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Class Title

**INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE
DISTRIBUTION**

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Credits

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Level

Associates Level

This Syllabus is Approved for
Baptist International University School of the Scriptures

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CLASS 210 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

This Syllabus is an *Introduction to Scripture Distribution*. It shows the student from the word of God what are the basic aspects of the work of distributing the word of God throughout the world, which is a fundamental part of the Great Commission. Every believer should be involved in some aspect of scripture distribution, and most are. Some work with tonnage requirements, others give a New Testament to a friend so he can read the word of God. The distribution of scripture is the means by which the sower sows the word.

This Syllabus can be used in conjunction with other Class Syllabi, which have other Teaching.

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CLASS 210 INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION

**INTRODUCTION TO SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION
– JUDEA, SAMARIA, AND THE UTTERMOST**

(Formerly entitled: *Introduction to Foreign Distribution*)

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A Syllabus Approved for Baptist International University School of the Scriptures – 1 Credit.

September 15, 2019

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Scripture References

Matthew 4

4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Mark 4

14 The sower soweth the word.

Luke 8

11 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

Luke 21

33 Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

John.12

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Acts 8

4 Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Acts 12

24 But the word of God grew and multiplied.

Acts 13

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of

God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

48 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.

49 And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.

Acts 19

10 And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

20 So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.

2 Corinthians 2

17 For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4

2 But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

Ephesians 1

13 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,

1 Thessalonians 1

5 For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake.

1 Thessalonians 2

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

2 Thessalonians 3

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:

14 And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.

2 Timothy 2

9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

1 Peter 1

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of

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incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

1 Peter 2

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

Revelation 3

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Matthew 21

42 Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

Matthew 22

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.

Matthew 26

54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets

might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.

Mark 12

10 And have ye not read this scripture; The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner:

24 And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Mark 14

49 I was daily with you in the temple teaching, and ye took me not: but the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Mark 15

28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Luke 4

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Luke 24

27 And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

32 And they said one to another, Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

John.2

22 When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said.

John.5

39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

John.7

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

42 Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

John.10

35 If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

John.13

18 I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

John.17

12 While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled.

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John.19

24 They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled, which saith, They parted my raiment among them, and for my vesture they did cast lots. These things therefore the soldiers did.

28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.

37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

John.20

9 For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead.

Acts 1

16 Men and brethren, this scripture must needs have been fulfilled, which the Holy Ghost by the mouth of David spake before concerning Judas, which was guide to them that took Jesus.

Acts 8

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same

scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

Acts 17

2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,

11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

Acts 18

24 And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.

28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publicly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

Romans 1

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

Romans 4

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

Romans 9

17 For the scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might shew my power in thee, and that my name might be declared throughout all the earth.

Romans 10

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

Romans 11

2 God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew. Wot ye not what the scripture saith of Elias? how he maketh intercession to God against Israel, saying,

Romans 15

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Romans 16

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

1 Corinthians 15

3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:

Galatians 3

8 And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that

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the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

Galatians 4

30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman.

1 Timothy 5

18 For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward.

2 Timothy 3

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

James 2

8 If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

James 4

5 Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

1 Peter 2

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

2 Peter 1

20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

2 Peter 3

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

Isaiah 55

6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and

bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:

11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 30

5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

Psalms 12

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

Joshua 1

8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do

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according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Psalms 1

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law

doth he meditate day and night.

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Introduction

This Class was originally entitled *Introduction to Foreign Distribution*. It is a good name for a class, but not as descriptive as we should like. We updated the name to *Introduction to Scripture Distribution – Judea, Samaria, and the Uttermost*. This is a better name, and it defines the scope of the class instruction.

In this class we will learn from God's word the commandments in respect to scripture distribution, and the distribution of God's word from Jerusalem throughout all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the uttermost parts of the earth.

The student should think from a *High Vision* in this respect: How do we obey the commandment given to distribute the scriptures worldwide? We cannot just ignore the commandment and say it some other person's responsibility. We cannot pick and choose what commandments we want to obey and simply ignore others.

The truth is that every church, every church leader, and every church member should be instructed and participate in the work of scripture distribution. There are levels of work for every church. All that is needed is a desire to participate and to be obedient.

Dr. Don Fraser is known as the father of Bearing Precious Seed. He did not like that name for obvious reasons, but he labored during his life to show churches their responsibility to publish and distribute the scriptures. He created and followed the *Headwater System* for scripture publication, which is still in use today. The system is a good and effective system, and we want it to continue.

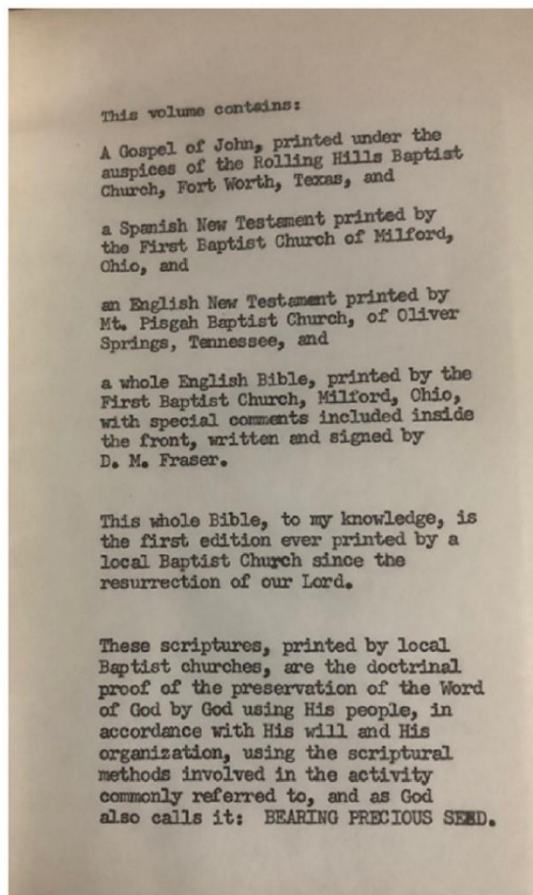
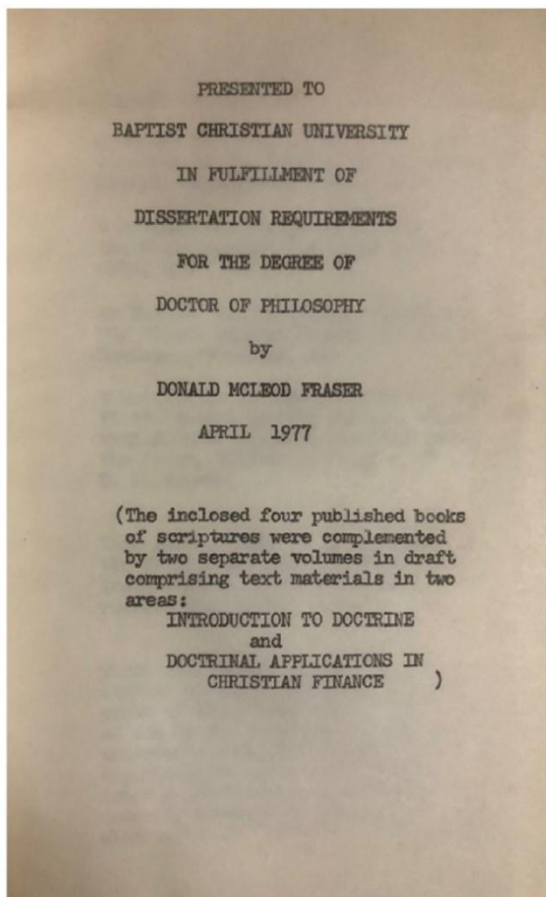
However, in the 1990's we shifted to a *McDonald's System* for publishing and distributing the scriptures, which we believe will also be effective. This system is not intended to replace the old system, but to compliment it.

Furthermore, we believe the *McDonald's System* is more conducive to accomplishing the S.T.A.N.D.A.R.D. Plan that was envisioned by Don Fraser but is still to be realized.

The Headwater System Explained

Don Fraser worked during his life to encourage and help churches publish the scriptures. In 1977 Don Fraser submitted his Ph.D. dissertation to Baptist Christian University. This dissertation was simply bound copies of church-produced scriptures. Below is a copy of the title pages showing the churches involved at that time.

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You will notice in the second image the fifth paragraph says: “This whole Bible, to my knowledge, is the first edition ever printed by a local Baptist Church since the resurrection of our Lord.” Since 1977 millions of Bibles have been printed by Baptist churches.

The Headwater System has worked well and continues to work well. There are several headwater churches still producing and distributing the scriptures.

The Headwater System works like this: churches involved in the work send support (i.e., money) to the Headwater church. Once the church has 20 – 30 thousand dollars, the church buys rolls of paper to be printed in their web press. These rolls are 4 feet diameter and weigh about a ton each. There are approximately 20 rolls to a truckload, and this is the minimum needed to run the press, as it prints extremely fast. In comparison, a pallet of paper by the case (40 cases, 10 reams per case) weighs a ton, and costs two to three thousand dollars. Web press paper is about half the cost.

The churches take the printed paper – called signatures – and send them to churches for assembly, and the churches return the finished books to the Headwater church for international distribution.

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This model has the paper for the scriptures being shipped from point A to point B, then the printed paper shipped from point B to point C, then back to point B. Then the scriptures are then shipped from point B to Points D, E, and beyond.

The churches involved in assembly (called *Seedline* churches) do not use the scriptures that they gave funds for. They are all shipped back to the Headwater church for worldwide distribution.

There are two main components of the *Headwater System* that need to be mentioned. The first is the ***work involvement***. The second is the ***financial application***. We shall discuss these briefly.

Scripture Work Involvement

The work evolves in four steps. These four steps had to be accepted by the church leadership first, before having the church involved. These steps are shown below:

1. Distribution – churches *must* understand the need for scriptures and practice distribution of the scriptures in their Jerusalem. Without seeing first-hand the need and benefit of the scripture work, people will give and work blindly. Don Fraser would “prime the pump” by having churches distribute the scripture that were given them with no work involved. Upon realizing the need for the work, churches would then give and labor in the work.
2. Assembly – churches would move from distribution and giving to the assembly of the scriptures. Headwater churches would ship pallets (i.e., truckloads) of printed signatures to churches, and the churches would stitch (staple) or glue and trim the booklets, repacking them and returning them (i.e., truckloads) to the headwater churches for international distribution.
3. Production – this is where a church acquires the printing equipment and expertise necessary to produce the scriptures, and they become a Headwater church.
4. Reproduction – Don Fraser adds this step often as he expects men who learn to teach others. The only best way for more churches to become Headwater churches is for them to learn from other churches already doing the work.

The McDonald’s System Explained

In 1991 when Historic Baptist Church was started, we acquired printing equipment and we were producing and distributing John and Romans in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Italian, Chinese, Russian, and Arabic within the first few months of the church being established. Our church covenant and church budget were initiated with the inclusion of scripture production. We had at that time three offset presses, a platemaker, assembly equipment, and a few workers. We were proof that a small church with very little funds could produce the word of God.

By 1996 we were completely at maximum capacity. We had no room left in our building for expansion. The next step for us was to get a bigger building with a loading, a forklift, and larger equipment.

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Because of the precedent we were thinking of undertaking would make it more difficult for small churches to reproduce (and we already had churches showing this model), we sought the Lord's direction as to what is the right way.

Considering the *reproduction* portion of high importance – that is to say, we wanted churches worldwide to undertake the printing work – we decided to shift to what we termed the *McDonald's method*. This method is used by the hamburger restaurant.

The Headwater model was publishing huge volumes of scriptures and distributing them to the world – this is a great work, but the work is put on a few churches. A few churches are trying to “*feed the world*” as fast as they can. Praise God for this. Only at the judgment seat of Christ will we know the full effect of this work and how many billions of people have been saved.

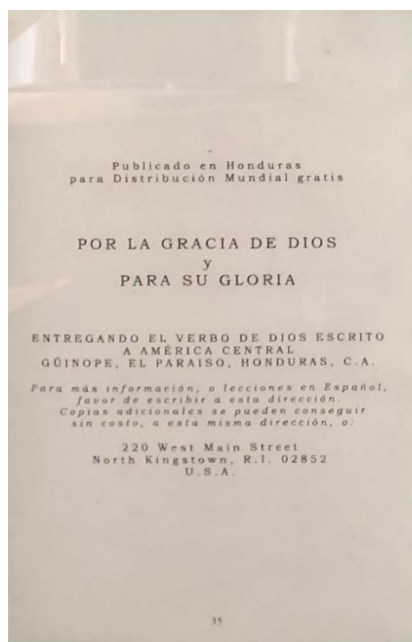
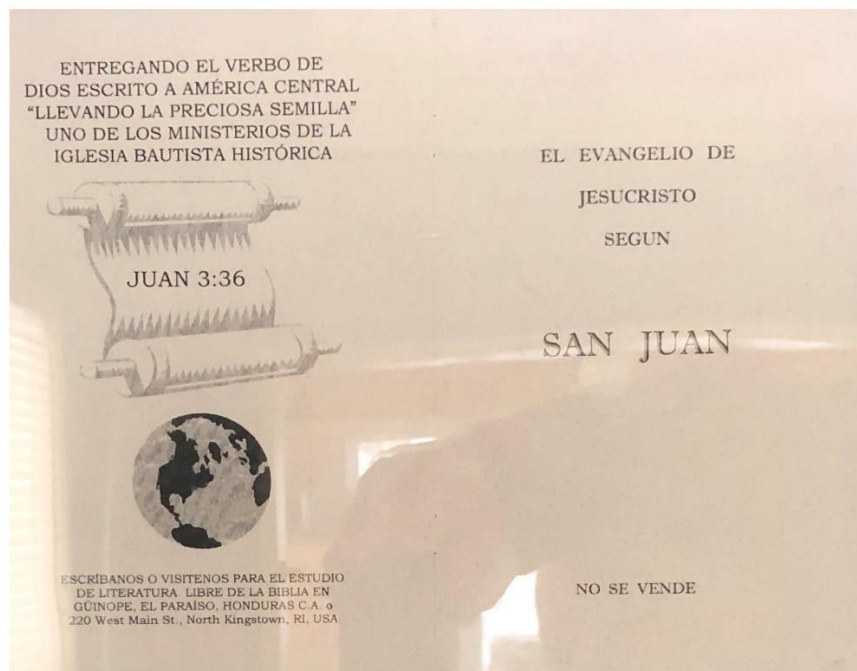
In contrast, the *McDonald's method* was to have churches learn to “*feed themselves and those close to them.*” This means, rather than have a giant scripture publishing house in one part of the world trying to ship God's bread all over the world; we would encourage every good church to publish in their own towns and distribute to the people in their Jerusalem and Judea. Instead of a giant food producer, we would have small food producers everywhere. These churches would produce for their own needs, then for their missionaries, then for their surrounding countries. More importantly, they would encourage and teach other good churches to do the same. They would multiply and teach others to multiply.

