blood of Christ satisfied the sin debt for all of humanity for all for eternity. To quote a famous Christian author, “Christ died once to be our Savior and lives forever to be our Lord.” Nowhere in scripture do we find a statute of limitations. Eternal redemption is permanent redemption. Christ’s sacrifice is for past, present, and future sins. If it were possible to lose our salvation, it would be lost forever. There would be no getting it back. You can’t get saved twice, because Christ only died once.

The 23rd Psalm

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness or his name’s sake. Yea, though, I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil. My cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

2.) BECAUSE HIS SUBSTITUTION IS ONE TIME FOR EVERY TIME

Romans 5:8 – *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”*

1 John 2:1 – *“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”*

If Salvation could be lost because of sin, we could never be saved from sin. Jesus saved us “while we were yet sinners”. If Sin is more powerful than Salvation, then there is no such thing as Salvation. IF Christ saved us while we sinned, we won’t lose it when we sin, because He paid for all (past, present, and future) sins. It is not the absence of sin that saves us; it is the presence of forgiveness. Salvation cannot be lost through a sin that has already been forgiven. God cannot hold against me a debt that has already been paid in full.

Psalm 37:24, 28- Study these two verses in the 37th Psalm to understand God’s grip on true believers.

We Have Been Born into the Family of God

Another reason that we believe a person is saved forever is because of the new birth. When you and I place our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, we are born again into a new family, the Family of God. Our entrance into the family of God seals our security for eternity. We are brought into it in a twofold way.

we are born into it by faith

1 John 5:1- *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God...”*

Galatians 3:26- *“Ye are all children of God by faith in Jesus Christ.”*

Five times in the book of First John he speaks of believers as being born of God.

1 John 3:1-2 – *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

Here is the thing to remember. Once you are born, you cannot be unborn. I can never not be my Father's offspring. When you are saved, you have your heavenly Father's spiritual DNA running through your soul, and nothing can reverse that.

We Are Brought into it by Adoption

Romans 8:15- *"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption whereby we cry, Abba Father."*

My new birth was my entrance into the Father's family. My adoption was my acceptance into the Father's family. It is the act by which, I am not only born into this family, and I am welcomed into this family. It is the action of adoption that says I don't have to win my Father's love, because He has beaten me to the punch. His arms are wide open. Now, what does it mean to be in the Father's family? It means no fear of hell or condemnation. Children of God cannot and do not go to hell, and there are two good reasons for that.

1.) We have become heirs of a heavenly inheritance- Romans 8:16-17. *"the Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are children of God: and if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with Him, that we may be also glorified together."*

2.) We live under no condemnation – Romans 8:1 – *"There is therefore now no condemnation for them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."*

We Are Kept by the Force of God

The third reason that we believe a saint is saved forever is because of Who saves us and the all-encompassing purpose of our salvation. We are not just saved from hell; we are saved for Heaven. The purpose of God's plan is not to save the "quality" Christians, but to save lost people. Heaven is not a reward for those who are right; it is a gift for those who are guilty. The very force of the strength of Almighty God keeps us secure when we become one of His children.

We are kept through His Divine Design - Romans 8:29-30 explains to us the way God works in Salvation. For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that they

might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified; and whom he justified, them he also glorified. Romans 8:29-30

- God's Sacred Selection - The divine design of the force of God's great salvation begins with his sacred selection. The question has always been asked, "Are men free to choose Jesus, or does God choose who will be saved?" The answer is yes. The Bible says that "whosoever will" may come; yet, it also says that God has predestined us to be saved. The Apostle Paul said plainly that, "*For whom he did foreknow, He also did predestinate...*" Very simply put, God chose those He knew would choose Him. The predetermining of God is based upon the foreknowledge of God. God looked throughout all eternity and determined that, whosoever would choose His Son Jesus would be saved. In other words, God selected all believers in Christ Jesus.

- God's Precious Plan - Do you want to know what God is doing with you? He is making you look like one of His children. *For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son-* (Romans 8:29) God's plan is to make you look just like Jesus. Not physically or positionally, but morally and spiritually. At the moment of salvation, God starts a work in us. To make us look like Jesus; and God always finishes what He starts.

Look up 2 Timothy 1:12 and Philippians 1:6 and explain the reality of these two verses of scripture.

- God's Sealing Spirit - Salvation that is not permanent is not salvation at all. The moment that we are saved, the first touch of Heaven's glory is placed inside of us in the form of the Holy Spirit, and His presence is permanent. We take God at His Word that when He saves us, He seals us, and we stay that way unto the day of redemption. We cannot become "unsealed".

Ephesians 1:12-13 *-That we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ. In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of His glory.*

Ephesians 4:30- *And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*

Principles to Plant

1. In your own words, write what Pinecrest Baptist church believes about Jesus Christ

2. What are three reasons that we believe Salvation is forever?

3. Is there anything about Pinecrest Baptist Church that you learned through this lesson?

Chapter Five - The Holy Spirit is our Guide

“... Hereby we know that He abideth in us, by the Spirit which He hath given us.” 1 John 3:24

At Pinecrest Baptist Church, we believe that the Holy Spirit of God is our guide, The Bible is not only a book, but our guide is the author of the book. Who better to interpret it and apply it than the One who wrote it?

We firmly believe in the third person of the Godhead, the Trinity, which is person of the Holy Spirit and that He is active in our lives. While the New Testament church is independent of other churches, it must be totally dependent upon the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This lesson identifies who the Spirit is, what the Spirit does, how the Spirit works, and why we must depend upon Him.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is the third person of the Holy Trinity. He is none other than God Himself. The Bible tells us plainly that God is three persons in one.

For there are three that bear record in Heaven: the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one. 1 John 5:7

The Doctrine of the Trinity is one of the most fundamental doctrines of the Bible. As one man said, “it’s not incidental, it is fundamental,” because it speaks to the identity of God Almighty. To not believe in the trinity is not to believe in the God of the Bible, because the God of the Bible is a trinity.

The trinity should not be hard to understand. It isn’t as difficult as some theologians attempt to make it. Life is full of every day trinities that men readily accept. For example, time is a trinity. It is made up of past, present, and future. Creation itself is a trinity. All things are made up of time, space, and matter. Space is a trinity. It is made up of height, width, and depth. Matter is a trinity. All things are solid, liquid or gas. Color is a trinity. All colors of the rainbow are made of three primary colors: red, blue and yellow. You are a trinity. You are made in a threefold reflection of God in the sense that you have a body, mind and soul. Not that God has a body, but that there is a Trinitarian nature.

Most of the people who have a difficulty with the trinity have a hard time understanding how Jesus is the eternal Son of God and God. We readily accept the truth of God being an eternal Father. However,

he can't be a Father without a Son. If the Sonship of Jesus is not eternal, then neither is the Fatherhood of God.

Here is another illustration. A man can be a father, a son, and a husband all at the very same time. A man, however, is not omnipotent. He could not have himself, the son, go one direction and himself, the father or husband, to go the other direction. However God is omnipotent. It would be no small task for the omnipotent God to send Himself, the Son, to the earth, while Himself, the Father, stayed in Heaven. Neither would it be difficult for Him, the Spirit, to move in this world, while He, the Son, sat at the right hand of the throne in Heaven. The truth of the Trinity goes to the very nature of who God is.

In Your Words

John 10:30 Matthew 28:19 Genesis 1:26

1.) What is the claim of John 10:30?

2.) According to Matthew 28:19, what authority do we work under?

3.) According to Genesis 1:26, what does God reveal to us about Himself?

It is this third person of the Trinity that is active in our lives as Christians and has influence in our church.

The Power of the Holy Spirit

That being said, what exactly does the Holy Spirit do? What is His role? Without spending volumes of time and space on this matter, these are some of the things that the Bible tells us the Holy Spirit does.

write a short summary of the proof in each verse.

