

BASIC CONCEPTS of the BIBLE

Outline

Basic concepts of the Bible describe the foundational truths revealed in the Bible. Because the Bible is about God's relationship to the human race, basic concepts of the Bible is a study of the principles involved in our relationship to God and how He wants us to live. We could compare these concepts to the basic concepts of math: kinds of numbers, addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

On this outline, first line of each topic is the content of the lesson, and the second line is the personal application of the lesson.

Introduction

Poles of Influence/Orientation

- Cultural influences on our concept of God, reality, and our worldview
- Preparing for a more open reception of the Bible

The Bad News

The Law of Sin and Death

- God's attributes and nature require the spiritual law of sin and death
- Understanding our legal need for a Savior

Human Design

- Three-fold being, life, death, anxiety, human motivation, the human dilemma
- Understanding our experiential need for a Savior

Human Religions

- The spiritual dilemma, classifications of human responses, ineffectiveness of each
- Understanding our helplessness to solve our spiritual dilemma

The Good News

The Substitute

- The need for a substitute, identification of the substitute, deity of Christ, application of substitute
- Knowing that we can be reconciled to God only through Christ

The New Birth

- The need for new birth, Adamic principle, in Christ, results of new birth in the present and in eternity
- Understanding our security in Christ and the experience of being a child of God

The Christian Life

Spiritual Growth

- Christian responsibility, process of growth, resources for growth, consequences of failure to grow
- Understanding how and why to live the Christian life

Spiritual Warfare

- Nature of war; God's eternal purpose and strategy; Satan's origin, goal, and strategies; our involvement
- Understanding the broad spiritual context of our lives and our responsibility to faithfully serve Christ

The Church

- God's provision to maintain truth and support believers; nature, operation and identity of the church
- Knowledge of where to serve Christ

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The Church

Note: This outline is the flow of ideas and the explanations of this basic concept. The Scripture references, which are the heart of this study, should be examined carefully.

I. The truth of God's Word must be preserved from generation to generation.

Truth is not just words on a page, but the accurate understanding of the message of the words.

A. Why is the truth of God's Word important?

1. To the unbeliever

Unbelievers need the truth to become saved. (1 Tim. 2:4; Jn. 14:6)

2. To the believer

Believers need the truth to grow spiritually. (Eph. 4:13-15; Jn. 8:30-31)

B. There are forces against the truth.

1. Satan

As we saw in the spiritual warfare deception is one of Satan's primary strategies in his war against God. (Jn. 8:44; Gen. 3:1-6; Rev. 12:7-9)

2. Unbelievers

Unbelievers are spiritually dead lacking spiritual discernment. They are blinded to the gospel; therefore, they communicate their false viewpoints. (2 Cor. 4:3-4; Lk. 6:45)

3. Believers

Believers can be an influence against the truth because they have inaccurate understanding from failure to be taught or because they live a carnal, hypocritical life. (1 Cor. 3:1-3, 13:11-13; Titus 2:5; Eph. 4:14-15)

II. The House of Witness is God's plan for preserving the truth.

A. The House of Witness preserves the truth.

God's house is the institution where truth is taught, witnessed, to the world.

(1 Tim. 3:15; Num. 17:6-9)

B. What are the Houses of Witness?

There are four institutions that are houses of witness: 1) The Tabernacle built when Israel was in the wilderness and used until the kingdom of Israel was established, 2) the Temple first built by Solomon was used until the time of Christ, 3) the Church was established by Jesus and replaced the Temple, 4) the New Temple to be used during the Millennial Kingdom of Christ.

C. The Houses of Witness receives a special empowerment.

1. The Tabernacle (Ex. 40:33-35)

2. The Temple (1 Kings 8:10-11)

3. The Church (Acts 2:1-4, 47)

4. The New Temple (Ezk. 43:1-6, 44:4-5)

D. The Houses of Witness are teaching institutions.

1. The Tabernacle (Ex. 24:12)

2. The Temple (2 Chr. 15:3)

3. The Church (Mt. 28:18-20)

4. The New Temple (Ezk. 44:23)

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E. The church is God's house today. (1Tim. 3:15)

III. What is the Church?

There are many definitions of the word *church* today. It can be used to mean a building, a denomination, a worship event, religion in general, or even any religious activity. Because the church is so important in God's plan, we must have the correct, Biblical definition and usage of the word.

A. What is the Biblical definition of *church*?

1. How do we define words?

We define words by usage, not etymology. EX's: automobile, submarine, hippopotamus

2. How do we use words?

a) We use words in a specific sense referring to a particular object or objects.

b) We use words in a general or generic sense referring to a kind of object: Bible, diamond, dog, family.