Since 1996 we have proved the *McDonald's method* in two ways:

1. We sent Missionary Robert Baker to Honduras with a portable printing press and a generator. He found a town in the mountains called *Guinope* with no electricity and few hundred people. He produced scriptures in Spanish for that community along with starting a church and ordaining a pastor.

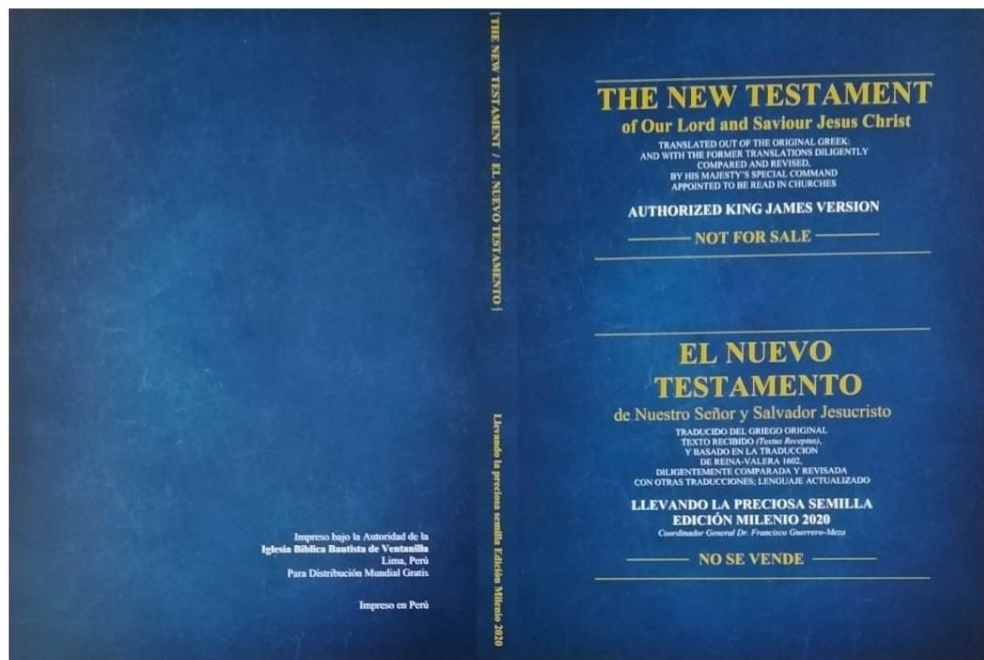
He repeated that work in two more places. Below is an image of a book printed there.

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2. We worked with another church in Lima, Peru to produce John/Romans and Spanish New Testaments. This church, although not small or large, used printing supplies and facilities in town to get this made. The pastor there had to coordinate paper, plates, printing, and assembly from different places to accomplish the production of these bi-lingual New Testaments. See below for an image of the New Testament produced in Lima by a relatively poor church. (Note: the image shows the lettering a little skewed, but the printing was perfect.)

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The proof of the pudding is in the eating. The church in Lima is no longer dependent upon another church to produce and distribute scriptures. They accomplished this without purchasing any printing equipment.

What is required is men with the heart to *do* the work. God has supplied in respect to scripture publishing and distribution the means, the material, the method, the mandate, the master, and the money. What he needs are *men* who will do the work.

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Advantages of the McDonald's Method.

There are many advantages to the *McDonald's* method of production and distribution. They are these (not exhaustive):

- Small churches worldwide can be involved in scripture production with minimal investment.
- Churches worldwide have a good understanding of the vision for scripture distribution, and they have the understanding as to how to do their part.
- The cost for scripture production and distribution in foreign countries is much less than in the U.S.
- Shipping costs are saved. For example, a New Testament produced through a third party in Peru is 20% of the cost in the U.S. The shipping from the U.S. to Peru is double the cost of producing the scriptures in the U.S.
- This means we can produce 15 New Testaments in Peru for the cost of printing and shipping a New Testament to Peru.
- Churches become heads and not tails in respect to scripture distribution.
- Churches see first-hand the need and the method of fulfilling the need for scriptures.
- More churches bear the burden for scripture distribution.
- Because of more churches being involved in distribution, the success of the STANDARD Plan is more easily achieved.
- Because of the lack of a comprehensive shipping infrastructure within countries, local churches know how to communicate with other churches for Jerusalem – Judea distribution. These churches can work together for printing quantities of scripture for themselves.
- Once a church is exposed to their capabilities, they can continue to teach men in their own church and elsewhere.
- If there is ever a problem with Headwater churches being unable to produce, the work continues.

There are many more advantages, but the above are sufficient to show the wisdom of this method.

The S.T.A.N.D.A.R.D. Plan Explained

Don Fraser calculated the world's need for scripture and designed the S.T.A.N.D.A.R.D. Plan with the hopes that publishing churches would cooperate, and each choose an assigned language in which to publish and distribute the scriptures.

The acronym stands for "*Scriptures To All Nations Divided and Regionally Distributed.*"

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Consequently, if ten churches agreed to publish ten languages, over 80% of the countries of the world could be reached through those languages. When calculating by number of speakers, over 60% of the population could be reached through those languages.

See the tables below for reference:

2020 FIGURES		
RANK	LANGUAGE	TOTAL SPEAKERS (MILLIONS)
1	English	1,132
2	Mandarin Chinese	1,117
3	Hindi	615
4	Spanish	534
5	French	280
6	Arabic	422
7	Bengali	265
8	Russian	258
9	Portuguese	234
10	German	76
TOTAL		4,933
PERCENTAGE OF 8 BILLION PEOPLE		61.7%

RANK	LANGUAGE	NATIVE SPEAKERS (MILLIONS)
1	Mandarin Chinese	918
2	Spanish	460
3	English	379
4	Hindi	341
5	Bengali	228
6	Portuguese	221
7	Russian	154
8	German	130
9	French	76
10	Arabic	315
TOTAL		3,222
PERCENTAGE OF 8 BILLION PEOPLE		40.3%

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RANK	LANGUAGE	COUNTRIES USING
1	English	59
2	French	34
3	Arabic	23
4	Spanish	20
5	Portuguese	9
6	German	6
7	Russian	5
8	Hindi	1
9	Mandarin Chinese	1
10	Bengali	2
TOTAL		160
PERCENTAGE OF 195 COUNTRIES		82.1%

Because of Baptists being fundamentally independent, the cooperative vision of the S.T.A.N.D.A.R.D. Plan is yet to be fully realized, but many are working toward it. It is a good objective.

The Wisdom of Scripture Portions being Distributed

The lost should receive the Gospel of John (written for the salvation of the lost – John 20:31), or a John and Romans (a two-fold testimony – Matthew 18:16; Mark 6:7; 1 Corinthians 14:29; 2 Corinthians 13:1).

Once a person is saved and baptized, he should be given a New Testament or a whole Bible be and taught by a church leader (one who is a doer of the word).

For the cost of a whole Bible, one can produce and distribute 20-plus gospels. The production of whole Bibles is a work that needs to be thought out with wisdom considering the need.

As an illustration, we imagined what it would be like in the first century to distribute the scriptures. We took for an example the first epistle of Peter. What was it like to be a messenger of the word of God in those days?

SCRIPTURE DISTRIBUTION IN THE FIRST CENTURY

A Written Illustration

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Imagine for a moment you are a Christian living in Rome around 65 A.D. You are a close follower of the apostle Peter. You are a member of one of the churches there in Rome where Peter leads the flock, and you know a fellow member John Mark. During your life as a believer, you have had the honor of ministering to both Peter and Paul. You are living in a time 30 years before John is exiled to Patmos, and about 25

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years before he wrote his gospel. In about 5 years John will move to Ephesus. Jerusalem has not yet been destroyed by Titus (70 A.D.), so John is busy ministering there.

Peter will be martyred by Nero in a few years while in Rome (68 A.D.).

(Note that Rome is called Babylon in 1 Peter 5:13 – The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.)

You know Peter's martyrdom is likely because word is already out that Nero plans to behead Paul (2 Timothy 4:6). Peter and Paul had been working together to start churches in Rome. Paul's recent second letter to Timothy, the first bishop of the church in Ephesus, speaks of Paul's readiness to be offered (2 Timothy 4:6) and his soon-to-come departure from this world.

Peter often tells of the first time Paul visited him in Jerusalem three years after his Damascus conversion, when they spent a couple weeks together (Galatians 1:18). They both understood their callings.

Paul's letter to the Romans, now being over 15 years old, has influenced the churches in Rome immensely. Because of the last part of the letter, which speaks of the gospel being made known to all nations by the scriptures (Romans 16:25-27), there is a great desire and need for Christians to have, keep, reproduce, and distribute the word of God.

Peter knows Paul's writings are inspired scripture. He will mention this when he writes his second letter (2 Peter 3:15-16) in a couple years. Peter understands the need for scripture.

Peter, being moved by the Holy Ghost (2 Peter 1:21), writes his first letter, addressing it to fellow believers throughout the Asia Minor portion of the Roman empire. He addresses the letter as follows:

1 Peter 1:1 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

This letter will be a blessing and an encouragement to the brethren in this part of the world. The letter is finished, but the task of getting it to the saints in these five provinces is yet to be accomplished.

Although maps are not easy to come by, you have access to one that shows where these areas are.

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The Setting of 1 Peter

c. A.D. 62–63

Peter, probably writing from Rome (called “Babylon” in 5:13), addressed 1 Peter to believers in Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. These names all referred to Roman provinces in Asia Minor, north of the Taurus Mountains.



You are entrusted by the church along with a few other “chosen men” to deliver Peter’s epistle over 1,500 miles of land and sea to these other believers in Asia and eastward.

There is no greater work in the world at this time for your traveling group than to deliver this letter as promptly as possible. This letter is the word of God and many millions of people will benefit from its reading in the next two millennia. You know God’s word does not return void (Isaiah 55:11). You know the word endures forever (1 Peter 1:25). Peter has mentioned this many times.

The best-case scenario is that your journey as a messenger of the church will take two to three years. The church immediately raises funds for the trip. The people of God support the work. They take nothing of the Gentiles (3 John 1:7).

Peter follows the proven pattern from Acts 15 and desires at least four men to do this work. The program is Spirit-led.

Acts 15:22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:

23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:

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24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:

25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,

26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.

You and the other men are chosen because you all are chief men of the church. You are Roman citizens who can travel freely throughout the empire. You are literate, which is needful as you travel to different places where you will have to read Peter's letter in some churches among illiterate brethren. You are trustworthy and the church has confidence that you will not give up, but that you all will finish the task of getting God's word to the churches. Even in cases of sickness, death, or persecution, your group will persevere (Acts 15:26). You can speak in Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. Knowing these languages is necessary because your group will be travelling throughout the Roman Empire, which has Latin as the government language, but the culture is Hellenistic, especially in businesses and schools. You and your companions will be witnessing the Gospel to both Jew and Gentile in every place you visit. You will have opportunities to translate Peter's epistle to those who do not understand Greek.

Besides preaching the gospel to every creature, you and the other men will be testifying to the fact that Peter indeed wrote the letter, that it is not fake or corrupted, and that it is word-for-word accurate exactly as he wrote it (2 Corinthians 2:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:2). By your testimony and the testimony of the other witnesses the truth is established (Matthew 18:16; Acts 15:27). Your work is the work of a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In preparation for the long trip, you will have to do the following things:

- You must gather many funds to cover the expenses of the trip. You will need enough money to support your entourage for two years or more. You know the churches will be hospitable most of the time, but there are travel expenses everywhere you go. You calculate you will need the equivalent of \$100,000 cash in pocket for the group. The churches in Rome all work together to supply the seed to the sower (2 Corinthians 9:10). Expenses include ship fare, lodging, food, and other miscellaneous expenses.
- You must prepare for other needs. You will be trusting God to supply all your need but following Christ's commandment you prepare for the trip by packing for the different climates (cloaks, scripts, etc. – 2 Timothy 4:13; Luke 22:335-38), a change of clothes and shoes, and a couple swords in case of robbers (Luke 10:30) or other threats (2 Corinthians 11:23-28; Mark 1:13; Acts 28:4 – animals, snakes, etc.).
- You will load the luggage on a cart with a few strong beasts to pull it (Acts 21:15). You can also ride the beasts when walking becomes tiresome (Acts 23:24).
- You will also bring food and drink, first aid materials, maps, bedding, etc. You are traveling as light as possible but still bringing the necessities.
- Most importantly, you pack multiple copies of Peter's epistle (Acts 15:23). This whole venture has as its sole purpose the delivery of God's word to dozens (maybe hundreds) of churches. Should

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the letter be worn, stolen, damaged, lost, or confiscated; you will need a replacement. Each copy is perfect, checked, and verified. They are individually packed in sturdy containers – leather tubes – that will protect the valuable document from weather, beasts, or mishaps. These copies are cherished possessions, and they will have to make a hard and arduous journey.



You and the other messengers also purpose to read the letter over and over. Not just for the congregations, but for your own devotions. You all purpose to memorize the letter before you travel, and as you travel you rehearse the letter over and over. Should all be lost your trip will not be in vain because the word of God is hidden in your hearts.

You and the group map out your circuit for the trip and with the church's blessing, you start the long journey.