He Convicts Men of Sin - John 16:8-11

He Converts Men - John 3:3-5

He Comforts Men - Acts 9:31

He indwells Men - Romans 8:11, Galatians 2:20

He Empowers Men - Micah 3:8

He Directs Men - John 16:13

He Anoints Men - 1 John 2:20, 27

He Teachers Men - 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, Eph 1:17-18

It is through the power of the Holy Spirit alone that a person can live the Christian life. Only one person ever born has lived the Christian life, and that's Jesus. Only Jesus in us can live Himself through us. We have no power to be Holy. His regenerating work in us is a fundamental part of growing in the Lord and becoming all that God wants us to become.

The Presents of the Holy Spirit

This isn't the presence of the Holy Spirit, but the presents the Holy Spirit. The Bible calls them the gifts of the Spirit. Every time a person receives Jesus as their Savior, not only does the Spirit of God indwell them, but the Spirit of God empowers them with gifts. These gifts aren't rewards for doing right; they are gifts to be used for good. We are not talking about natural talents. We are talking about supernatural talents. These aren't abilities that you are born with; these are abilities that you are born again with.

There is much confusion in the circle of Christianity today over these gifts. In order to keep clear on it, we turn to the Bible to tell us what the gifts of the Spirit are and what they are not.

Read these two passages of scripture to get the idea of Spiritual gifts.

1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Romans 12:6-8

THE GOOD GIFT LIST

- 1.) The Word of Wisdom
- 2.) The Word of Knowledge
- 3.) The Gift of Faith
- 4.) The Gift of Healing
- 5.) The Gift of Miracles
- 6.) The Gift of Prophecy
- 7.) The Gift of Discernment
- 8.) The Gift of Tongues
- 9.) The Gift of Hope
- 10.) The Gift of Love
- 11.) The Gift of Encouragement
- 12.) The Gift of Teaching
- 13.) The Gift of Ministry

First of all, the gifts of the Spirit are used in me for others. The gifts are not for my benefit, but the benefit is the blessing of being used by God in the life of someone else. The gifts in me aren't for my good but for God's use.

Second, in order to understand these gifts we have to let the Bible tell us, not only how to interpret them, but how to apply them. This is of absolute importance, because when we put them in context with the rest of the scripture, we find out that not all of them are still given.

Rule to Remember – The Holy Spirit and the Holy Scriptures never contradict. In fact, the Bible is to be used to discern the work of the Spirit, and the Spirit is to be used to help interpret the Bible.

And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets. 1 Corinthians 14:23

In short, that which is spoken is subject to that which is written. If a man says he can speak in tongues that must be tested by the scriptures. If a person prophesies, or preachers, what he says, allegedly by the Spirit, must coincide with what is said by the scriptures.

If the Gifts are in context with the scripture, what does the scripture say?

1.) Not all gifts are still in operation, because some of the gifts were given specifically to a particular group of people, namely the Apostles. The fact is that the apostolic age ended when the last Apostle died. One requirement to be an Apostle was to have literally walked with Jesus from the days of John

the Baptist through the ascension (Acts 1:12), with the exception of Paul, who walked with Jesus on the Damascus road.

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds. 2 Corinthians 12:12

Wonders and mighty deeds, or miracles, are identified as the signs of an Apostle. This special spiritual gift was given to a special group of believers only according to the scripture. Does that mean that God doesn't do miracles and mighty wonders anymore? Not at all, it simply means that miracle working is not a spiritual gift, seeing that there is no living Apostles.

2.) Not all gifts are still in operation, because some of the gifts were given for a specific period of time, namely, until the Bible was completed.

Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. 1 Corinthians 13:8-10

In this passage we see that prophecies, tongues, and knowledge are the subjects of discussion. These three gifts: 1.) Prophecies (*in this context it means foretelling or revealing new truths*) 2.) Tongues (*literally the gift of miraculously speaking in another language*) 3.) Knowledge (*the gift of having supernatural knowledge merely imparted by God into the mind*) has a time in which they will be "done away with". The passage clearly states that they would be done away with "when that which is perfect is come". Many people have believed and taught that means when Jesus comes again. Well, that simply cannot be true. Ask yourself these questions:

When Jesus comes again, will knowledge vanish away?

Of course not, we will know infinitely more than we can possibly imagine now.

When Jesus comes again, will there be no more truths revealed? Absolutely not! In fact, when Jesus comes again, all unknown truth is going to be revealed.

These gifts were for a specific time, because they were for a specific purpose - the Purpose of propagating the Word of God.

The gifts of tongues were so men could preach in other languages. The gift of knowledge of God supernaturally imparted, because the truths of the New Testament were not readily available for all to study. The gift of foretelling was the ability to proclaim New Testament truths without having the New Testament scriptures to teach.

When the scriptures were finished, God's Word of final, revealed truth this side of heaven was written, settled, and unchangeable. It was completed in a language that could be translated into all the languages of the world. It can now be referenced and used to test what all "spirited-led" people say. The Word of God is perfect. It meets all the needs that these particular gifts were used for.

All gifts that did not finish their operation with the close of the scriptures or the death of the Apostles are still in operation. The Gift of Faith, The Gift of Hope, and The Gift of Love are the three primary gifts that the Bible points us to. The scriptures also though speak of other gifts not associated with the apostles, or the miraculous which are Discernment, Encouragement, Teaching, and Ministry!

Every saved person not only has a place to serve, but they have a function to fulfill. It is the Holy Spirit that gifts them with the ability to do what God wants them to do.

The Purpose of the Presents

Ephesians 4:7-8; 11-13 – *“But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ. Wherefore he saith, when he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. ... And he gave some, apostles; and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.”*

If you've been saved, you've been gifted but not for you. God has given you the ability to do what He has given you the authority to do, and that is to represent Him on earth to the saved and the lost alike.

There are three primary purposes for the presents of the Holy Spirit:

Read Ephesians 4:12-

1.) For _____

2.) For _____

3.) For _____

1.) Every saved person is a minister of their gift, and their gift is to be used to help furnish, or equip, other believers. The pastors, the teachers, or “the ministers” first use or purpose with gifts is to equip other believers to be the ministers God wants them to be.

2.) The work of the ministry is to bring people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ! The gifts given are for the purpose, not only of equipping the saved, but for evangelizing the lost.

3.) The edifying of the body of Christ is making the Lord’s church stronger and healthier. We contribute more to the church than money. We are either making it stronger, or we are making it weaker.

The Product of the Holy Spirit

Not only does the Holy Spirit do something through you, it does something to you. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the purpose of using us to fulfill God’s plan on Earth. However, there is something else that the Holy Spirit does. Very simply, it produces fruit. It produces fruit in you, for you. This is the comforting effect of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 - John 14:26 - Galatians 5:22-23 - John 15:26 - John 16:7

The first thing to realize is that the Bible calls Him the “Comforter”! He is the one that is not only there to minister through us, but to us. As a believer grows in the Lord, just like fruit from a tree, Christian maturity produces fruit in our lives. Others see our fruit, but only we can enjoy it!

Rule to remember: According to Galatian5:22, there is only ONE fruit of the Spirit, but there are nine different flavors. While gifts may vary from person to person, each believer gets to enjoy all the flavors of fruit. The only thing that varies from believer to believer concerning their fruit is the degree of maturity by which they have grown.

After reading Galatians 5:22-23, list the nine flavors of the fruit of the Spirit:

1.) _____

2.) _____

3.) _____

4.) _____

5.) _____

6.) _____

7.) _____

8.) _____

9.) _____

This list of fruit flavors are planted in every saved man and woman. They are obviously not fully matured in anyone, but there is to be an ever present maturing in everyone. As a child of God gives himself not to “fulfill the lusts of the flesh” but “walk in the Spirit”, the fruit planted deep begins to blossom in their life.