3. How is *church* used in the Scriptures?

The word translated *church* is *ekklesia*. It is used 117 times in the N. T. In Acts 19, it is translated assembly three times in reference to the assembly of the citizens of Ephesus.

The other 114 times it is translated *church*. In Acts 7 it refers to the congregation of the children of Israel in the wilderness. The other 113 times it refers to Jesus' Church.

4. What is Jesus' church?

a) In the New Testament, Jesus' church refers to a specific assembly or assemblies of believers at a particular place, 102 times. (EX's Acts 8:1; Gal. 1:2)

b) In the New Testament, Jesus church refers to assemblies of believers in a general sense in contrast to other kinds of assemblies. (EX's Mt. 18:17; 1 Tim. 3:5, 5:16)

B. What are the characteristics of Jesus *church*?

1. Members: Properly baptized believers (Acts 2:41, 47; Acts 19:1-7)

2. Doctrine and practice: Salvation by grace, living by apostles instructions (Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 11:1-2)

3. Spirit and attitude: Love (Rev, 2:1-5)

4. Lineage: Christ commissioned apostles, and those not authorized through them were Not empowered. (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-7) Because Christ promised that "the gates of hell shall not prevail against" His church, there have been churches with these characteristics from the time of Christ until today.

IV. What is the Church's mission? (Mt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:14-15; Lk. 24:46-49)

The Great Commission was given to the church. Although delivered personally to the apostles, it did not end with the apostles. They were the first in the church. (1 Cor. 12:28) When we follow the narrative from the giving of the commission through Acts 1 and 2, we see that the apostles and those added to them were identified as the church in Acts 2:47.

A. The Church's mission is to evangelize the world.

1. By local testimony (Acts 1:8)

2. By sending missionaries (Mt. 28:18-20; Acts 13:1-4)

B. The Church's mission is to train disciples.

1. Teaching (Mt. 28:18-20; Eph. 4:11-16)

2. Example (Jn. 13:13; 1 Ti. 4:11-12; Titus 2:1-8)

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V. How is a Church supposed to operate?

A. The Bible is its final authority. (1 Cor. 14:37; Eph. 2:19-22; 2 Pet. 1-2)

B. The Holy Spirit is its administrator. (Jn. 16:7; Acts 13:1-4; 15:28, 20:28; Rom. 12:3-8; 1 Cor. 12, 14)

C. Spiritual leaders direct the church.

1. Pastors teach and guide the spiritual direction of the church (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9)
2. Deacons care for the physical facets of the ministry of the church (Acts 6:1-8, 1 Tim. 3:8-13)

D. The members of the assembly have responsibilities.

1. To fulfill the commission (Mt. 28:18-20)

Individual members witnessing as they live their lives. The church authorizes missionaries to carry the gospel elsewhere. The members of the church training one another (Eph. 4:11-16)

2. To assemble (Heb. 10:25)

Receiving the Word of God (Eph. 4:11-12, 2 Tim. 4:1-2) encouraging one another in word and music (Col. 3:16), serving one another by differing abilities enabled by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:3-8, 1 Cor. 12:14-31), etc.

3. To practice the ordinances (1 Cor 11:2)

Baptism and the Lord's Supper are visual aids. Baptism reflecting the believer's death burial and resurrection with Christ is a prerequisite to church membership. (Acts 2:41) The Lord's Supper is a memorial to Christ's death and a renewal of our covenant in the church. (1 Cor. 11:20-34)

4. To follow the instructions of the New Testament (1 Cor. 14:37)

VI. Believers are expected to serve the Lord in the Church. (Eph. 3:20-21)

A. To God be glory in the church. (Eph. 3:21)

B. The New Testament pattern (Acts 2:41; 2Cor. 11:28)

C. The classification of cultures (1 Cor. 10:32)

D. Christ's love for the church (Eph. 5:25)

NOTE: The "one another" commands were intended to be fulfilled in the church.

- Love one another (Jn. 13:34)
- Prefer one another (Rom. 12:10)
- Be like minded one toward another (Rom. 15:5)
- Greet one another (1 Cor. 16:20)
- Serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
- Bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2)
- Forbear one another (Eph. 4:2)
- Forgive one another (Eph. 4:32)
- Submit yourselves one to another (Eph. 5:21)
- Consider one another (Heb. 10:24)
- Forsake not assembling ourselves together (Heb.10:25)

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*Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think,
according to the power that worketh in us,
unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.*

Amen.

Eph. 20-21