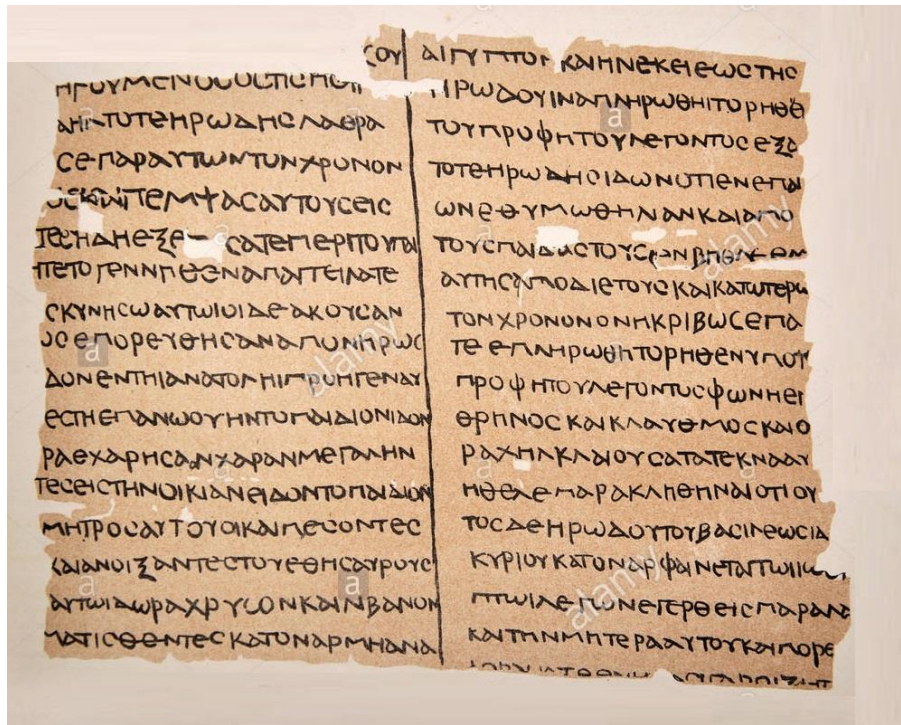
Because of the hazards involved in traveling in the first century, you will travel as a group. For the most part you will follow the common trade routes, stopping continually wherever there are believers or churches. As you and your company arrive at a place, you will seek out brethren and inform them to spread the word that at a particular time and place you will be reading Peter's message.

The brethren wherever you travel are extremely excited about the news, so turnout is generally large. You introduce yourselves and carefully read God's word to the brethren.

At almost every stop there are believers who love the word of God. Since you cannot leave a vellum scroll with every church, you allow men to copy the letter carefully and exactly as written. You testify to the accuracy by marking the letter. Some more wealthy believers use vellum, others use papyrus.

It was a good thing that you made multiple copies before leaving Rome because the copies tend to wear out quickly from so much use. You make replacement copies as needed.

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Although your group follows the major trade routes, you ask at every stop where there are other believers. Preaching the gospel is part of this work. You must take the time to visit these brethren to make sure all hear the word of God. Most churches are happy to be a distributor of the letter themselves for other churches in the future. You and your company are comforted knowing that if you missed anyone, the church that you just visited will have a copy to show anyone in the future.

One of the first big stops is Ephesus. The large Baptist church there is 13 years old and has many teachers and pastors. Timothy is the first bishop, and he receives your group with hospitality. All your needs will be taken care of.

Because of the location and size of the church, you and your group will stay here a few months and use the church as a base of operations to visit all seven churches established by Paul that will be mentioned in the Revelation in three decades. There are also many other groups and churches in this area. Your group splits up to cover more ground, and Timothy assigns elders to accompany members of your group to guide them, testify of your work, gather brethren, and prepare for the delivery of Peter's message.

Peter and Paul had good fellowship (Galatians 2:9) and Peter understands Paul is an inspired apostle (2 Peter 3:15-16). Because of this fellowship, you and the brethren get along well, and the people of the church receive the word of God with joy. You have heard what it was like in the old days in the church in Achaia (1 Corinthians 3:1-9, 22). Gaius was a good guy (1 Corinthians 1:14; Romans 16:23; Acts 19:29; 3 John 1:1-8); but Diotrophes would not receive the brethren. He became a proverb among traveling brethren (3 John 1:9-11).

After being brought forward on your journey and witnessing the charity of the churches (3 John 1:6), you have much ground still to cover.

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The next Roman province you will be visiting is Galatia. The many churches in this area trace their background to Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16:1-6). Paul and Timothy visited the area of Galatia and delivered unto them the decrees of the apostles in Jerusalem (Acts 16:4). Some of the older saints remember when Paul told them about the time Peter visited Antioch (Galatians 2:11).

There is a lot of work to do in Galatia, but the brethren stand fast in their liberty and by love serve one another. They work together to make your work easier to accomplish. The churches really work together to do the Lord's work. They help bear your burdens and show the fruit of the Spirit.

Your group then travels through Cappadocia and Pontus, then you turn back through the northern part of Galatia to Bithynia. You go through northern Asia, staying with the brethren in Troas before returning to Rome. The brethren in Troas loved preaching. They will stay up late to hear the word of God. We talked with the beloved Eutychus (Acts 20:9). He is sort of a celebrity. Everyone asks him what death was like.

Leaving Troas, you head back to Rome. It has been a couple years since you left. Being a messenger of the churches is a great honor and distributing the word of God has great recompense. This is a service to God and man. It will bring eternal rewards.

Once arriving at Rome, you find Peter is writing his second epistle. You will likely be travelling again....

The Connection of Scripture Distribution to Love Commandment Doctrine

Jesus said in John 14:15, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Paul revealed a commandment of God in Romans 16:26, saying the gospel is "now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith...."

We show obedience to our Lord's commandments, and we accomplish world evangelism through scripture distribution.

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Lesson 1: Understanding the Commandments

I. The Principle of Scripture

- A. Isaiah 55:6 – Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:
- B. 7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the LORD, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- C. 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.
- D. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.
- E. 10 For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater:
- F. 11 So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
- G. 12 For ye shall go out with joy, and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.
- H. 13 Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree, and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

II. The Position of the Scripture

- A. Psalms 138:2 – I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.
- B. Psalm 119 – the longest chapter in the word of God.

III. The Purity of Scripture

- A. Proverbs 30:5 – Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
- B. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

IV. The Preservation of Scripture

- C. Psalm 12:6 – The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.
- D. 7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

V. The Prosperity of Scripture in the Old Testament

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- A. Joshua 1:8 – This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.
- B. Psalms 1:2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.

VI. The Power of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- A. Jeremiah 23:29 – Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

VII. The Person of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- A. Genesis 1:1 – In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.
- B. John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- C. John 5:39 – Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

VIII. The Publishing of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- A. Psalms 68:11 – The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.
- B. Isaiah 52:7 – How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

IX. The Promise of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- A. Psalm 126:5 – They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
- B. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

X. The Preciousness of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- C. Psalm 126:5 – They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.
- D. 6 He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him.

XI. The Plainness of the Scriptures in the Old Testament

- A. Proverbs 8:5 – O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.
- B. 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

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- C. 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
- D. 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.
- E. 9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

XII. The Precept of Scripture Distribution

- A. Romans 16:25 – Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,
- B. 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
- C. 27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

XIII. The Power of Scripture Distribution

- A. Romans 1:16 – For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

XIV. The Priority of Scripture Distribution

- A. 2 Timothy 3:15 – And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.
- B. 16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- C. 17 That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.

XV. The Perseverance of Scripture Distribution

- A. 2 Timothy 2:9 – Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.
- B. Matthew 24:35 – Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.
- C. Mark 13:31 – Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.
- D. Luke 21:33 – Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.

XVI. The Price of Scripture Distribution

- A. Matthew 10:8 – Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
- B. Proverbs 23:23 – Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.
- C. Romans 3:24 – Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

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- D. Romans 8:32 – He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?
- E. 1 Corinthians 2:12 – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
- F. 2 Corinthians 11:7 – Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?
- G. Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- H. 1 Peter 4:10 – As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

XVII. The Potential of Scripture Distribution

- A. 1 Timothy 2:4 – Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
- B. Romans 5:14 – Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- C. 15 But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
- D. Revelation 5:9 – And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
- E. Revelation 7:9 – After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;

XVIII. The Prudence of Scripture Distribution

- A. Matthew 7:24 – Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
- B. 25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.
- C. 26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:
- D. 27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.
- E. 28 And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine:
- F. 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.
- G. Psalm 119:130 – The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

XIX. The Profit of Scripture Distribution

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- A. 2 Corinthians 9:6 – But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- B. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- C. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- D. 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.
- E. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)
- F. 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

XX. The Protection of Scripture

- A. Matthew 4:4 – But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
- B. Ephesians 6:17 – And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

XXI. The Pervasiveness of Scripture Distribution

- A. Acts 2:6 – Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.
- B. 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
- C. 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?
- D. 9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
- E. 10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,
- F. 11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

XXII. The Preaching of the Scriptures

- A. Mark 16:15 – And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- B. Romans 10:15 – And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
- C. Romans 15:20 – Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:
- D. 1 Corinthians 9:18 – What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

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- E. 2 Corinthians 10:16 – To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man’s line of things made ready to our hand.
- F. Colossians 1:23 – If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;
- G. 2 Timothy 4:2 – Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- H. 1 Peter 1:25 – But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

XXIII. The Partnership of Scripture Distribution

- A. 1 Corinthians 3:5 – Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?
- B. 6 I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
- C. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.
- D. 8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.
- E. 9 For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s husbandry, ye are God’s building.
- F. Galatians 5:13 – For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- G. 2 Corinthians 9:6 – But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.
- H. 7 Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.
- I. 8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:
- J. 9 (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.
- K. 10 Now he that ministereth seed to the sower both minister bread for your food, and multiply your seed sown, and increase the fruits of your righteousness;)
- L. 11 Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

XXIV. The Purifying of Scripture Distribution

- A. John 15:3 – Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.
- B. Ephesians 5:23 – For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.
- C. 24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.
- D. 25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;
- E. 26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,
- F. 27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

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XXV. The Program of the Scriptures

- A. James 1:18 – Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.
- B. 19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:
- C. 20 For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.
- D. 21 Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.
- E. 22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- F. 23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:
- G. 24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.
- H. 25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

XXVI. The Plenary Character of the Scriptures

- A. Matthew 4:4 – But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.
- B. Proverbs 30:5 – Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.
- C. Luke 4:4 – And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

XXVII. Commandments are Understood by Doers

- A. Psalms 111:10 – The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.
- B. Proverbs 3:1 – My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:
- C. 2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.
- D. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:
- E. 4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

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Lesson 2: Publishing the Scriptures

I. God's Word is Intended to be Published

- A. Isaiah 52:7 – How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!
- B. Romans 10:15 – And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

II. The Old Testament is Committed to the Jews

- A. Acts 7:38 – This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us:
- B. Romans 3:1 – What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
- C. 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.

III. The Old Testament was Published by the Jews

- A. Psalms 68:11 – The Lord gave the word: great was the company of those that published it.
- B. Isaiah 52:7 – How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

IV. The New Testament is Committed to the Churches

- A. John 20:21 – Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
- B. Matthew 28:19 – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

V. The Churches Published the New Testament

- A. Acts 10:37 – That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached;
- B. Acts 13:49 – And the word of the Lord was published throughout all the region.
- C. Philippians 2:14 – Do all things without murmurings and disputings:
- D. 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
- E. 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

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F. Mark 13:10 – And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

VI. Converts Publishing Great Things

- A. Luke 8:39 – Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.
- B. Mark 1:45 – But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: and they came to him from every quarter.
- C. Mark 5:20 – And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.

VII. Churches to Provide Files for Printing at Third Party Printers

- A. Scripture publishing to be done under the authority of churches.
- B. Digital files supplied by the churches.
- C. Printing to be checked by the churches.
- D. Correct versions to be printed – T/R and MT based scriptures

VIII. God's People to Support the Scripture Publishing

- A. Funds for God's word comes from God's people
- B. Scriptures NOT FOR SALE
- C. Free worldwide distribution
- D. Cost is borne by God's people

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Lesson 3: Assembly of the Scriptures

I. Scriptures are Printed then Assembled

- A. After printing, the scriptures are assembled.
- B. Work is overseen by the church.
- C. Work is checked by the church.

II. All Handling of the Scriptures to be Overseen by Church Members

- A. Saved and baptized
- B. Kings and priests
- C. People who tremble at God's word
- D. Doers of the word
- E. People who know the word is of the Lord
- F. Not by lost people
- G. Not by people who take God's word lightly

III. Using Automated Assembly Methods

- A. Lower cost
- B. More accurate
- C. Faster
- D. Nicer
- E. Consistency

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Lesson 4: Distribution of the Scriptures

I. Distribution of the Scriptures Overseen by Churches

- A. Churches know and understand the need
- B. Churches do the work
- C. Churches receive the rewards
- D. Churches have the right motives – souls being saved
- E. Scriptures are NOT FOR SALE

II. Churches are Independent but Work Together

- A. Churches can help other churches worldwide
- B. Churches can be helped by other churches worldwide
- C. Supply for their want
- D. Partaker of their efforts
- E. God gives the increase
- F. Co-laborers for Christ

III. Distribution in Jerusalem

- A. Distribution by each independent church in their town, city, village
- B. Strive for saturation
- C. Offer scriptures to those who desire it
- D. Do not cast pearls before swine
- E. Scriptures can be used to teach illiterate to read
- F. Mapping and planned areas are good methods
- G. Door to door, house to house, person to person
- H. Use scriptures to show the way of salvation
- I. The work in Jerusalem prepares a person for the work everywhere

IV. Distribution in Judea

- A. Plan trips to nearby areas for scripture distribution
- B. Help new churches evangelize
- C. Have church members see the need beyond their locality

V. Distribution in Samaria

- A. Plan trips to adjacent countries
- B. Go across borders with the scriptures
- C. Work with churches in other nearby countries

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VI. Distribution to the Uttermost

- A. Plan trans-continental and trans-oceanic trips
- B. Find churches willing to publish and distribute
- C. Learn and use their languages

VII. Distribution of the Scriptures in the First Century

- A. All gospels and epistles were delivered in the first century, using first century methods.
- B. Some epistles were sent to individuals (Philemon, Timothy, Titus).
- C. Some epistles were sent to individual churches (Pauline church epistles, 2nd, and 3rd John).
- D. Some epistles were sent to multiple churches (Galatians, Philippians, Revelation).
- E. Some epistles were sent to groups of people (James, Peter, Gospels).
- F. Epistles were written by the author or through a scribe (amanuenses) – Romans 16:22; 2 Thessalonians 3:17. Paul signed the end of his epistles with a note.
- G. Peter noted Paul's epistles were scripture – 2 Peter 3:16.