Principles to Plant

1.) In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Person of the Holy Spirit.

2.) In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Power of the Holy Spirit.

3.) In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Presents of the Holy Spirit.

4.) In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Product of the Holy Spirit.

5.) Is there anything that you've learned though this study, about the Holy Spirit, that you did not know before this class?

Chapter Six - Precious Are Our Pictures

“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He comes.” –

1 Corinthians 11:26

At Pinecrest Baptist Church, we have two very precious practices that were given to us by Jesus that serve as pictures for us to look at until He comes again. We are going to look at the pictures of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

Many people have the idea that we can’t see Jesus. That’s simply not true. He left us two pictures of Himself for us to look at, but they are for private display only. Much like a husband being away from home, his loving wife will cherish the portraits or pictures that she has of him. In like manner these pictures have been left for us. The pictures of the husband that are precious to the wife are not given for an irreverent world to gawk at; they are meant for her eyes only. Private family pictures are not paraded through the streets for any to see. However, those who are nearest and dearest have the inside privilege of setting their gaze on that special loved one.

As we study these pictures of Jesus, we are going to see just how precious and just how private they really are. Hopefully we will come to the understanding of why and how we practice these sacred ordinances in the manner that we do.

The First Ordinance- Bible Baptism Romans 6:3-5

What is baptism? - *Baptism is our outward profession of an inward possession. It is our statement that says that Christ is in me, and I’m in Him.*

Three things to understand about Baptism

Only Saved People Can Be Baptized

If there has been no inward change, then the outward expression is a lie. Sometimes people reject being baptized after they were saved, because they were immersed or sprinkled before they were

saved, believing that it doesn't really matter which side of their salvation it sits on. That's not true for two reasons:

- 1.) If nothing happened on the inside, then whatever happened on the outside was counterfeit.
- 2.) What you did for baptism didn't picture what Jesus pictured for you.

If you were baptized before you were saved, then you pictured something that hadn't happened, so you pictured nothing. Only a saved person can be baptized, because only a saved person has had an inward change.

Acts 2:38

Acts 2:41

Acts 8:12

Acts 8:36-38

What is the order of practice that these passages describe/prescribe for us?

SO THAT'S WHY! -This is why we reject Baby Baptisms. Babies have yet to be saved. This is why we reject the Baptism of those who got Baptized to get saved. That's the wrong picture.

Rules to remember:

Romans 6:3-5; 1 Corinthians 1:17; Mark 16:16

Baptism is a Burial Not a Birth

1. - Baptism is NOT part of the gospel

No one can be saved by being baptized, because baptism pictures a funeral rather than a birth. Romans 6- "*We are buried with Him by baptism.*" If you got baptized in order to be born again, all you got was wet. Baptism is not part of the new birth; it pictures the death of the old life. As one great preacher put it, "Getting baptized before you get saved is like having your funeral before you are born." Baptism pictures a funeral. It pictures your inward union with Christ by portraying the death, burial, and resurrection! It has no efficacy toward being born again.

Sometimes people like to teach that you must be baptized to be saved. They are often quick to point to Mark 16:16- *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* They say, “See, Jesus said person who believes and is baptized is saved.” That’s true; they are. Any person who believes and is baptized is saved. But so is a person who believes and scratches their head, or a person who believes and eats a candy bar, or a person who believes and sings a song. That verse no more puts baptism into salvation than it does a game of bingo. How do you know that? Because Jesus said *but* whoever does not believe is condemned, baptized or not! You can be baptized but not believe, and the Bible says you are damned. You can believe but not be baptized, and the Bible says you are saved.

Another misunderstanding-

Acts 2:38- “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

There are many people who misunderstand this verse. They believe that only through baptism do we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which is the sealing part of our Salvation. That’s not true either. Once you place your faith in Jesus Christ, you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit before you are baptized. Can that be proven? Absolutely.

“Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” **Acts 10:47**

2. – A Burial Requires Much Water Bible Baptism is by immersion only! How do we know?

By Definition

It is an un-translated word. The Greek word is *Baptizo*; the English word is *baptize*. It literally means to immerse. A first century man by the name of Nicandor had a recipe for making pickles that called for the cucumbers to be baptized into the solution. Baptism is synonymous with immersion.

By Application

If baptism is to picture a burial, it must be an immersion. Any other method doesn’t give the same picture. We do not sprinkle dirt on the dead; we bury them in it.

By illustration

-That is how Jesus was baptized

Matthew 3:16- *“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water...”*

-That’s how John baptized- Why was John baptizing in the Jordan? John 3:23 – *“And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there: and they came, and were baptized.*

-That’s how Philip baptized - Acts 8:36-38 – *“And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.*

Bible baptism is by immersion only. Any other way isn’t the Bible way.

Baptism is a Church Ordinance, Not a Christian Ordinance.

The question of the hour then is: Who has the authority to baptize? We hear a lot today about “believers’ baptism” which is okay to an extent, because all believers ought to get baptized. We must ask then who gets to do the baptizing. Some have the idea that only preachers can baptize. Some have the idea that any Christian can baptize. Some have the idea that any Church assembly can baptize. What does the Bible say? The Bible says only the Church that Jesus started can baptize.

Matthew 28:16-20

This command and commission wasn’t given to them as Christians, it was given to them as a Church. There were many more believers than just eleven. If Christ’s commission had been to individual Christians, then anyone could have gone with Jesus that day. We are given the example in Acts 10:47 of Peter turned to the other disciples for a consensus in order to baptize the new converts. There are good reasons for this. First, it provides a recognizable authority governing the ordinance of baptism. Can you imagine what life would be like if all Americans had the authority to give our Social Security cards? The country would endure far more economic chaos than it does now. If any Christian had the

authority to baptize, can you imagine the confusion that would abound in the kingdom work of God? Rather than a body working together, you'd have body parts functioning on their own and building their own private religious kingdoms which is the cause of much that is going on today. Jesus gave His church the authority to issue the ordinance of baptism and no one else. Sometimes people don't understand why we don't recognize the baptism of other denominations. If they haven't been baptized the Bible way, they don't have the authority to baptize. The authority to baptize rests only with those who have been properly baptized, which is by the proper authority. Bible Baptism is the first act of obedience after a person has been saved, and it is required in order to be added to the membership of a local congregation. (Acts 2:41) Baptism is not a suggestion for the believer, It's not an option to consider; it is a command to obey. What if I don't obey it? You'll be living in disobedience to your Father in Heaven. While baptism isn't necessary for relationship with God, it is to be in fellowship with God.

So That's Why! - *If a church teaches the wrong thing about Baptism, then their Baptism is wrong. - If a church teaches the wrong thing about Jesus, their Baptism is wrong. If a "church" doesn't rise to the level of being a Biblical New Testament church, then their Baptism is wrong. That's why we don't receive the baptism of churches of other doctrines and order.*

The Second Ordinance- The Lord's Supper

The second picture that we hold precious is the picture of the Lord's Supper. This sacred ordinance was given to us by Jesus Himself the night before He was crucified.

Matthew 26:6029

Mark 14:22-25

Luke 22:17-20; 28-30

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

WHO THE LORD'S SUPPER PICTURES

The question isn't "what" does the Lord's Supper picture, but rather "who". The answer is simple; it's a picture of Jesus. It is a formal memorial service, not just of his death, but of Him! The Lord's Supper reminds us of three things:

1. It reminds us of His birth and life

The first part of the ordinance is to “take eat: this is my body”. The fact is that a body demands a birth, and a birth speaks of life. If we fail to remember he lived, then it does not good to remember that He died. So the first thing that the Supper pictures for us is the Life of Jesus. If Jesus was never born, then Jesus ever died; if Jesus never died, He never rose again, and our faith is in vain. Before we remember the death of Jesus, we must always remember the life of Jesus.

2. It reminds us of His suffering and death!

The second part of the ordinance tells us that, “This cup is my blood”. The blood speaks not just of His death, but of His suffering and death. It is a mistake to think that Jesus just lived with us and died for us. The suffering of Christ is as important as the death of Christ. Isaiah told us in Isaiah 53:5 that He was *“wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities.”* His blood began to be spilled hours before His death occurred. When we miss the suffering of Christ, we miss much of what He did for us. When we partake of this supper, we are remembering His birth and life and His suffering and death. But we are also seeing something else.

3. It reminds us of His resurrection and return

“For as oft as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord’s death till He come.”-1 Corinthians 11:26. The fact that He’s coming again demands that He rose again. The story of Jesus doesn’t end at the cross and the grave but in the clouds and on the throne. Even then it doesn’t end but will last forever.

These three things put together do not show us an event; they show us a person. It shows us Jesus Himself. Just like when a bride holds dear a picture of her husband, the church is to hold dear this precious picture of her spouse, the Lord Jesus.

WHO THE LORD’S SUPPER IS FOR

Who then can partake of the Lord’s Supper? Everyone who meets the conditions of the Lord. The invitation to the Lord’s Supper is a universal invitation to all who will enter the Lord’s Table through the Lord’s house the Lord’s way. The Bible teaches that the Lord’s Supper is a church ordinance of the

closed kind. What does that mean? That means that only the members of a particular church can partake of the Supper when that church observes this ordinance. Why is that?

1. Jesus gave us an example: - When Christ instituted the supper, He didn't invite all of His followers, just those who made up His first church. (Luke 22:28-30) the first reason that we practice it that way is because Jesus did. There were many other believers around Him. However, He only invited His first church to that sacred supper.

2. The First Church gave us the pattern - The first church gave us a pattern to follow. The orders of events in the life of the believer are very simple. After they were saved, they were baptized, then added to the membership of the church, then began to be disciples, and then allowed to partake of the Lord's Supper. Some people have the idea that the Supper is a Sacrament or that it plays some part in our salvation. The Bible makes it clear that only saved and baptized people can take the supper. Why would someone be allowed to participate in a memorial service of a person they've yet to believe in? It's for saved and baptized people only.

3. The Bible gives us a warning

"Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of the Lord and the cup of devil; ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's Table and the table of devils." 1 Corinthians 10:21



Acts 2:41-41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.



The church is responsible for who she takes the supper with. Lost people aren't to take it. The Apostle Paul gave a clear warning to the people in Corinth that there was to be a separation between partaking of the cup of idols, and the table of the Lord. Now that warning was two-fold. It was a warning to the individual not to partake of the idolatry of the world and this memorial for the church, it was also a warning to the church not to partake of the supper with individuals who want to partake of the idolatry of the world and this memorial for the church. Every individual is to guard their heart and mind in order to partake the supper, and every church is to guard who they partake of the supper with. When communion is opened, there is no way for the church to govern who observes the supper. What happens when a lost church member takes it? To the church nothing. When someone is admitted

membership into the church, they only do so based upon their testimony. If their testimony is false, they are a liar, and they will receive the consequences for partaking of the supper wrongfully. However, the church knowingly partakes of the supper with someone outside of her body, she is being unfaithful to her Husband and disobedient to the scriptures.

Principles to Plant

1. In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about the Baptism.

2. Who can be baptized and why?

3. Who can baptize and why?

4. Who does the Lord's Supper picture?

5. Who is allowed to take the supper?

6. Is there anything about Pinecrest that you didn't understand before this lesson that you do now?

Chapter Seven - Evangelism is Our Mission

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

Pinecrest Baptist Church has two primary efforts: to see lost people saved and to see saved people serious about Jesus Christ. These two purposes aren't our ideas. They are direct orders from the Lord Jesus Himself. We haven't come up with them; Heaven came down with them, and it's our duty to do what our King has commanded us to do. Many different people have different ideas about what the church is supposed to be doing. Some think that the church work is humanitarian work. Humanitarian work is fine, but ultimately isn't church work. Some think that social work is church work. Social work is fine, but it isn't church work. Political and cultural work is fine, but it isn't the work of the church. Quite simply put, church work is kingdom work.

Now, even Kingdom work and church work can sometimes get confused. Christians often think that our purpose is to expand the church, which isn't true at all. Our work is to expand the kingdom of our King. The fact is that we can expand our church and never expand His kingdom, but we cannot expand His kingdom and the church not follow suit. This lesson is about understanding our King's Commission and our role in Heaven's royal charge.

Scriptures to Study - Matthew 28:19-20 - Acts 1:8 - Luke 24:47-48 - John 20:21

QUESTION: WHY IS EVANGELISM OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE?

ANSWER 1: It is Jesus' Supreme Command

The first reason that evangelism is our primary purpose is because it is Jesus' Supreme command. Don't ever get the idea that our purposes are need-driven; they are spirit-led. Yes, it is an eternal fact that men need to be saved, which is another answer to this question, and we'll talk about that in a minute. First and foremost, however, we do not find our purposes in the needs of men; we get our purpose from the King of men. The first reason that we evangelize is because Jesus said for us to.

Matthew 28:19-20-What are the action words in Christ's command?

Acts 1:8-What does Jesus call his disciples in this statement?

Mark 16:15- What is the implied desire of our Lord in this statement?

Christ's clear and simple command is for us to spread the good news of God's grace through faith, and to do that throughout all the world. Now we can move to the second part of the answer, and we do so by asking the question, why is that Jesus' supreme command?

ANSWER 2: It is Man's Supreme need

We mentioned in the beginning that many people had the idea that church work was humanitarian work. They believe that people need to have food and clothing, and it is the work of the church to do humanitarian work. The fact is that in the ultimate sense people do not need food and clothing; they need Jesus. It is better to go to Heaven hungry than to hell full. People do not need to be educated; they need Jesus. There is nothing wrong with education and it never once changed a heart. It may have enlightened a devil, but it never changed a heart.

Man's greatest need isn't political reform, economic reform, or welfare reform. All more money can do is buy a fancier coffin. Man's supreme need is life, and regardless of what else he has, he has nothing until he has that. As the late Dr. Adrian Rogers always said, "it has never been the charge of the church to make the world a better place to go to hell from." The fact is that until people meet Jesus, they need nothing but Jesus, and when they do meet Jesus, they find that they need nothing else.

**READ THESE - Ezekiel 18:4 - 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 - Galatians 6:7 - Job 14:1
Ecclesiastes 2:1-11**

IN YOUR WORDS - After reading these passages, describe the condition of the secular man.

ANSWER 3: Man is God's Supreme care

A man asked his pastor one time, "How do we know that God cares for mankind more than He cares for any other part of His creation? Is man not just like the animals and of the same importance as them?" The answer is no, man is not just like the animals. Only in man did God put a soul and a spirit and conscious intelligence. How do we know that God cares for men more than He does for other created life forms? Because He said so. In Matthew 10: 29-31, Jesus declared plainly that we are of "*more value than many sparrows*".

God loves humanity, not because humanity is lovely, but because God is love. He can't not love because that is His essence and His character. When He made man in His image, or after His likeness, He made him so that He could have free fellowship with us and us with Him. God does that with no other creature, including the angels. God loves every race equally. He loves the Americans, the Africans, the Arabs, the Asians, the whites, the blacks, etc. God loves men and desires for them to be saved and serious.

READ THESE - 2 Peter 3:9 - John 3:16 - 1 John 4:9-10

What do these verses declare to us about the cares and character of God?