VIII. Example of How Epistles were Sent

- A. The New Testament defines how churches sent letters
- B. Acts 15:19 – Wherefore my sentence is, that we trouble not them, which from among the Gentiles are turned to God:
- C. 20 But that we write unto them, that they abstain from pollutions of idols, and from fornication, and from things strangled, and from blood.
- D. 21 For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.
- E. 22 Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barsabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren:
- F. 23 And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia:
- G. 24 Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment:
- H. 25 It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,
- I. 26 Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- J. 27 We have sent therefore Judas and Silas, who shall also tell you the same things by mouth.
- K. 28 For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things;
- L. 29 That ye abstain from meats offered to idols, and from blood, and from things strangled, and from fornication: from which if ye keep yourselves, ye shall do well. Fare ye well.
- M. 30 So when they were dismissed, they came to Antioch: and when they had gathered the multitude together, they delivered the epistle:
- N. 31 Which when they had read, they rejoiced for the consolation.

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IX. Notes from Above

- A. Message from the apostles was written – v. 20.
- B. Message sent by chosen men – v. 22, 25.
- C. Messages may have had copies – v. 23.
- D. Also sent witnesses – v. 27.
- E. They gathered the people (believers) together – v. 30
- F. Delivered the epistle – v. 30.
- G. They read the epistle to all – v. 31.

X. Other Observations of Scripture Distribution in the New Testament Times

- A. Epistles, gospels, and letters were written to persons, people (saints), groups, or churches.
- B. Letters had to be hand sent and hand delivered. There was no postal system for non-government personnel. Paul's arrest had letters of his accusation delivered by Roman soldiers – Acts 23:25-35; 25:27
- C. Letters were delivered as promptly as possible.
- D. Messengers were trusted saints associated to the writer who were faithful and diligent.
- E. Cost and expenses for sending the messengers were paid by the sender.
- F. Letters sent to persons were delivered to the person.
- G. Letters sent to churches were delivered to the leadership and read to the congregation. The letter was kept by the church.
- H. Letters sent to groups were likely circulated by the messenger, the messenger keeping the letter on their person and reading it to the recipients at each place.
- I. These general epistles (i.e., *epistoli katholiki*) were likely read as many people were illiterate.
- J. Copies were likely made of the general epistles by the recipients as they could not keep the letter.
- K. The general epistles were very like read to saints in churches as a practice.
- L. Many churches were established along trade routes, which would be the same routes the messengers would travel.
- M. As the messenger would arrive to read a letter, it is likely other churches and saints were invited to hear the message.
- N. The messenger had the duty of delivering a general epistle to many people (see James 1:1 and 1 Peter 1:1). The messenger probably asked every church where there were other groups of believers for him to visit.
- O. Letters to groups were likely read by the leader first then read to the group – Colossians 4:16; 1 Thessalonians 5:27.
- P. Colossians 4:16 – And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

XI. Examples of the Recipients of the Various Letters in the New Testament

- A. Acts 1:1 – The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

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- B. Romans 16:1 – I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:
- C. 2 That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also.
- D. 3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:
- E. 1 Corinthians 1:1 – Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
- F. 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- G. Galatians 1:1 – Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)
- H. 2 And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:
- I. Philippians 1:1 – Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- J. 1 Timothy 1:1 – Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Saviour, and Lord Jesus Christ, which is our hope;
- K. 2 Unto Timothy, my own son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- L. Philemon 1:1 – Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellowlabourer,
- M. 2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:
- N. James 1:1 – James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.
- O. 1 Peter 1:1 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
- P. 2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.
- Q. 2 Peter 1:1 – Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:
- R. 2 John 1:1 – The elder unto the elect lady and her children, whom I love in the truth; and not I only, but also all they that have known the truth;
- S. 3 John 1:1 – The elder unto the wellbeloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth.
- T. Jude 1 – Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called:
- U. Revelation 1:4 – John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

XII. Other Interesting Observations

- A. Matthew's Gospel was likely written to Jewish believers in Jerusalem.
- B. Mark's Gospel was likely written to saints in Rome.
- C. Luke's gospel was written to Theophilus.
- D. John's gospel was likely written to Gentiles for the purpose of salvation – John 20:31).

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- E. History of the apostle John: John the apostle and the author of the Gospel of John. His father was Zebedee and his mother was Salome. Salome was a sister of Mary (John 19:25), the mother of Jesus. So, John and Jesus were first cousins.
- F. Mary Magdalene, Mary the Mother of James, and Salome were at the crucifixion and prepared the body of Jesus for burial – Mark 15:40; 16:1. Salome is called the mother of Zebedee’s children – Matthew 27:56.
- G. Mary the mother of James and Joses is called the wife of Cleophas – John 19:25.
- H. Salome wanted Jesus to promote James and John Zebedee – Matthew 20:20, 4:21.
- I. Jesus told John to behold Mary as his mother – John 19:27.
- J. Elisabeth (John the Baptist’s mother) was a cousin to Mary (Jesus’ mother) – Luke 1:36.

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Lesson 5: Teaching Scripture Distribution

I. Churches to be Reproducers

- A. Reproduce believers
- B. Reproduce church members
- C. Reproduce church leaders
- D. Reproduce preachers, teachers, and missionaries
- E. Reproduce other churches
- F. Reproduce the scripture distribution in other churches

II. Do and Teach Method to be Followed

- A. Churches to learn first to do the work
- B. Churches then do the work
- C. Obedient churches then teach other churches

III. Teach in These Steps

- A. Go through God-ordained authority – the pastor
- B. Show the need.
- C. Show the means to fulfill the need.
- D. Supply scriptures to fulfill some of the need.
- E. Go with the church members in house-to-house visitation and distribution.
- F. If there is a different language, go with a member that knows the language.

IV. Start in Jerusalem and Work Outwards

- A. First be a doer in your Jerusalem
- B. Then work with areas going outward
- C. Foreign language areas really show need of the scriptures
- D. Using the *Romans Road* or passages in John are helpful

V. Have a Servant's Heart

- A. Serve by love
- B. Be faithful
- C. Be a good pattern to follow
- D. Be a doer of the word
- E. Operate in love
- F. Be a witness (show the way)
- G. Be a soul-winner (bring people to believe)

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VI. Do the Due Diligence

- A. Know the scripture
- B. Know the source text
- C. Know the languages needed
- D. Prepare scriptures in that language

VII. Do Not be a Burden

- A. Be of good behavior
- B. Do not offend
- C. Be a servant
- D. Be humble
- E. Bear your own burden
- F. Pay your own way
- G. Give to the hosting church
- H. Be a blessing always
- I. Respect the autonomy of the church
- J. Speak with grace
- K. Look for opportunities to fill needs

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Lesson 6: The Local Church's Responsibility

I. Every Church Has a Responsibility to Distribute the Scriptures

- A. The church is the God-ordained authority for the work of Christ – Matthew 28:18-20
- B. The church is the place to receive tithes and offerings for God.
- C. The church authorizes Sowers of the word – ordination
- D. The church sends men into the work of God.

II. Every Church in The New Testament Distributes the Word of God

- A. The Jerusalem church sent epistles from the apostles – Acts 15
- B. The apostles wrote epistles and sent them to the saints via the churches.
- C. Churches received letters from apostles kept, copied, and distributed them to other churches.
- D. Large cities (Rome and Philippi) had many churches and saints, but Paul wrote one letter, and that letter was intended to be distributed to all saints.
- E. Large provinces (Galatia) had many churches and the church that received Paul's epistle had to distribute the word to other churches in the area.
- F. Large churches (Ephesus) had to share the word with other churches in the area.
- G. Pastors who received letters were to share the word with their churches (Philemon, Timothy, Titus, Gaius).
- H. General epistles had to be shared by being copied and distributed over all the empire (James, Peter, Jude).
- I. The Revelation had to be copied and distributed to the pastors and then to the churches.

III. God will Supply All the Need

- A. Philippians 4:19 – But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

IV. The Local Church is the Headquarters for God's Work

- A. The church is the pillar and ground of the church – 1 Timothy 3:16
- B. Churches are embassies in the Kingdom of heaven
- C. Sent men are ambassadors for Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:20; Ephesians 6:20

V. Church Distributes Scripture to All Types

- A. From Lesson 4, Point VIII and XI.
- B. Church to distribute to lost Gentiles (John, Romans).
- C. Church to distribute to lost Jews (Matthew, Hebrews).
- D. Church to distribute to preachers and missionaries (Timothy, Titus).
- E. Church to distribute to individual believers (Philemon, Luke, Acts, 3 John, Jude).

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- F. Church to distribute to saved Gentiles (church epistles, 2 Peter, Revelation).
- G. Church to distribute to saved Jews (James, 1 Peter).
- H. Church to distribute to other churches (church epistles, Galatians, Colossians 4:16, Romans 16:1; Revelation).

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Lesson 7: Using Missionaries For Distribution

I. Missionaries are Sowers

- A. They are Sowers sent forth to Sow
- B. The sowers sows the seed.
- C. The seed is the word of God – Luke 8:11

II. Missionaries Sow the Seed

- A. Their purpose is to sow the seed.
- B. Without seed, they have no work.
- C. A missionary sent without the word of God is unscriptural.
- D. People are born-again by the word of God – 1 Peter 1:22-25

III. Missionaries Understand the Need

- A. They are on the front lines of the spiritual battle.
- B. They are winning souls and starting churches.
- C. They need the word of God to give to the lost.
- D. Most missionaries value the word of God, and desire scriptures for distribution.

IV. Missionaries Have the Right Heart

- A. Missionaries are willing to serve Jesus Christ.
- B. Love is proved by their works.
- C. Faithfulness is proved by their works.
- D. Missionaries desire to see souls saved and saints edified.

V. Missionaries Translate the Word

- A. Many missionaries deal with languages
- B. Many missionaries have to learn the language
- C. Many missionaries have to translate the word into the language of those to whom they minister.

VI. Mission Works are the Preferred Points of Scripture Distribution

- A. Distribution first through churches
- B. Distribution through church missionaries

VII. Reaching the Missionary with the Seed

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- A. Sometimes delivery of scriptures to the field is difficult.
- B. Missionaries and churches must be prepared and take opportunity of availabilities.
- C. Two ships passing in the sea can exchange goods.
- D. The abundance of one given to the need of the other.

VIII. Missionaries with Printing Capability

- A. Many missionaries have access to small printers
- B. Missionaries can publish their own scriptures at a micro level.
- C. The work is not hard, but it takes a Godly desire to be obedient.

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Lesson 8: The Old Way of Distribution

I. The Old Way Described

- A. Scriptures are produced using the Seed-line and Headwater model.
- B. Production requires truckloads of paper purchased at one time.
- C. Scriptures during production are shipped to and from Seed-line churches.
- D. Scriptures have one distribution center for all languages and all places of distribution.
- E. Scriptures are housed in large quantities in large warehouses.
- F. Scriptures are shipped either by containers loads (large quantities) or cases (expedited delivery).
- G. Containers need people at receiving ports to pick up and deliver containers to other warehouses.
- H. Containers need to be unloaded and scriptures stored in adequate buildings.
- I. Many men are needed for loading, unloading, delivery, paperwork, etc.
- J. Secondary distribution point requires smaller delivery vehicles and men to deliver and oversee the work.
- K. Men relied upon are usually nationals that know the language, the process, and the places of delivery.
- L. Knowledge of receiving churches is needed for proper distribution.

II. The Old Way Still Works

- A. This work is continuing.
- B. This work supplies a lot of need concentrated in one area – the area that receives the container.
- C. Transportation of the scriptures is always required.
- D. This method is still a good and effective method.

III. The Old Way Requires Much Work

- A. Work to oversee delivery at all levels
- B. Work to load and unload containers
- C. Work to load and unload trucks
- D. Work to pack and unpack scriptures
- E. Work to drive trucks

IV. The Old Way Requires Much Logistics

- A. Knowledge and application for transportation methods
- B. Knowledge and application for transportation costs
- C. Organization of delivery and pick-up at all levels
- D. Organization of men and churches involved

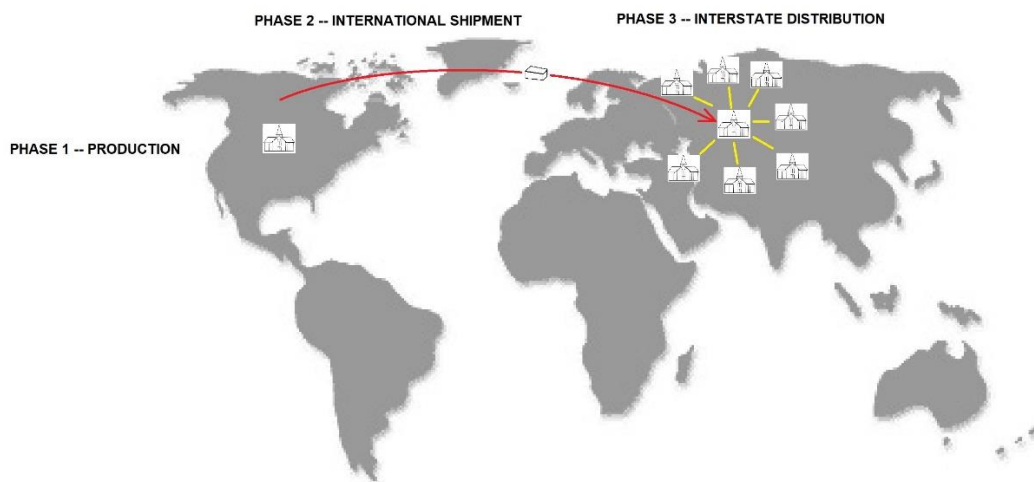
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V. The Old Way Requires Much Financial Support

- A. Costs for large printing operations
- B. Costs for large quantity of paper
- C. Costs for warehousing at all levels
- D. Costs for paying workers
- E. Costs for transportation at all levels
- F. Costs for fuel, drivers, and expenses at all levels
- G. Costs for paperwork, approvals, and other needs

VI. Work Operates in Phases

- A. Phase 1 – scriptures are produced by tonnage and warehoused in one large location.
- B. Phase 2 – scriptures are shipped via containerloads to a central port for the language being used.
- C. Phase 3 – containers of scriptures must be delivered, divided, and distributed to churches in the area.
- D. Illustrated below.