To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world into himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:19-21

How are we described in this passage, and what did Paul say our prayer was to be?

QUESTION: WHAT IS EVANGELISM?

Simply put, the word comes from two Greek words that mean to “announce the good news”. In our culture, we often hear the words “evangelicals”, or fundamental evangelicals; and it is often spoken in derogatory tones. This happens because our culture doesn’t understand what true “evangelicalism” is. It isn’t forcing the practice of prudish ways; it is announcing the good news that Jesus saves. The hurt in the heart of our society rests in the fact that many resent the idea that they need to be saved, and therefore reject all that we are and all that we say. That being said, what is our part in evangelism?

The Bible Kind of Witness

John 9:13-25

We’ve heard the term and the command that we are to be “witnesses” of these things. What does that mean? The Bible gives us a great example in John 9:13-25. A witness doesn’t tell what he believes; he tells what he knows. In the story of the man born blind, the Pharisees were vehement about the theology of this man. They had passed theological judgment on Jesus, had already defined their doctrine, and demanded that this man agree with them. What they wanted from this man was a theological dissertation. What they got, however, was an industrial strength example of what it means to be a witness for Jesus Christ. Listen to his statement:

“He answered and said, Whether he be a sinner or no, I know not; one thing I know, that, whereas I was blind, now I see. “John9: 21.

This man simply testified about what Jesus did for him. No man can argue theology with someone who knows what Jesus has done for them. True evangelism is simply the word of mouth testimony of those who have been changed by Jesus Christ.

QUESTION: HOW DOES EVANGELISM RELATE TO THE GREAT COMMISSION?

Far too many people have the idea that “evangelism” and “The Great Commission” are one and the same, and the fact is that isn’t true. Evangelism is part of the Great Commission, but there is much more to it than that. The Great Commission doesn’t stop at the Salvation of a Soul! Read Matthew 28:19-20 again and list the commands of the commission again.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The fact is that the Great Commission begins with “evangelism”, carries on through “baptism”, and matures through “discipleship”. As we said in the beginning of this lesson, at Pinecrest Baptist Church we have two priorities: to see lost people saved (that’s evangelism) and to see saved people serious that’s baptism and discipleship).

Our first work is to preach the gospel; our complete work is to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We do that through the ministry of our church.

QUESTION: WHO AND WHERE DO WE EVANGELIZE?

In a word, everyone; in a word, everywhere. In Acts 1:8, Jesus gave His disciples direct answer about this question. List four places that Jesus mentioned.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

This is why we do the mission work that we do as a church. The command that Jesus gave His disciples there in Acts 1:8 is not a “chronological command” meaning one place at a time. In fact He states that they were to be witnesses “both in Jerusalem and in Judea and in,...and ...” the command is for us to work everywhere at the same time. This pattern is seen clearly here at Pinecrest.

We are witnesses:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. At Corinth | Jerusalem |
| 2. In the United States | Judea/Samaria |
| 3. In the Country of Kenya | Uttermost parts |

We never stop, and we are always to be seeking more places that we can do evangelistic mission work.

Principles to Plant

1. In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about Evangelism.

2. Write the testimony of your conversion and salvation.

3. Write your understanding of "The Great Commission".

4. Is there anything about Pinecrest Baptist Church that you learned through the study of this lesson?

Chapter Eight - Eternity is Our Future

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

Pinecrest Baptist church believes firmly that life doesn't end at the grave. The Bible tells us plainly that after death comes judgment, and after judgment lies one of two destinies: a literal heaven or a literal hell.

There is good news today. Elvis is alive. So are Marilyn Monroe and JFK, Jimmy Hoffa and Madelyn Murray O'Hare. The only question that remains is “where are they living”? Every person ever conceived still exists. They exist on one of three places. They either exist on earth today, in hell today, or in heaven today, but everyone ever conceived still exists. The Bible teaches us fundamentally that death is not the soul's separation from the body, but rather the soul's separation from God. There are many people today still walking and talking with air in their lungs and blood in their veins, but they are as dead as they ever will be. Many people want to know if there is life after death when they live as if there is no death after life. How do we now beyond stutter or stammer that there is a literal heaven and that there is a literal hell that awaits every human being? That is what this lesson is about.

There is a literal Heaven-

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. 1 Peter 1:3-5

How do we know there is a Heaven?

1. History proves it

Men have been there, looked around seen the sights and came back to tell us about it. Don't ever get the idea that no one has ever seen heaven and lived to tell about it. The fact is that “eye has seen” and “ear has heard” the sights and sounds of heaven. We readily accept an eyewitness account in a

court of law as enough evidence to convict a man of a crime, yet we often discount the eyewitness testimony of credible men concerning one of the greatest truths in all existence.

Who has seen Heaven?

A man named Isaiah .

Isaiah 6:1-3

A man named Paul.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

A man named John .

Revelation 4: 1-3

Each of these men suffered great amounts of torture and trial for what they said they saw. If they are not telling the truth, they are worse than liars; they are all three fools. It stands to clear reason that men will not die for what they know is a lie. Yet these men allowed terrible thing to happen to them because they refused to recant their testimony!

A Baptist preacher of days gone by, named Dwight L. Moody was getting ready to go and be with the Lord. Those of his family gave the testimony about his passing describing the hours prior to his home going. According to his son, A few hours before Dwight Lyman Moody died, he seemed to catch a glimpse of the glory awaiting him. Awakening from his sleep, he said, "Earth recedes, heaven opens before me. If this is death, it is sweet! There is no valley here. God is calling me and I must go!" his son who was standing by his bedside said, "No, no father, you are dreaming. NO! said Mr. Moody, "I am not dreaming; I have been within the gates; I have seen the children's faces." A short time elapsed and then, following what seemed to be a struggle to the family, he spoke again and said, "THIS IS MY TRIUMPH; THIS is My Coronation Day, and IT IS GLORIOUS!"

We know that there is a heaven, because history proves it. If you cannot believe what has happened, you will not believe what is going to happen. It is the history of prophecy that proves the certainty of prophecy, and we rest assured in what we know to be true.

2. Jesus promised it John 14:1-3

We know that there is a heaven, because Jesus promised it. If we accept the Savior, then we have to accept what the Savior says! You cannot call Jesus liar and Lord at the very same time. Jesus tells us plainly that there is a heaven to gain and a hell to shun. There are two things that Jesus does tell us about heaven:

It is a promised place

Jesus said, "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you." If His word is no good, then He is no God.

Jesus promised His disciples a heavenly place. How are there "mansions" in a house? The Greek word for mansion means a "dwelling place". Jesus tells us that in His Father's House there are many dwelling places.

It is a prepared place

Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." Heaven is custom built! Heaven is preparing for the arrival of all the saints. Heaven isn't going to be some public playground for all the saved to frolic in. It is going to be a personal place, where each child of God has a precious place in the father's palace.

It is a Permanent place

Jesus said, "I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am there ye may also be." Do you know what makes heaven permanent? Jesus! It isn't the place of heaven that is safe; it is the Person of heaven that is safe. It isn't being in heaven that is safe. That's where the angels were when they fell. It is being in Jesus that is safe.

3. Men Practice it 2 Corinthians 4:6-10

Why is it that real Christians, not top water church-goers, but the bona fide believers, march to the beat of a different drummer? Why are they so different from the rest of the culture? The peace and comfort they seem to enjoy is not some voodoo stamina of the human spirit. It is the Nuclear Power of the Holy Spirit.

Two contrasts: one the heart of a lost man, the other the heart of a saved man.

Lord Byron abandoned himself to the pursuit of pleasure. At the ripe old age of 35, he wrote;
My days are in the yellow leaf, the flowers and fruits of love are gone: the worm, the canker,
and the grief are mine alone!

Now hear the words of Adam Clarke, Biblical Expositor, at age 84 he said: I have passed through the springtime of my life. I have withstood the heat of its summer. I have culled the fruits of fall. I am even now enduring the rigors of winter, but at no great distance I see the approach of a new, eternal springtime. Hallelujah!

There is a literal Hell

“The wicked shall be turned into hell...” Psalm 9:17

We also believe that, just as sure as there is a heaven for the saved, there is a hell for the lost. We do not believe that it is heaven or nothing, we believe that it is heaven or hell. Not only do we preach a heaven to gain, but we also preach a literal hell to shun.

How do we know that there is a hell?

1. The scripture teaches it

The Bible makes no bones about it. There is a literal hell, and the scriptures are full of warnings about it. The Bible uses four different words that are translated into the English word “hell”.

Sheol-Hebrew- It literally means “the abode of the dead or “the world of the dead”- the place of the dead.

Hades- Greek- It literally means “the place of the dead”, or “the state of the dead”.

Gehenna- Greek- The valley of Hinnom, a valley of Jerusalem, of burning trash and debris

Tartaroo- Greek- To incarcerate

“God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment.” 2 Peter 2:4

Biblical References of Hell - Deuteronomy 32:22; Psalm 18:5; Isaiah 14:14-15; Acts 2:31
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2. The Savior preaches it

The same Jesus that promised the saved Heaven warns the lost of hell. It would be ludicrous to believe in heaven and not believe in hell. To reject hell is to call Jesus a liar. Hell is not only taught in the Old Testament, it is affirmed in the New Testament. The English word Hell is used 54 times in the King James Version.; it is promised by the Savior.

What Jesus Said...

Matthew 5:22

Matthew 5:29-30

Matthew 10:28

Matthew 11:23

Matthew 16:18

Matthew 18:9

Matthew 23:33

Luke 16:23

In Your words - Based on what Jesus said in these verses, write what you think Jesus believed about hell.

Hell is a fact to accept, not a fable to wink at. Millions of people have already gone, and millions of people are headed that way. Hell is as real as Heaven, and both are as real as dying. Dying cannot be denied or ignored forever! When we preach that people ought to get saved, we're not preaching for them to get saved from nothing; we are preaching for them to get saved from something and that something is ultimately hell! Jesus didn't suffer and die because you were going to cease to exist. He suffered and died, because if He didn't, you would forever and ever.

3. The Bible pictures it

Another reason that we believe that Hell is a literal place is because the Bible is so detailed about its description. Hell is a physical location with a literal description.

Its Description

In Matthew 25:41 – *“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels?”* We understand plainly that hell is a place of fire. All throughout scripture fire is symbolic of judgment. Even today we use fire to “judge” materials. We often burn metals, or “judge” them, to separate the impurities in them from the substance. When a person goes to hell, they will be eternally “judged”.

After reading these verses, list other descriptions of the Biblical account of hell.

Its Destruction

In Matthew 10:28, Jesus said, *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul; but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”* Jesus plainly says that hell is a place that will be experienced, both body and soul. How is that possible? Because of the resurrection, there will be a day when every human being that has ever died will rise again. Some will be raised to everlasting life and some unto everlasting destruction. (See John 5:28)

Its Design

Of a certainty, one thing must clearly be understood; Hell was not made for humans. Hell was made for the devil and his angels (Matthew 25:41.) God doesn’t send people to hell; they refuse to be saved from it. Because people refuse to be saved from it, the Bible says that hell has enlarged itself to make room (Isaiah 5:14). Hell is a literal place for people to be saved from. That is why it is imperative that they trust Jesus. Only He has the keys of deliverance (Revelation 1:18).

principles to plant

1. In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about Eternity.

2. In your words, write what Pinecrest Baptist Church believes about Heaven.

3. Write your understanding of a “literal” hell.

4. Is there anything about Pinecrest Baptist Church that you learned through the study of this lesson?

Chapter Nine - Prayer is Our Power

“...he that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me, ye can do nothing.”

John 15:5

What is it that will make Pinecrest Baptist Church, or any church for that matter, a powerful Church for the Lord? It's prayer life. Prayer is our Power. It isn't part of our power, it isn't some of our power, it is our only power. True genuine power only comes from the Lord Jesus, and the only way for us to experience His power is through a vibrant, fertile, and active prayer life. Any church that is not a praying church is just a noisy church, because nothing very real for heaven is actually happening. This lesson will look briefly at prayer and just how it affects all that happens inside our church.

The Facts of Prayer

What is Prayer? What does it mean to Pray? Have you ever heard anyone say in their prayer, “Lord, I want to pray for Suzy” or “I want to pray for Larry”? Of course you have. The reality however is that all we've said is “Lord, I want to talk to you about Suzy.” “Lord, I want to talk to you about Larry.” Then we never really talk to Him about them. To pray IS NOT synonymous with request! Requesting is a part of prayer, as we will see a little later, but it does not constitute prayer. What then is prayer? It is honest communication with God. To pray is not to ask; it is to communicate. Through the Bible and the Holy Spirit, God speaks to us about everything. Through prayer, we speak to God about everything.

Psalm 22:2 Psalm 86:3 Nehemiah 1:6 1 Thessalonians 5:17

Luke 18:1 Luke 21:36 Romans 12:12 Ephesians 6:18

Colossians 4:2 1 Peter 4:7

Is there a common factor in the scriptures above?

In Your Words

What does it mean to _____

1 John 1:9
Psalm 32:5
Proverbs 28:13

The Fabric of Prayer

There are different fibers in the fabric of each prayer. Not every prayer contains every one of these; however, each of these is a different kind of prayer.

1. Adoration

When was the last time you prayed without asking for anything? For many people, if they had to quit asking God for things, they wouldn't have anything to say. One kind of prayer that is just as much a prayer as any other kind is the prayer of Adoration- the Prayer of Praise. This is the prayer that simply communicates to God just how good you think He is.

1 Timothy 2:1
Matthew 6:11
Matthew 7:7-8

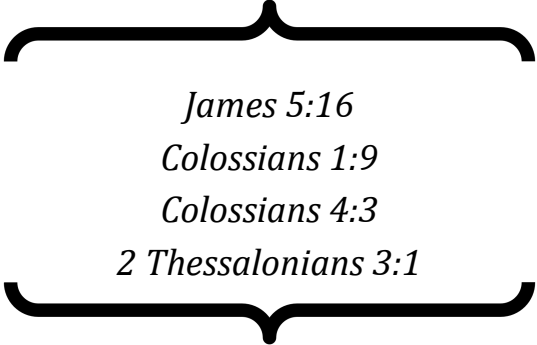
Daniel 4:34
Psalm 107:8
Matthew 6:9

2. Confession

Confession is a part of prayer. In fact, there is no confession apart from prayer. It's one thing to get something off your chest to a friend. It's something else to get something out of your heart to the LORD. In order for us to maintain a right relationship with the Lord, we must maintain open lines of confession to Him. You and I confess to Him when we say what we know He sees. When we do say that we know He sees, we are lying to Him by pretending that it isn't there. The only way to purge ourselves is through admission of sin, agreement of guilt, and verbal confession to the Lord.

3. Supplication

The third kind of fabric in prayer is supplication. Another word often used for this is petition. This is the part of our prayers that make up our requests. When we ask the Lord to supply a particular need, our prayer is a supplication, or a petition. When we ask the Lord to give us strength, grace, or any material need, we are declaring our dependence upon Him. Sometimes people get confused, because they know God knows already what we want and what we need, so why ask for it? In fact, the Bible says in Luke 12:30 that *“the Father knoweth that ye have need of these things.”* Why then should we ask? Because my prayer is not to get God to do what I want but to get me in line with what God wants. When I ask Him for what I want or need out of a right spirit, I have already conditioned myself for His answer.