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Lesson 9: A New Way of Distribution

I. A New Way Described

- A. Called the McDonald's Method
- B. Every church makes their own scriptures for their own needs
- C. Teaching needed to show every church's responsibility

II. Everyone Bears the Burden

- A. All churches have a part in the scripture work
- B. Production is relative to the church
- C. Larger churches do more, smaller churches do less.
- D. There is much opportunity for interchurch service
- E. Opportunity to combining publishing needs

III. Many Hands Make Light Work

- A. Independent churches become responsible
- B. Churches are heads, not tails
- C. Churches are not relying on larger churches to have the word of God
- D. In time, more scripture will be published and distributed.
- E. One Headwater church can produce and distribute 300 tons of scripture per year of scripture.
- F. 1,000 small printing churches can produce the same averaging 600 pounds of scripture a year, or 50 pounds per month – the weight of a case of paper. (1 ream of paper weighs approximately 5 pounds.)
- G. The cost to produce at a headwater church *with distribution costs* is 5 -10 times the cost of a local printing.

IV. Indigenous Churches Take Responsibility to Produce their Own Seed

- A. Churches produce to their needs – Johns, J/R's, New Testaments, Bibles.
- B. Churches produce according to the languages used.
- C. Churches produce according to their production and distribution abilities.
- D. Churches become ensamples for other churches to follow.
- E. Churches do not rely on other churches for their scriptures.

V. Indigenous Churches Learn the Way that Works Best for Their Situation

- A. Some churches can use home office small printers.
- B. Some churches can purchase larger printers.
- C. Some churches can outsource printing.

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- D. Some churches can work with other churches to produce larger quantities and get price breaks or use the same plates.
- E. Churches today have much exposure to printing and their printing needs. They just need to be shown the commandment to produce and distribute scriptures.

VI. Scripture Supporting Churches Can Help

- A. All Baptist churches should support missions
- B. Churches can add to Missionary support for scripture distribution.
- C. Money for scripture production can be sent directly to missionaries and be used more efficiently.
- D. Supporting churches can help teach missionaries how to produce and distribute the scriptures.

VII. Work Operates in Phases

- A. Phase 1 – scriptures are produced by independent churches worldwide according to their need and those close to them.
- B. Requires teaching of the work.
- C. Works can expand in every church as the lord leads.
- D. Illustrated below.



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Lesson 10: Tonnage to Saturation

I. Requirements for Credit are Revised

- A. Tonnage versus Saturation Requirements
- B. Objectives are according to the students' situation.
- C. Students with involvement with the tonnage model (Headwater) can accomplish the objectives according to the original requirements.
- D. Students in foreign fields (missionaries) and small works can use the Saturation Model.

II. Tonnage Requirements

- A. 5-ton requirement for Master's Level
- B. 15-ton requirement for Ph.D. Level
- C. Work involved is raising of funds, cooperative work, distribution, etc.
- D. See Master and Ph.D. level curricula for details

III. Saturation Requirements

- A. 1 community for Master's Level
- B. 5 communities for Ph.D. Level
- C. A missionary in a remote area of 100 natives can saturate that community in short time. However, because of the likelihood of the location being difficult to access, the accomplishment is great in that the recipients have the blessing of receiving the word of God.
- D. This same missionary can work in surrounding villages to accomplish the same.
- E. This same missionary is also likely involved in language work (translation, writing, communication methods, etc.).
- F. A student in a small city (10K population) can be involved in the production of 25K booklets, amounting to about 1 ton of paper.
- G. A student in a larger city (25K population) can be involved in the production of 25K booklets, amounting to about 2.5 tons of paper.

IV. Distribution by Indigenous Churches

- A. Indigenous churches know best how to distribute (organization).
- B. Indigenous churches know the best way to distribute (order and paths).
- C. Indigenous churches have knowledge of the people.
- D. Indigenous churches have knowledge of the places of need.
- E. Indigenous churches know the languages.
- F. Indigenous churches know the culture.
- G. Indigenous churches know the dangers and how to avoid them.
- H. Know best how to distribute among the people.
- I. Indigenous churches know people who can transport.
- J. Indigenous church members have connections.

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V. **Baptist International School of the Scriptures Must Work Everywhere**

- A. All students and teachers have same opportunity.
- B. Scripture production and distribution to be commensurate with the place and people.
- C. Flexibility is needed in some cases.
- D. Fulfillment the commandments is the objective.

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Lesson 11: Identification of Errors Through Use of the Scriptures

I. Errors Identified by Searching the Scriptures

- A. Matthew 22:29 – Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.
- B. 2 Peter 3:17 – Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness.
- C. John 5:39 – Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
- D. Acts 17:11 – These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

II. Errors Corrected by Using the Scriptures

- A. James 5:19 – Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;
- B. 2 Peter 2:18 – For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.
- C. 1 John 4:6 – We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.
- D. John 17:17 – Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

III. Errors Corrected by Faithful Brethren

- A. Acts 18:24 – And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
- B. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
- C. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
- D. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:
- E. 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.
- F. Hebrews 5:11 – Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing.
- G. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat.
- H. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe.
- I. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

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- J. 2 Timothy 2:15 – Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- K. 1 John 4:6 – We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

IV. Errors Corrected by Spiritual Work

- A. Galatians 6:1 – Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.
- B. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.
- C. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.
- D. 4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.
- E. 5 For every man shall bear his own burden.
- F. 6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.
- G. John 14:17 – Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
- H. John 16:13 – Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
- I. Ephesians 1:13 – 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,
- J. 2 Timothy 2:25 – In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;

V. Those Who are Saved Desire the Truth

- A. 1 Timothy 2:4 – Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 2:13 – For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.
- C. Jude 1:11 – Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

VI. Some People Do Not Abide in Truth

- A. 2 Timothy 2:18 – Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.
- B. 2 Timothy 3:7 – Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.
- C. 8 Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith.
- D. 2 Timothy 4:4 – And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

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- E. Hebrews 10:26 – For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,
- F. 2 Peter 2:2 – And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

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Lesson 12: The Need for Language Study

I. We Reach the World through Languages

- A. There are missionaries and churches in almost every place in the world
- B. Lost people must hear the word of God in their language
- C. Romans 14:11 – For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

II. We Provide Scriptures in the Language of the Nations

- A. Romans 16:26 – But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
- B. 1 Corinthians 14:27 – If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.
- C. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

III. We Do Not Distribute Corrupt Scriptures

- A. 1 Peter 1:23 – Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- B. Matthew 7:17 – Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.
- C. 18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.
- D. 2 Corinthians 2:17 – For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.
- E. Revelation 22:18 – For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- F. 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

IV. We Must Do Language Study to Check the Scriptures

- A. Matthew 1:23 – Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
- B. Mark 5:41 – And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.
- C. Mark 15:22 – And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.
- D. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

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- E. John 1:38 – Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?
 - F. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
 - G. 42 And he brought him to Jesus. And when Jesus beheld him, he said, Thou art Simon the son of Jona: thou shalt be called Cephas, which is by interpretation, A stone.
 - H. John 9:7 – And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.
 - I. Acts 4:36 – And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,
 - J. Acts 9:36 – Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.
 - K. Acts 13:8 – But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith.
 - L. 1 Corinthians 12:10 – To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
 - M. 1 Corinthians 14:5 – I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.
 - N. 13 Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.
 - O. 26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, everyone of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.
 - P. 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.
 - Q. 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.
 - R. Hebrews 7:2 – To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace;
- V. **We Must do Language Study to Preach the Gospel to the World**
- A. Teach all nations
 - B. Preach the gospel to every creature
 - C. Acts 1:8
 - D. Acts 2:4 – And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
 - E. 8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?
 - F. Mark 13:10 – And the gospel must first be published among all nations.
 - G. Romans 1:5 – By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

VI. **God Commands All Men Everywhere to Repent**

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- A. Acts 17:22 – Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars’ hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- B. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.
- C. 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- D. 25 Neither is worshipped with men’s hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
- E. 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- F. 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- G. 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
- H. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man’s device.
- I. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
- J. 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- K. Luke 24:47 – And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.
- L. John 11:51 – And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;
- M. 52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.
- N. Philippians 2:11 – And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- O. Revelation 5:9 – And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;
- P. Acts 10:35 – But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Lesson 13: The Need for Scripture in All Languages

I. The Church's Responsibility is to Preach the Gospel to All Nations

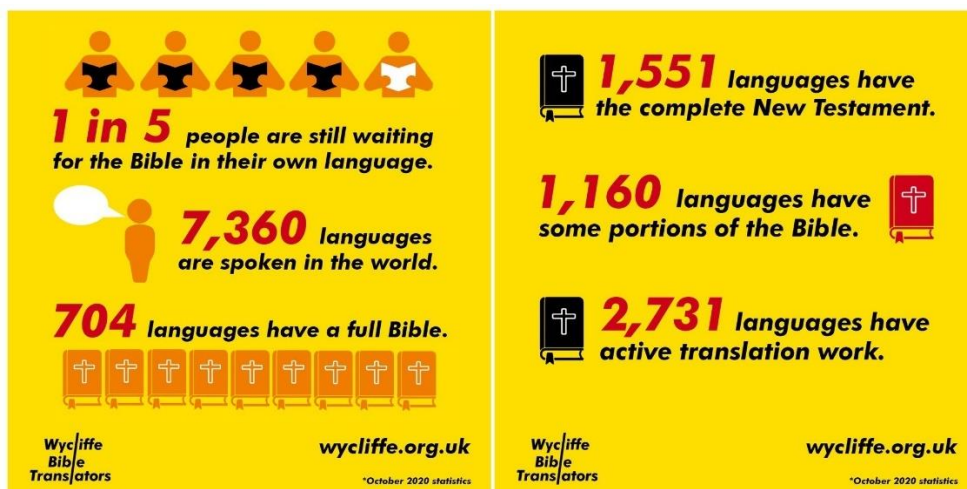
- A. The Great Commission – Matthew 28:18-20
- B. Matthew 28:19 – Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- C. Preach the Gospel to every creature – Mark 16:15
- D. Acts 1:8 – But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

II. The Church Uses the Word of God to Preach the Gospel

- A. 1 Peter 1:23 – Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.
- B. Romans 10:17 – So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

III. Scriptures in a Language Does Not Mean the People Have Access

- A. 7,360 living languages in the world
- B. 1,160 languages have portions of scriptures
- C. 2,731 languages have active translation in work
- D. 1,551 languages New Testaments
- E. 704 languages have whole Bibles
- F. There are currently 3,945 languages with no Scripture. 167 million people, speaking 2,014 languages, still need translation work to begin.
- G. 2,731 languages in 167 countries have begun active translation or preparatory work. Wycliffe and other partner organizations are involved in about three-quarters of this work.
- H. *October 2020, Wycliffe Global Alliance*



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IV. Scriptures Should Be Translated from the Right Texts

- A. The *Textus Receptus* (T/R) for the New Testament
- B. The Masoretic Text (MT) for the Old Testament
- C. Wycliffe Bible Translators has been involved in more than 740 New Testament translations
- D. Wycliffe Bible Translators is currently involved in over 1,000 translation projects.
- E. Wycliffe Bible Translators was founded by Cameron Townsend, a Disciple of Christ missionary.
- F. Wycliffe Bible Translators has no connection with the John Wycliffe, the first translator of the English Bible.
- G. Wycliffe Bible Translators is ecumenical, pro-Rome, and uses the UBS Greek text for their translations of the New Testament. The UBS is a remake of the W/H Greek text.
- H. The same is true of United Bible Societies – they use the UBS Greek Text, which is a remake of the W/H.

V. Reference from Way of Life Literature in Respect to Wycliffe Bible Translators

- A. Wycliffe Bible Translators: A Warning
- B. Updated and enlarged February 1, 2014 (first published in O Timothy magazine, volume 5, issue 9-10, 1988)
- C. David Cloud, Way of Life Literature, P.O. Box 610368, Port Huron, MI 48061
- D. 866-295-4143, fbns@wayoflife.org

The changes they made in the Greek text were profound. Dozens of entire verses and thousands of words were removed from the New Testament. Yet their work was accepted by many scholars and their text eventually was incorporated into the Greek New Testament produced and popularized by the United Bible Societies (UBS). This New Testament differs profoundly from the Received Text, and it is this textual difference that has resulted in most of the serious changes in the new English translations. To phrase this in another way: The first reason the modern English versions differ so greatly from the KJV is not their use of contemporary English, but their reliance upon a different Greek text.

To show just how different the UBS New Testament is from the Received Text we offer the following facts. These are derived from the studies of Everett W. Fowler, who spent many years comparing the different texts and versions of the Bible. You can see from the following that this is no small matter.

* There are more than 40 entire verses omitted or questioned by the use of footnotes and brackets in the Bible Society text as compared to the Received Text.

* There are 185 significant portions of verses omitted in the Bible Society text.

* There are 212 omissions of the names of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Bible Society text.

* There are 289 other omissions and differences in the Bible Society text which have a substantial effect on the meaning.

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* Total word differences between the Bible Society Text and the Received Text are 8674.

It should be obvious that the United Bible Societies New Testament is a different one from the God-honored Received Text. If the Bible societies New Testament is assumed to be the nearest to the verbally-inspired text, then the Received Text includes over 8,000 Greek words not inspired of God.

The significance of these changes becomes even more apparent when we consider their nature. The UBS New Testament deletes or questions more than 40 entire verses which were contained in the KJV and the other ancient and God-honored Protestant versions--Matt. 12:47; 17:21; 18:11; 21:44; 23:14; Mk. 7:16; 9:44, 46; 11:26; 15:28 16:9-20; Lk. 17:36; 23:17; 24:12, 40; Jn. 5:4; 7:53-8:11; Acts 8:37; 28:29; Rom. 16:24; and 1 Jn. 5:8. Further, large portions of other verses are deleted, including most of Matt. 5:44; 15:8; 19:9; 20:7; 20:16,22; 25:13; 27:35; 28:9; Mk. 6:11; 7:8; 9:49; 10:24; 11:10; 13:14; Lk. 1:28; 4:4; 9:55-56; 11:2-4; 21:4; 22:64; Jn. 5:3; Acts 2:30; 9:5-6; 23:9; 24:6-8; 28:16; Rom. 8:1; 11:6; 14:6; 1 Cor. 6:20; Gal. 3:1; Eph. 5:30; 1 Thess. 1:1; 1 Tim. 6:5; Heb. 2:7; 1 Jn. 5:13; Rev. 1:8,11; and 5:14.

A great many of the omissions in the UBS Greek New Testament affect key doctrines of the Christian faith, including the deity and virgin birth of Christ, the blood Atonement, and the Trinity. For example, the UBS Greek Testament deletes the word "God" in 1 Timothy 3:16, thus destroying one of the Bible's clearest testimonies to the fact that Jesus Christ is God. The words "the Lord" are removed from 1 Corinthians 15:47, thus destroying this testimony to Christ's deity. The words "by Himself" are removed from Hebrews 1:3, thus deleting this powerful witness about Christ's atonement. The deletion of Acts 8:37 in the UBS Greek Testament destroys the important witness of this passage as to the fact that faith must precede baptism. The omission of 1 John 5:8 removes one of the plainest references to the Trinity.

The Bibles which went to the ends of the earth during the great missionary era had these testimonies in them, but they are removed in modern versions by the adoption of a different Greek text. Remember, too, these are but a few of the hundreds of examples which could be given. We are convinced the Westcott-Hort text is corrupt and should be rejected by God's people.

VI. Baptist Churches Should Not Rely on Para-Church Works for Bible Distribution

- A. The New Testament churches are the rightful distributor of scriptures throughout the world.
- B. The New Testament churches should not rely on others for this work.
- C. The New Testament churches need to be busy in the Lord's work, especially in the area of scripture distribution.

Lesson 14: The Need for Translation

I. Translation Should Be the Work of the Churches

- A. The word is given to believers and doers of the word.
- B. The churches know the need
- C. The churches are the authority for all truth – 1 Timothy 3:16.
- D. The churches are the bride of Christ, and they take care of the seed.

II. Churches Have the Right Doctrine

- A. Whosoever can be saved.
- B. Faith cometh by hearing – Romans 10:17.
- C. One cannot lose his salvation – John 3:16.
- D. For by grace are ye saved through faith – Ephesians 2:8-10.

III. God's People Major on the Gospel

- A. They are born-again
- B. They desire to see others saved.
- C. They know the gospel and preach it.
- D. They live the gospel.
- E. Churches will glorify Christ.

IV. Churches Know the Word of God is Inspired

- A. They will not add to the word.
- B. They will not take away from it.
- C. They will not change it.
- D. They will not corrupt it.
- E. They honor the word of God.
- F. They translate it through much prayer and study, knowing they will give an account to God.

V. Churches Do Not Charge for the Word God

- A. The churches do the Lord's work not for profit.
- B. The word of God is offered freely to all.
- C. The churches bear the burden of translation, production, and distribution of God's word.

VI. Churches Know How to Identify Good Texts

- A. Churches will reject corrupt texts

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- B. Churches should use the T/R- and the MT-based translations.
- C. Churches know the Power of God's pure word.

VII. Missionaries Are Already in the Work

- A. Missionaries are church-sent.
- B. Missionaries deal with people of other tongues and cultures.
- C. Missionaries know what scriptures to be used.
- D. Missionaries can help in the translation work.

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Lesson 15: Scriptures Should Have Free Distribution

I. Salvation is Free

- A. Hebrews 5:9 – And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;
- B. Romans 3:24 – Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:
- C. Romans 5:15 – But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.
- D. 16 And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.
- E. 18 Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.
- F. Acts 4:12 – Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.
- G. Galatians 3:22 – But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

II. The Gospel is Free

- A. 2 Corinthians 11:7 – Have I committed an offence in abasing myself that ye might be exalted, because I have preached to you the gospel of God freely?
- B. Matthew 11:5 – The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
- C. 1 Corinthians 9:12 – If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

III. The Holy Ghost is Free

- A. Luke 11:13 – If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?
- B. Acts 5:32 – And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.
- C. 1 Corinthians 2:12 – Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.
- D. Acts 8:20 – But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.
- E. 1 Corinthians 12:7 – But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.
- F. 2 Corinthians 1:22 – Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
- G. 2 Corinthians 5:5 – Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit.

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- H. 1 John 4:13 – Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

IV. The Work of God is Free

- A. Matthew 10:8 – Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
- B. 1 Peter 5:2 – Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

V. The Word of God is Free

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:1 – Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
- B. John 2:16 – And said unto them that sold doves, Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.
- C. 2 Peter 2:3 – And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.
- D. 1 Timothy 6:10 – For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
- E. 2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- F. John 5:39 – Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

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Lesson 16: Every Good Copy is a Divine Original

I. All Scripture is Given by Inspiration of God

- A. 2 Timothy 3:16 – All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

II. Holy Men of Old Spake by the Holy Ghost

- A. 2 Peter 1:21 – For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

III. The Words of the Prophets are Written

- A. Acts 15:15 – And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written,
- B. Acts 7:42 – Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

IV. Sometimes the Prophet Write the Word Himself

- A. Galatians 6:11 – Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.
- B. Philemon 1:19 – I Paul have written it with mine own hand, I will repay it: albeit I do not say to thee how thou owest unto me even thine own self besides.
- C. Hebrews 13:22 – And I beseech you, brethren, suffer the word of exhortation: for I have written a letter unto you in few words.
- D. 1 John 5:13 – These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- E. 2 Peter 3:15 – And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;
- F. 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

V. Sometimes a Scribe Copied the Words of the Prophet

- A. Revelation 1:10 – I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- B. 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
- C. Romans 16:22 – I Tertius, who wrote this epistle, salute you in the Lord.

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- D. 1 Corinthians 16:21 – The salutation of me Paul with mine own hand.
- E. Colossians 4:18 – The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.
- F. 2 Thessalonians 3:17 – The salutation of Paul with mine own hand, which is the token in every epistle: so I write.

VI. Accurate Copies are Still Inspired

- A. Inspiration applies to the words.
- B. Words are spoken or written.
- C. Original prophecy can be spoken or written by the prophet.
- D. If spoken, the written copy of the words spoken is still scripture.
- E. Accurate copies are just as inspired as the first copy.

VII. Translated Copies Can Be Inspired

- A. Matthew 4:4 – Jesus quoted Hebrew passage in Greek.
- B. Romans Road is from Hebrew Old Testament written in Greek.
- C. Matthew 1:23 – Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.
- D. Mark 5:41 – And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.
- E. Mark 15:22 – And they bring him unto the place Golgotha, which is, being interpreted, The place of a skull.
- F. 34 And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? which is, being interpreted, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?
- G. John 1:38 – Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto him, Rabbi, (which is to say, being interpreted, Master,) where dwellest thou?
- H. 41 He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.
- I. Acts 4:36 – And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, and of the country of Cyprus,

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Lesson 17: Jesus' World Vision

I. God So Loved the World

- A. Jesus is the propitiation for the whole world.
- B. 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.
- C. 17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.
- D. 18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

II. Jesus Commanded to Teach All Nations

- A. Matthew 28:16 – Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.
- B. 17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.
- C. 18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.
- D. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- E. 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

III. Jesus Commanded to Preach the Gospel to Every Creature

- A. Mark 16:14 – Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.
- B. 15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.
- C. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- D. 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
- E. 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

IV. Jesus Commanded to Go to the Uttermost

- A. Acts 1:1 – The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- B. 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
- C. 3 To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

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- D. 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.
- E. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.
- F. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?
- G. 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.
- H. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- I. 9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

V. God Commands All Men to Repent

- A. 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.
- B. Acts 17:22 – Then Paul stood in the midst of Mars' hill, and said, Ye men of Athens, I perceive that in all things ye are too superstitious.
- C. 23 For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.
- D. 24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
- E. 25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
- F. 26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;
- G. 27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:
- H. 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.
- I. 29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.
- J. 30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:
- K. 31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.
- L. 32 And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.

VI. There is No Respect on Men with God

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- A. Acts 10:34 – Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:
- B. Romans 2:11 – For there is no respect of persons with God.
- C. 2 Corinthians 3:10 – For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth.
- D. Ephesians 6:9 – And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.
- E. Philippians 4:11 – Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.
- F. Colossians 2:16 – Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:
- G. Colossians 3:25 – But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.
- H. James 2:1 – My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.
- I. 3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:
- J. 9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.
- K. 1 Peter 1:17 – And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

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Lesson 18: Jesus' Travels

I. Jesus is the Word

- A. John 1:1
- B. The Word became flesh
- C. We beheld his glory
- D. God manifest in the flesh – 1 Timothy 3:16
- E. Jesus as the Word “distributed” himself to all the world.

II. Jesus Travelled in Jerusalem

- A. Matthew 4:25 – And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.
- B. Mark 11:1 – And when they came nigh to Jerusalem, unto Bethphage and Bethany, at the mount of Olives, he sendeth forth two of his disciples,
- C. 11 And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had looked round about upon all things, and now the eventide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve.
- D. 15 And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves;
- E. 27 And they come again to Jerusalem: and as he was walking in the temple, there come to him the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders,
- F. Luke 5:17 – And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.
- G. Luke 13:22 – And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem.
- H. Luke 17:11 – And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.
- I. John 5:1 – After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

III. Jesus Travelled in Judea

- A. Matthew 4:25 – And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.
- B. Matthew 19:1 – And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;
- C. Mark 10:1 – And he arose from thence, and cometh into the coasts of Judaea by the farther side of Jordan: and the people resort unto him again; and, as he was wont, he taught them again.
- D. John 4:3 – He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.
- E. 47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.

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- F. 54 This is again the second miracle that Jesus did, when he was come out of Judaea into Galilee.
- G. John 7:3 – His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest.
- H. John 11:7 – Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judaea again.

IV. Jesus Travelled in Samaria

- A. Luke 17:11 – And it came to pass, as he went to Jerusalem, that he passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee.
- B. John 4:4 – And he must needs go through Samaria.
- C. 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

V. Jesus Travelled to the Uttermost (Galilee)

- A. Matthew 4:12 – Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee;
- B. 18 And Jesus, walking by the sea of Galilee, saw two brethren, Simon called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea: for they were fishers.
- C. 23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.
- D. 25 And there followed him great multitudes of people from Galilee, and from Decapolis, and from Jerusalem, and from Judaea, and from beyond Jordan.
- E. Matthew 15:29 – And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there.
- F. Matthew 17:22 – And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men:
- G. Matthew 19:1 – And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan;
- H. Matthew 21:11 – And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

VI. Jesus' Do and Teach Pattern

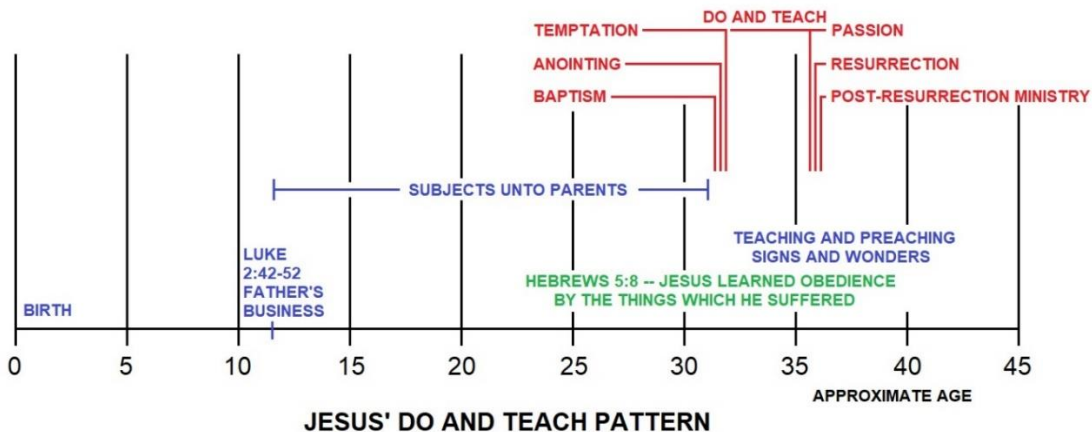
- A. Acts 1:1 – The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,
- B. God follows do and teach method, even with his Son
- C. Isaiah 28:9-11
- D. Psalm 111:10
- E. James 1:22 – But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.
- F. Philippians 4:9 – Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.
- G. 1 Timothy 5:17 – Labor in the word and in doctrine
- H. 1 Corinthians 15:58 – Always abounding in the work of the Lord

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VII. Jesus' Pattern Illustrated

- A. Jesus is the perfect Pattern for the *Do and Teach* model. Luke said in Acts 1:1 – “The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen...”
- B. Analyzing the life of Jesus as presented in the Gospels we find the life pattern of the Lord. This can also be a pattern for us:

- Jesus was born of the Holy Ghost.
- During Jesus' life he was subject to his parents (earthly authority).
- As a young man Jesus was busy with the Father's business (heavenly authority).
- Jesus loved God and loved fellow man.
- Jesus started his ministry correctly – being scripturally baptized by John the Baptist.
- Jesus Fulfilled all righteousness.
- Jesus was anointed by the Holy Ghost for the work of the ministry and he followed the Holy Ghost as he was led of the Spirit.
- Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness where he fasted forty days and was tempted during that time by the Devil.
- Jesus showed he is sinless and overcame all temptation before he started the teaching and preaching ministry.
- Jesus was led by the same Spirit to teach and preach, after being led into the wilderness.
- While teaching and preaching, he was the pattern of how to do it.
- Jesus taught with authority.
- Jesus always obeyed the Father.
- Jesus learned obedience by the things which he suffered.
- Jesus obeyed all things of the Father even unto death.
- Jesus still taught post-resurrection – Acts, Galatians, etc.