James 5:16
Colossians 1:9
Colossians 4:3
2 Thessalonians 3:1

4. Intercession

Each Sunday morning before the offering is received, every person has the opportunity to make a prayer request. Why do we do that? So we can pray for them. Intercessory prayer is when we communicate to God a request that will benefit another person, rather than ourselves. In our bulletin we have a “prayer list”. We also have a “prayer chain”. This is so we can uphold each other’s needs in prayer to God.

The Bible makes clear that we are to intercede for one another, not just for sickness but also for spiritual growth, for material needs, and for personal issues. When you and I pray as an intercessor, we are acting just like Jesus. Jesus is our intercessor, and when we do that for others, we’re just like Him.

5. Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is not a holiday! It is a vibrant part of an active prayer life. Thanksgiving is giving credit where credit is due or, in other words, giving glory where glory is due. Every fabric of prayer ought always to contain the fiber of thanksgiving to the Lord for Who He is, and for what He does.

What are the Five Fibers of the Fabric of Prayer?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



The Fable of Prayer

Several years ago, a popular Country Music star wrote a smash hit with the main theme of the song being that “some of God’s greatest gifts are unanswered prayers”. While that may make for a catchy tune, it is terrible theology. The fact is that there is no such thing as an unanswered prayer!

Here are two things to consider:

1. A lost man can’t pray! He can talk, but he can’t pray. Until a man repents of his sin and receives Christ in his heart, all he can do is make noise. He cannot truly pray.
2. A saved man’s prayer is always answered. 1 John 5:14 guarantees us that God hears our prayers. 1 John 5:15 guarantees that if we pray in the will of God, He will grant our request.

The fact is that God has three answers to prayers: Yes, no, and
 It is folly for us to believe that sometimes God doesn’t answer
 The truth is that God does not always say yes! That is difficult for
 people to swallow, but it is true.

 not now.
 prayers.
 some
Philippians 4:6
Ephesians 5:20
1 Samuel 7:12


When God Says NO!

- Deuteronomy 3:23-27 – He said No to Moses
- 2 Samuel 12:16-18 -- He said No to David
- Matthew 26:39-44 – He said No to Jesus
- 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 – He said No to Paul

God is not obligated to grant anyone's request concerning any issue. All requests that get the answer yes must be something that doesn't contradict or conflict with His eternal plan or His revealed Will. Moses wanted to enter the promise land after God had already said that he wouldn't. David pleaded for the life of his child, and God had another plan. Jesus asked to let the cup of the cross pass from Him, but in God's Divine Design, the cross of Christ became the crux of history. Paul desired for the removal of a personal hindrance, yet God in His sovereignty knew that Paul needed that hindrance. The only key to have all of your prayers answered yes is to want what God wants you to want. When you want what He wants you to want, He'll say yes to anything you ask.

When God Says Not Now!

Did you know that God answered one of Jesus' prayers with not now? In Matthew 6:10, Jesus prayed "Thy Kingdom come". He asked for the coming of the Kingdom of Heaven. Well it hasn't happened yet, but it will. God didn't tell Jesus yes, but He didn't say no. The scripture teaches that there is a time when the Kingdom will come. Because God doesn't say yes, doesn't mean that He has said no; He may just be saying wait.

Revelation 6:9-11 – God told the Martyrs –Not now!

Romans 12:19 – God promised He would repay wickedness

2 Thessalonians 1:6-8—God said He would execute vengeance when Christ returns

The Foundation of Prayer

All that being said, how then do we pray? Can we pray with our eyes open, closed, or straddled? Can we pray standing up, sitting down, lying down, or doing pushups? How are we supposed to pray? Well the fact is that there is not a position of prayer, but rather a person and a purpose for prayer. There are a couple of things to know about prayer.

The People Who Can Pray

Only children of God can pray. Everybody that is God's child has access to the Father's throne.

Galatians 4:6-7 – “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou are no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.”

Matthew 6:9 – “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”

An unsaved person has no right to call God his “Father” because God isn’t. Lost people are not God’s children, only saved people.

The Reason for Which We Pray

The True Power in prayer will be found in the purpose of prayer. Many people have the wrong idea about prayer. They believe that prayer is to get God to do what they want Him to do in their lives. In fact the opposite is true. We pray to get us to do what God wants to do in our lives. How does that work? Good question.

1. Proper Prayer Prays for God’s Will not Ours.

Matthew 6:10; 12:50

Psalm 40:8

If that’s what I am supposed to pray for, how then do I know what God wants? Two ways:

Through God’s Revealed Word – We must realize that some things in God’s will have been spelled out for us.

1 Thessalonians 5:18

1 Thessalonians 4:3

1 Peter 3:9

What are three specific things that are plain to see in these three verses? _____ _____ _____

Through God’s Leading Spirit- Not everything is so easily covered in the Bible. How then can we know God’s will about “unmentioned” things? Through the person of Jesus and power of the Holy Spirit.

First we have a promise from Jesus. – John 15:7

Second we have the person of the Spirit. –Romans 8:26-27

Now when all things are working together, you are praying to God, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit. To pray any other way is not to pray.

2. Proper Prayer is Prompted Prayer

It has been said that the prayer that starts in Heaven is the prayer that ends in Heaven. The fact is that when you and I are “Abiding in Christ,” being transformed by the Holy Spirit, and depending upon Him, we won’t pray for anything that is contrary to His will? If the mind of Christ be in me, as in Philippians 2:5, will I request wrong things? Of course not. Prayer is not to get God to act in line with my will, but rather to bring my life in line with His. With the reading of the Word and the leading of the Spirit, you and I will begin to want what God want us to want, and we’ll never miss out on the power of prayer.

principles to plant

1. In your words, define Prayer.

2. What does Pinecrest Baptist Church believe about Prayer?

3. Is there anything about Prayer that you learned through the study of this lesson that you did not know before? _____

Chapter Ten - Practical is Our Structure

“... Provide things honest in the sight of all men.” Romans 12:17

This lesson is about the structure of Pinecrest Baptist Church and how she is governed. PBC is a church that is Spirit led, Pastor coached, committee served, and congregation approved. We are an independent body answering to no one, save Jesus Christ. He is the shepherd, and the pastor is merely the under-shepherd. We work in voluntary association with nearly 1200 other churches of like faith and order, identifying themselves as the American Baptist Association, to carry on the Great Commission of Jesus around the world. We call our pastor, we elect our teachers, we set our budget, determine our missionary supports, and govern ourselves underneath the authority of the scripture, the leadership of the Holy Spirit, and the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Now that being said, how does Pinecrest function practically?

Not a Democracy, but a Theocracy

The Government processes of our church are not to be confused with a democracy. Rather, rightly understood, our church is to be the purest form of a theocracy, with all things being dictated to us by the Lord Jesus through the Holy Spirit, in conjunction with His Holy Word.

In 1 Corinthians 2:5, Paul told the troubled church at Corinth that ***“your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.”*** Ideally, every decision that the body of the church makes, is a decision that is directed by the Lord Jesus Himself. Our church, in essence, is not ours; it is the Lord’s. This body belongs only to the Lord for Him to do with as He sees fit, and with what is in accordance to His Will.

Ephesians 1:22, Ephesians 5:23, Colossians 1:18

Under the Under-shepherd

What is the role of the pastor at Pinecrest?

First, and foremost, he serves as a provider. The most important aspect of the role of pastor is to faithfully preach and teach the Word of God. His instructions are plain. *“Preaching the Word”* 2 Timothy

4:2; *“Feed the flock of God which is among you”*. 1 Peter 5:2; *“Feed the church of God which He has purchased with His own blood.”* Acts 20:28. The primary role of the pastor is to see to it that every time the body gathers that the Bible is plainly, practically, and preparedly preached! It does no one any good for a pastor to “love you to death” and “starve you to death” at the same time.