VIII. Jesus and His Followers are Influenced by Jesus

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- A. The wind is a picture of influence
- B. The wind of life – Matthew 7:25 – house stands firm as it is founded upon the Rock
- C. The wind of Peer pressure – John the Baptist not a reed shaken in the wind – Matthew 11:7 – John does not bend to peer pressure.
- D. The wind of contrariness – Matthew 14:24
- E. The boisterous wind – Matthew 14:30 (this wind tries to cause fear).
- F. Every wind of doctrine – Ephesians 4:14
- G. The wind of the Holy Spirit – John 3:8; Acts 2:2
- H. The wind drives the chaff – Psalm 1:4
- I. The wind of wavering – James 1:6
- J. Be not conformed to this world – Romans 12
- K. Be conformed to image of Jesus Christ – Romans 8

IX. John the Baptist

- A. Matthew 11:7-19
- B. He was not a reed shaken in the wind
- C. He was not delicately arrayed
- D. He did not dance when piped or weep when mourned
- E. He was more than a prophet

X. Necessary Steps in Accomplishing God's Work

- A. *Conversion* – get saved.
- B. *Clarity* – Holy Ghost sealing, clear objectives – world evangelism.
- C. *Christ* – the Great Pattern to follow.
- D. *Commandments* – the guiding principles of Christ.
- E. *Collaboration* – working together with God and others to do his work.
- F. *Consistency* – Stewards must be faithful
- G. *Continuing* – Steadfast and always abounding

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Lesson 19: Jesus is the Word Distributed

I. Jesus is the Word Made Flesh

- A. John 1:1 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
- B. 14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

II. Jesus is the Way, Truth, and Life

- A. John 14:4 – And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.
- B. 5 Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?
- C. 6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.
- D. John 17:17 – Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

III. When Jesus is Preached, the Word is Preached

- A. Acts 8:4 – Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.
- B. Acts 11:19 – Now they which were scattered abroad upon the persecution that arose about Stephen travelled as far as Phenice, and Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to none but unto the Jews only.
- C. Acts 15:35 – Paul also and Barnabas continued in Antioch, teaching and preaching the word of the Lord, with many others also.
- D. 2 Timothy 4:2 – Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.
- E. Romans 10:8 – But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;
- F. 1 Corinthians 1:23 – But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;
- G. 2 Corinthians 4:5 – For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake.
- H. Colossians 1:26 – Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:
- I. 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:
- J. 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:
- K. 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

IV. Jesus and the Holy Ghost Go Wherever the Gospel is Preached

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- A. Matthew 28:20 – Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- B. Acts 18:10 – For I am with thee, and no man shall set on thee to hurt thee: for I have much people in this city.
- C. John 3:5 – Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- D. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.
- E. 8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.
- F. John 14:18 – I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.
- G. John 7:39 -- (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)
- H. Galatians 3:2 – This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- I. 2 Corinthians 11:4 – For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

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Lesson 20: Paul's Epistles to the Gentile Churches

I. The New Testament Churches were Involved in Scripture Distribution

- A. The entire word of God (New Testament) was given in portions.
- B. Churches kept, copied, and distributed the word of God in their day.
- C. Paul's writings are inspired scripture (2 Peter 3:15-16).
- D. Preaching the Gospel is a form of distributing the word of God – 1 Peter 1:21.

II. Paul Distributed Scripture to Churches

- A. Paul wrote to certain churches.
- B. These churches kept, reproduced, and distributed the word of God to others.
- C. Paul's messages are applicable to other churches.
- D. Other churches benefit from Paul's epistles – even today.
- E. All churches distributed the scriptures in their day to other churches.
- F. All pastors who received letters distributed the word of God to the saints (Revelation, etc.)

III. Churches Distributed Scriptures to Others

- A. Paul intended his epistles to be shared.
- B. Receiving church had to make available the word of God to all.
- C. Faithful copies were made and distributed.
- D. We have the epistles today because churches copied and distributed the word of God.

IV. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistle to the Saints in Rome – Many Churches

- A. Paul's Epistle to the Romans.
- B. Romans 1:7 – To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- C. There were many churches in Rome.
- D. The churches worked together to receive, copy, and distribute the epistle to the saints in Rome.
- E. Romans 16:1 – I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea:
- F. Romans 16:3 – Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus:
- G. 4 Who have for my life laid down their own necks: unto whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.
- H. 5 Likewise greet the church that is in their house. Salute my wellbeloved Epaenetus, who is the firstfruits of Achaia unto Christ.
- I. 16 Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.
- J. 23 Gaius mine host, and of the whole church, saluteth you. Erastus the chamberlain of the city saluteth you, and Quartus a brother.
- K. Paul writing from Corinth, which is 9 miles from Cenchrea.
- L. Both churches worked together to get the epistle to Rome.

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M. Rome is 1,360 miles from Cenchrea, the shortest distance going mostly by land.

V. Epistles to Churches We Have – 2 Epistles to the Church in Corinth

- A. 1 Corinthians 1:1 – Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother,
- B. 2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:
- C. 3 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. 1 Corinthians 7:17 – But as God hath distributed to every man, as the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk. And so ordain I in all churches.
- E. 1 Corinthians 11:16 – But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.
- F. 1 Corinthians 14:34 – Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience, as also saith the law.
- G. 1 Corinthians 16:1 – Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye.
- H. 19 The churches of Asia salute you. Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.
- I. 2 Corinthians 1:1 – Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints which are in all Achaia:
- J. 2 Corinthians 8:1 – Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia;
- K. 18 And we have sent with him the brother, whose praise is in the gospel throughout all the churches;
- L. 19 And not that only, but who was also chosen of the churches to travel with us with this grace, which is administered by us to the glory of the same Lord, and declaration of your ready mind:
- M. 23 Whether any do inquire of Titus, he is my partner and fellowhelper concerning you: or our brethren be inquired of, they are the messengers of the churches, and the glory of Christ.
- N. 24 Wherefore shew ye to them, and before the churches, the proof of your love, and of our boasting on your behalf.
- O. 2 Corinthians 11:28 – Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

VI. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistle to the Churches in Galatia

- A. Galatians 1:2 – And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:
- B. 22 And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ:
- C. The churches in Galatia had to copy and share Paul's epistle among themselves.
- D. The epistle to the Galatians is one of Paul's prison epistles and it was written from Rome.

VII. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistle to the Church in Ephesus

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- A. Paul was well-known to the church in Ephesus.
- B. Paul used Ephesus as a base to evangelize Asia.
- C. Colossians is the only other Asian church epistle we have that Paul wrote to.

VIII. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistle to the Saints in Philippi – Many Churches

- A. Philippi had a few churches.
- B. These churches were leaders in Macedonia.
- C. Paul writes to saints, bishops, and deacons.
- D. Philippians 1:1 – Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- E. These churches would copy, share, and distribute the word of God.

IX. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistle to the Saints in Colossae

- A. Colossian church was a small church.
- B. Colossians 1:1 – Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timotheus our brother,
- C. 2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colossae: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- D. The church was to share the word of God with the Laodicean church.
- E. Colossians 4:12 – Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.
- F. 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.
- G. 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.
- H. 15 Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.
- I. 16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
- J. 17 And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it.
- K. 18 The salutation by the hand of me Paul. Remember my bonds. Grace be with you. Amen.
- L. Philemon was the pastor – Philemon 1:1-2, and Epaphras was a faithful minister (Colossians 1:7; 4:12), who was also imprisoned with Paul – Philemon 1:23.
- M. We do not have the Laodicean epistle. The church was lax on preserving the word.
- N. Preservation is achieved through multiplication and distribution.

X. Epistles to Churches We Have – 2 Epistles to the Church in Thessalonica

- A. 1 Thessalonians 1:1 – Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- B. 1 Thessalonians 5:26 – Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss.
- C. 27 I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren.

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- D. 28 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.
- E. 2 Thessalonians 1:1 – Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- F. 2 Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- G. 2 Thessalonians 3:14 – And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.
- H. 15 Yet count him not as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.

XI. Epistles to Churches We Have – Epistles to Bishops

- A. Timothy – first bishop of the church of the Ephesians
- B. Titus – first bishop of the church of the Cretians.
- C. Philemon – bishop of Colossae (Colossians 4:9; Philemon 1:1-2).
- D. Philippians written to saints, bishops, and deacons.
- E. John wrote the Revelation to seven angels (pastors).

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Lesson 21: Paul's Missionary Journeys

I. Paul is a Pattern for All to Follow

- A. His obedience
- B. His love and care for the churches
- C. His zeal
- D. His burden
- E. His faithfulness
- F. His diligence
- G. His endurance
- H. His vision
- I. His humility
- J. His focus
- K. His selflessness

II. Paul's First Missionary Journey

- A. This was his shortest trip.
- B. Paul goes to Cyprus
- C. Paul travels to Derbe via Antioch of Pisidia and returns the same way.
- D. Bypassing Cyprus they return to Antioch
- E. He increased the distances travelled each journey
- F. He strived to preach the gospel where the people had not heard.

III. Paul's Second Missionary Journey

- A. Paul continues westward and northward.
- B. Paul travels directly to Derbe, where he left off on his first missionary journey.
- C. From Derbe, Paul travels into norther Asia, but he is forbidden to go into Bithynia.
- D. Paul receives the Macedonian Call.
- E. Paul evangelizes Macedonia and Achaia.
- F. On his return, Paul stays briefly in Ephesus, leaving Aquila and Pricilla there.
- G. Paul returns to Caesarea, Jerusalem, then home to Antioch.

IV. Paul's Third Missionary Journey

- A. Paul retraces his previous journey strengthening the brethren in Galatia and Phrygia.
- B. Paul works in Ephesus almost 3 years and evangelize Asia.
- C. Paul travels again to Philippi and Corinth.
- D. Paul retraces his steps returning to Jerusalem, but bypassing Ephesus.

V. Paul's Impressive Work of Scripture Distribution

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- A. Paul distributed scripture throughout his ministry
- B. The 14 books in the New Testament are only a small portion of the letters Paul wrote.
- C. Peter attests that Paul's epistles are scripture – 2 Peter 3:15-16.
- D. Paul wrote 4 letters to 3 pastors – Timothy, Titus, Philemon.
- E. Paul wrote 3 (general) letters to multiple churches – Galatians, Philippians, Romans.
- F. Paul wrote 1 time to the Hebrews.
- G. Paul wrote 2 times to 2 churches – Corinth and Thessalonica
- H. Paul wrote 1 time to two churches – Ephesus, Colossae.
- I. Paul wrote to Laodicea, but we do not have that epistle – Colossians 4:16.
- J. Paul wrote at least one epistle to Corinth before, but we do not have that epistle – 1 Corinthians 5:9.

VI. General Epistles Took More Time to Distribute

- A. A letter to Corinth or Ephesus was a direct delivery.
- B. A letter “To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints...” (Romans 1:7) is delivered to a larger church then distributed to other churches and saints in the city via copies.
- C. A letter “unto the churches of Galatia...” (Galatians 1:2) must go to a larger church first (Antioch Pisidia or Iconium? Lystra or Derbe?) then distributed to many churches in this Roman Province.
- D. Considering Galatia is approximately the size of the state of Maine in the USA, imagine travelling through that state in the first century delivering letters to churches.
- E. A general epistle like Hebrews, would have to be delivered to various Jewish churches then distributed from there. That would be a rather unending work of distribution.

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Lesson 22: Jesus' Message to the Seven Gentile Churches in Revelation

I. Jesus Commands the Scripture Distribution

- A. Revelation 1:11
- B. What thou seest,
- C. write in a book,
- D. and send it
- E. unto the seven churches which are in Asia

II. John Writes the Revelation

- A. John is obedient.
- B. He wrote the words of Jesus.
- C. He wrote what he saw.

III. Jesus Sends a Message to His Angels

- A. Reprove, rebuke, exhort
- B. Shows good
- C. Shows bad
- D. Shows remedy
- E. Gives a promise
- F. Exhorts others to heed

IV. John Sends the Letter

- A. Revelation 1:10 – I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- B. 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
- C. One letter distributed to seven churches.
- D. Each church likely made their own copy.

V. The Church of Philadelphia

- A. Brotherly love
- B. Revelation 3:7-13
- C. No rebuke.
- D. Open door set before this pastor.
- E. He had a little strength but had kept Jesus' word
- F. Jesus to keep pastor from the hour of temptation

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G. Synagogue of Satan to worship before his feet and know that Jesus loved him.

VI. The Church of Smyrna

- A. Having to do with Myrrh
- B. Revelation 2:8-11
- C. Jesus knew of the pastor's poverty, but said he is rich.
- D. Synagogue of Satan also mentioned. They spoke blasphemy.
- E. Pastor to suffer and church to have tribulation 10 days.
- F. Pastor is told not to fear.

VII. "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches"

- A. This phrase used at the end of all seven messages.
- B. This phrase used in 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:29; 3:6; 3:13; 3:22
- C. The message is from the Spirit.
- D. The messages are sent to angels, who are the church pastors (22:9).
- E. The messages are directed to the pastor – thy, thou, thee (singular pronoun).
- F. The messages are intended for the churches to hear.
- G. The messages are intended for whoever has an ear.

VIII. Scripture Distribution Doctrine Understood by the Revelation

- A. Messages are to go through the pastor.
- B. The pastor is the God-ordained leadership of the church.
- C. The church should hear the message.
- D. All should hear the message.
- E. Scriptures are distributed to the churches through the pastor.

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Lesson 23: By Love Serve One Another

I. Distribution of God's Word Relies on Inter-church Service

- A. Churches that have the word supply it other who do not have it.
- B. This is a service of love.
- C. Love for God.
- D. Love for man.
- E. Love for the word of God.
- F. Love for souls.
- G. Love for God's work.
- H. Love for the gospel.
- I. Galatians 5:13 – For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

II. We Do Not Charge for Scriptures

- A. Free distribution
- B. NOT FOR SALE printed on every copy.
- C. Scripture distribution is motivated by love – John 3:16 paralleled with Jesus as the Word.
- D. 1 Corinthians 16:15 – I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas, that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,)

III. Be Not Weary in Well Doing

- A. Galatians 6:9 – And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- B. 10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.
- C. 1 Corinthians 15:58 – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

IV. Every Church Should Do Her Part in Scripture Distribution

- A. Receive the word of God.
- B. Teach and Preach the word of God.
- C. Preach the gospel to every creature.
- D. Support missions and scriptures.
- E. Publish and Distribute copies of the scriptures to members and to others in their community (Jerusalem).
- F. Send scriptures to their missionaries.
- G. Support scripture production and distribution world-wide.

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V. Many Hands Make Light Work

- A. John Heywood quoted this saying (not a Bible saying) – “Many Hands Make Light Work.”
- B. Ecclesiastes 4:9 – Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.
- C. 10 For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.
- D. 11 Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?
- E. 12 And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.
- F. Churches working together make the burden light for everyone.
- G. Every one should bear his own burden – Galatians 6:5
- H. When all are working in unity the results are exponentially awarded – synergy has its benefits.

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Lesson 24: Principles of Letter Distribution Illustrated in Esther

I. Chapter 1 – Letter from the King

- A. Esther 1:22 – For he sent letters into all the king’s provinces, into every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language, that every man should bear rule in his own house, and that it should be published according to the language of every people.