Secondly, he is to serve as a protector. The pastor is a protector from false teachings and false teachers. The Bible calls him an “overseer”. It is his responsibility to see to it that no unhealthy or unholy thought, philosophy, or idea infiltrates the church body. In Acts 20:28, we are told that the *“Holy Ghost has made you overseer”*, speaking of pastors. Hebrews 13:17 tells us *“Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.”*

Thirdly, he acts as a prompter. This is why he is often called a leader, because he often points in directions that the church needs to go. This role is not necessarily limited to prompting the church to make certain decisions. It does include that, however, his is also to be prompting church members into taking certain actions. The best example of this is found in Ephesians 4:11-12, *“And he gave some...Pastors... For the work of the perfection of saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.”* The pastor is to be prompting believers into deeper faith and further Christian Service. He is to be equipping and encouraging the church members into becoming the ministry of the church.

What is the Role of the Deacon at Pinecrest Baptist Church?

The deacons of Pinecrest are men who have been recognized by the church for their spiritual and physical service to the church. The office of a deacon in the New Testament church is filled by qualified men who “do” serve, not filled by electing men “to” serve. The deacons at Pinecrest assist the pastor in keeping a careful and watchful eye on the needs of the flock. They are men who love the Lord, love His church, love the pastor, and love to serve in helping meet the needs of the church as a whole, and individuals as they arise. (1st Timothy 3:8-13)

Committee Served

Even from Israel's exodus days, we have learned the value of delegation of responsibility to committees. As Moses entrusted certain responsibilities to appointed men, Pinecrest annually elects a small number of committees that, within certain parameters, handle business on behalf of the church and make educated recommendations to the church body.

- The Mission Committee –This committee has a limited authority to spend a set amount of money on Emergency Mission requests without returning to the body for approval.

-This committee makes educated recommendations concerning our support for certain missionaries. This committee stays in tune with mission needs and opportunities.
- The Building and Maintenance Committee—when maintenance and building needs arise, this committee has a pre-set spending limit that they are authorized to use. However, if repairs are greater than the limit, they must come back to the church body for permission to proceed.
- The Counting Committee—Different from the budget committee, this group handles and tallies all of the offerings that are received at Pinecrest to preserve the integrity and accountability.
- Trustees – there are five trustees of Pinecrest that are responsible for signatures on the legal affairs of the church.
- The Finance Committee – This committee is made up of the treasurers, deacons, and pastor. They keep an eye on the financial stewardship of the church, make studied recommendations during financial needs, and prepare a recommended budget to submit to the congregation for amendment or approval at the annual meeting in August.

Membership Approved

All final authority at Pinecrest rests with the membership body. Every single member has an equal voice and an equal vote. Historically, Pinecrest has a regular (monthly) business meeting which is permanently scheduled for the 2nd Sunday night of each month. Since the days of Covid, these meetings, temporarily anyway, have become random and as needed, but always publicized. It is in this meeting that current committee recommendations are considered and normal housekeeping

procedures are addressed. Complete financial disclosure is documented and available to all members at these meetings.

Once each year a “nominating” committee, and an “education” committee is elected for the purpose of making recommendations concerning teachers and officers for the next church year. Those recommendations are considered at the annual meeting, which takes place in August. At this annual meeting, the budget is approved, the next slate of teachers and officers are approved, and any other necessary annual business is taken care of.

Decorum

People often want to know about the decorum of our regular worship services. Things such as singing specials, participating in choir, appropriate dress, musical selection or participation, working in service, ministries, or with children, etc. These are normal and natural questions that we are often asked. These are the things that set the environment of every church. As stated, there are four basic things in the Bible that are required for a Biblical worship service. All things must be done, “In Spirit and in Truth”; (John 4:24) and “Decently and In Order”; 1st Corinthians 14:40.

- Singing Specials - Those who sing, or play an instrument are welcome and encouraged to give their talents to the Lord. Under the leadership of our Choir director and music director members who sing are guided and directed in concert with the particular worship service as a whole. The choir and music director coordinate all singing.

- Participating in Choir – Any member of the church who wishes to participate in the choir is encouraged to do so. The choir meets each Sunday morning at 9 to go over the service for that morning, and then they practice each Sunday evening at 5 in preparation for their ministry.

- What do we wear? – People often want to know what they are expected to wear when they come to church. At Pinecrest we hold to the Bible’s admonition for modesty in all things. We have no such standard for suits and ties, or expensive dresses. All that we do ask is for people to dress respectfully, and modestly. Also, in order for there to be no stumbling block of offense or distraction to anyone in our worship service and to contribute to an atmosphere of reverence we do ask that men not wear shorts and women not wear mini-skirts in worship services. We

desire for the environment of the sanctuary and worship be one of reverence, humility and honour.

Musical Selection and Participation – As a congregation Pinecrest is neither a “contemporary” style nor a “traditional” style. Style plays no factor in our musical selection. Both new songs and old songs are chosen based up on whether or not they are Biblically sound. When one sings a special, or the instruments play a song, it is the message of the song, or known melody that serves as our litmus test for appropriate music. Other than our patriotic hymns, we do not use any secular music in anything we select. All music is aimed at glorifying the name of the Lord Jesus.

If someone has the ability to play a musical instrument, their talents are wanted and welcome. The orchestra meets every Sunday morning at 8:45 for practice.

Working in Service – How does someone get involved in church ministries? Typical ministry events and opportunities are publicized well in advance, through Facebook, church website, Sunday bulletin and screens. As ministries are advertised, willing members gravitate toward the things that fit their abilities and interests. It is through voluntary attendance and participation at these events that opportunities for service develop. From our Snackpack Food ministry to the Youth ministry to the Senior Adults, to Security, there are many avenues for people to get involved.

Youth and Children’s Ministry - In order to provide the utmost confidence and the safest environment there is a security protocol that all volunteers must go through before they can work with children and youth. A formal and confidential background check is required, and placed on file for anyone who wishes to 1.) Work in Nursery, 2.) Children’s Church, 3.) Serve as a Youth Sponsor on any event; 4.) Participate in any capacity as a church representative overseeing children and teenagers. This is for obvious reasons.

At the present printing of this booklet Pinecrest operates the following ministries in which people can serve and participate:

- The Music ministry - Vocal and Instrumental - Youth Ministry - The Weekend Snackpack Program - Security Team – Faith Bible Institute - Media and Sound –

Principles to Plant

1. What do you understand the ordered protocol in practical affairs at Pinecrest to be?

2. What did you learn about PBC that you did not know?

Thank you for your study of Pinecrest. It is our hope and prayer that the Lord has lead, guided, and spoken to you through this study.

Our first desire is for you to know Jesus. If you've never been saved, you've never placed your trust in Christ, would you do that right now? Put this book down, and ask the Lord to forgive you of your sins, and take control of your heart and life. He will write your name in the Lamb's book of life. If you have done that, Amen and Amen.

Our second desire is for you to follow Him in Bible baptism. If you've never been baptized the Bible way, you can do that right here at Pinecrest. Simply visit with the pastor and express your desire to him to obey the Lord's command.

Our third desire is for you to surrender yourself to being a lifelong sacrificial disciple of the Lord Jesus. Will you give yourself to being the Lord's disciple?

Our forth desire is for you to be a member of the Lord's body here at Pinecrest. If the Lord has guided you here, we want you to stay and become part of us and help us carry out God's commands and commission.

If you have said yes to our desires and you want to go along with us, would you please make your decision known to the pastor or any other member of our church? We say Praise God.

Thank you again for giving this study and opportunity to share with you the things we most surely believe.