II. Chapter 3 – Letter from Haman

- A. Esther 3:10 – And the king took his ring from his hand, and gave it unto Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, the Jews’ enemy.
- B. 11 And the king said unto Haman, The silver is given to thee, the people also, to do with them as it seemeth good to thee.
- C. 12 Then were the king’s scribes called on the thirteenth day of the first month, and there was written according to all that Haman had commanded unto the king’s lieutenants, and to the governors that were over every province, and to the rulers of every people of every province according to the writing thereof, and to every people after their language; in the name of king Ahasuerus was it written, and sealed with the king’s ring.
- D. 13 And the letters were sent by posts into all the king’s provinces, to destroy, to kill, and to cause to perish, all Jews, both young and old, little children and women, in one day, even upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar, and to take the spoil of them for a prey.

III. Chapter 8: -- Letter from Esther and Mordecai

- A. Ester 8:4 – Then the king held out the golden sceptre toward Esther. So Esther arose, and stood before the king,
- B. 5 And said, If it please the king, and if I have found favour in his sight, and the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let it be written to reverse the letters devised by Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews which are in all the king’s provinces:
- C. 6 For how can I endure to see the evil that shall come unto my people? or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?
- D. 7 Then the king Ahasuerus said unto Esther the queen and to Mordecai the Jew, Behold, I have given Esther the house of Haman, and him they have hanged upon the gallows, because he laid his hand upon the Jews.
- E. 8 Write ye also for the Jews, as it liketh you, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s ring: for the writing which is written in the king’s name, and sealed with the king’s ring, may no man reverse.
- F. 9 Then were the king’s scribes called at that time in the third month, that is, the month Sivan, on the three and twentieth day thereof; and it was written according to all that Mordecai commanded unto the Jews, and to the lieutenants, and the deputies and rulers of the provinces which are from India unto Ethiopia, an hundred twenty and seven provinces,

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- unto every province according to the writing thereof, and unto every people after their language, and to the Jews according to their writing, and according to their language.
- G. 10 And he wrote in the king Ahasuerus' name, and sealed it with the king's ring, and sent letters by posts on horseback, and riders on mules, camels, and young dromedaries:
 - H. 11 Wherein the king granted the Jews which were in every city to gather themselves together, and to stand for their life, to destroy, to slay, and to cause to perish, all the power of the people and province that would assault them, both little ones and women, and to take the spoil of them for a prey,
 - I. 12 Upon one day in all the provinces of king Ahasuerus, namely, upon the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, which is the month Adar.
 - J. 13 The copy of the writing for a commandment to be given in every province was published unto all people, and that the Jews should be ready against that day to avenge themselves on their enemies.
 - K. 14 So the posts that rode upon mules and camels went out, being hastened and pressed on by the king's commandment. And the decree was given at Shushan the palace.

IV. Chapter 9 – Letter from Mordecai

- A. Ester 9:3 – And all the rulers of the provinces, and the lieutenants, and the deputies, and officers of the king, helped the Jews; because the fear of Mordecai fell upon them.
- B. 4 For Mordecai was great in the king's house, and his fame went out throughout all the provinces: for this man Mordecai waxed greater and greater.
- C. 5 Thus the Jews smote all their enemies with the stroke of the sword, and slaughter, and destruction, and did what they would unto those that hated them.
- D. 6 And in Shushan the palace the Jews slew and destroyed five hundred men.
- E. 7 And Parshandatha, and Dalphon, and Aspatha,
- F. 8 And Poratha, and Adalia, and Aridatha,
- G. 9 And Parmashta, and Arisai, and Aridai, and Vajezatha,
- H. 10 The ten sons of Haman the son of Hammedatha, the enemy of the Jews, slew they; but on the spoil laid they not their hand.
- I. 11 On that day the number of those that were slain in Shushan the palace was brought before the king.
- J. 12 And the king said unto Esther the queen, The Jews have slain and destroyed five hundred men in Shushan the palace, and the ten sons of Haman; what have they done in the rest of the king's provinces? now what is thy petition? and it shall be granted thee: or what is thy request further? and it shall be done.
- K. 13 Then said Esther, If it please the king, let it be granted to the Jews which are in Shushan to do tomorrow also according unto this day's decree, and let Haman's ten sons be hanged upon the gallows.
- L. 14 And the king commanded it so to be done: and the decree was given at Shushan; and they hanged Haman's ten sons.
- M. 15 For the Jews that were in Shushan gathered themselves together on the fourteenth day also of the month Adar, and slew three hundred men at Shushan; but on the prey they laid not their hand.
- N. 16 But the other Jews that were in the king's provinces gathered themselves together, and stood for their lives, and had rest from their enemies, and slew of their foes seventy and five thousand, but they laid not their hands on the prey,

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- O. 17 On the thirteenth day of the month Adar; and on the fourteenth day of the same rested they, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- P. 18 But the Jews that were at Shushan assembled together on the thirteenth day thereof; and on the fourteenth thereof; and on the fifteenth day of the same they rested, and made it a day of feasting and gladness.
- Q. 19 Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the fourteenth day of the month Adar a day of gladness and feasting, and a good day, and of sending portions one to another.
- R. 20 And Mordecai wrote these things, and sent letters unto all the Jews that were in all the provinces of the king Ahasuerus, both nigh and far,
- S. 21 To stablish this among them, that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar, and the fifteenth day of the same, yearly,
- T. 22 As the days wherein the Jews rested from their enemies, and the month which was turned unto them from sorrow to joy, and from mourning into a good day: that they should make them days of feasting and joy, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor.

V. **Practical and Spiritual Applications from the Above Study**

- A. We see information as to how letters were distributed and published being revealed chapter by chapter.
- B. The message from the king had top importance.
- C. Jesus' Message is more important.
- D. Letters were sent by posts – messengers.
- E. Men were supported by the king for this task.
- F. Letters went to every province and every language.
- G. We should do scripture distribution with a plan.
- H. Letters went to governors to be published to the people.
- I. We need pastors and churches in the field to be publishers of the word of God.
- J. The word of the king had urgency.
- K. The word of the king was sealed with his ring.
- L. The New Testament is sealed with the blood of Jesus.
- M. The people had to obey the king.
- N. People need to obey the gospel or suffer the consequences.
- O. We have the example in Acts 15 as to how the apostles' letter was distributed to the churches.
- P. They made letters and had many men deliver these letters.

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Lesson 25: Added Material Showing the Use of the Scriptures

I. The Scriptures in Respect to the Great Commission

- A. Romans 10:11 – For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

II. The Commandment – Romans 16:25-27

- A. Romans 16:25 – Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,
- B. 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:
- C. 27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

III. The Objective of Scripture Distribution

- A. For the Salvation of the World – John 5:39
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:1 – Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;
- C. 2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.
- D. 3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;
- E. 4 And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:
- F. 2 Timothy 3:15 – And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

IV. The Sower Goes Forth to Sow

- A. Matthew 13:3 – And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow;
- B. 4 And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up:
- C. 5 Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth:
- D. 6 And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.
- E. 7 And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them:
- F. 8 But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold.
- G. 9 Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

V. The O. T. Oracles are Committed to the Jews

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- A. Romans 3:1 – What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision?
- B. 2 Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God.
- C. 3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?
- D. 4 God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged.

VI. The N. T. Scriptures are Committed unto the Churches

- A. 2 Peter 3:15 – And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;
- B. 16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.
- C. 17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.
- D. 18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

VII. The Multiplicity of Testimony in One Area

- A. Revelation 1:10 – I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,
- B. 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.
- C. 1 Peter 1:1 – Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,
- D. James 1:1 – James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greeting.
- E. Colossians 4:15 – Salute the brethren which are in Laodicea, and Nymphas, and the church which is in his house.
- F. 16 And when this epistle is read among you, cause that it be read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and that ye likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.

VIII. The Example of Jesus

- A. Matthew 4:23 – And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.
- B. Matthew 9:35 – And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

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- C. John 4:1 – When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John,
- D. 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,)
- E. 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee.
- F. 4 And he must needs go through Samaria.
- G. 5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.
- H. 6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.
- I. 7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

IX. The Example of Peter and John

- A. Acts 8:14 – Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
- B. 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
- C. 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)
- D. 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
- E. 25 And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

X. The Example of Philip

- A. Acts 8:26 – And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert.
- B. 27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,
- C. 28 Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet.
- D. 29 Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.
- E. 30 And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?
- F. 31 And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him.
- G. 32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:
- H. 33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.
- I. 34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?
- J. 35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.
- K. 36 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?

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- L. 37 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.
- M. 38 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.
- N. 39 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing.
- O. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

XI. The Example of Paul

- A. Acts 17:1 – Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews:
- B. 2 And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures,
- C. 3 Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ.

XII. The Example of the Bereans

- A. Acts 17:10 – And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.
- B. 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.
- C. 12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

XIII. The Example of Apollos

- A. Acts 18:24 – And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus.
- B. 25 This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John.
- C. 26 And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.
- D. 27 And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace:
- E. 28 For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.

XIV. The Example of Titus

- A. Titus 1:5 – For this cause left I thee in Crete, that thou shouldest set in order the things that are wanting, and ordain elders in every city, as I had appointed thee:

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- B. 6 If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.
- C. 7 For a bishop must be blameless, as the steward of God; not selfwilled, not soon angry, not given to wine, no striker, not given to filthy lucre;
- D. 8 But a lover of hospitality, a lover of good men, sober, just, holy, temperate;
- E. 9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.

XV. The Macedonian Call (Acts 16:9-12)

- A. Acts 16:1 – Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:
- B. 2 Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.
- C. 3 Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek.
- D. 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered them the decrees for to keep, that were ordained of the apostles and elders which were at Jerusalem.
- E. 5 And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.
- F. 6 Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,
- G. 7 After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.
- H. 8 And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.
- I. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
- J. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.
- K. 11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;
- L. 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

XVI. The Necessity of the Scripture Work

- A. Most churches do not take their responsibility as far as it should go.
- B. Many churches do the work by Spirit's guiding.
- C. Churches that know need to teach other churches.
- D. If all churches work together, we would be much more effective in the area of World Evangelism.
- E. God's word does not return void – Isaiah 55:11.

XVII. Distribution is the First Step in the Scripture Work

- A. Churches distribute the word through preaching and teaching.
- B. Churches distribute the word through tracts.

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- C. Many churches use John and Romans.
- D. Most churches could produce their own scriptures if they had the mind to do it.
- E. Churches should supply their missionaries with the word of God – either by sending scripture or supplying funds.

XVIII. Working Together

- A. Galatians 5:7 – Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?
- B. 8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.
- C. 9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.
- D. 10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.
- E. 11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.
- F. 12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.
- G. 13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.
- H. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.
- I. 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.
- J. 16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

XIX. Reaching People of Unknown Language by the Scriptures in their Language

- A. All believers should try to learn other languages so as to reach the world with the gospel.
- B. Most people know others who are of a different language.
- C. Many churches have people of diverse languages.
- D. All tongues should have a copy of the scriptures.
- E. We can evangelize every language by using the scriptures in their language.

XX. Raising Funds and Raising Sowers

- A. Raising funds is a blessing to the sower.
- B. Raising funds is a blessing to the giver.
- C. Raising funds is a blessing to the lost.
- D. Raising funds is a blessing to Jesus.
- E. Supporting both missions and scripture distribution has great reward.
- F. Pastors can help members improve their financial situation and increase their giving by getting involved I faith promise missions and scripture distribution.

XXI. Seed, Sowers, Senders – the Work of a Church

- A. Seed – this is word of God (Luke 8:11)
- B. Sowers – these are the preachers, missionaries, evangelists, pastors, teachers, elders, bishops, deacons, etc.

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- C. Senders – these are the churches doing the work of reproduction – Acts 13:1-3

XXII. Levels of Scripture Involvement for a Church

- A. Distribution
- B. Assembly
- C. Production (publishing, printing, plates, paper, etc.)
- D. Teaching (reproduction)

XXIII. Lost – John and Romans

- A. Read a portion of the scriptures intended for the person
- B. Lost
- C. Gentile
- D. Needing salvation first and foremost
- E. John and Romans are good for study at this level

XXIV. Saved – New Testaments

- A. Person has salvation
- B. Person needs to be baptized, but shows promise
- C. The New Testament is good for study at this level

XXV. Saved and Baptized – N.T. and Whole Bibles

- A. Old Testament to be read after New Testament is read.
- B. Saved and baptized show obedience
- C. The New Testament is the primary focus at this level for reading and learning and doing.
- D. After New Testament is read *in toto*, the person can go on to read whole Bible.

XXVI. The Perfect Missionary

- A. The word of God is the perfect missionary
- B. See Class 206, Lesson 30, summarized below.
- C. Every church should support this missionary.
- D. A Copy of the Scriptures is the Perfect Missionary.
 - We still need workers in the field
 - We need sowers, waterers, and reapers
 - The sower soweth the word
 - The word of God does the saving through the power of God (1 Peter 1:23-25)
 - Our responsibility is to provide the word of the gospel to the lost.
 1. The Scripture Missionary is Always Inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16)
 2. The Scripture Missionary Always says the Right Things

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3. The Scripture Missionary Always Ministers to the Saved and the Lost
4. The Scripture Missionary Never Wastes Time (Isaiah 55:11)
5. The Scripture Missionary Always Produces Good Fruit
6. The Scripture Missionary is Always Ready to Preach
7. The Scripture Missionary Never Rests or Gets Tired
8. The Scripture Missionary Never Murmurs or Complains
9. The Scripture Missionary Always has a Good Testimony
10. The Scripture Missionary Never Makes Mistakes
11. The Scripture Missionary is Never Sick or Unable to Work
12. The Scripture Missionary is Never Afraid
13. The Scripture Missionary is Instant in All Seasons
14. The Scripture Missionary Can Get into Any Place
15. The Scripture Missionary Does Not Need Wisdom
16. The Scripture Missionary Needs Little Monthly Support
17. The Scripture Missionary is Available 24-7
18. The Scripture Missionary is Never Distracted
19. The Scripture Missionary is Always Faithful to the Task
20. The Scripture Missionary Can Cross Borders, Languages, and Cultures
21. The Scripture Missionary is Never Discouraged
22. The Scripture Missionary Never Fails
23. The Scripture Missionary is Easily Reproduced