

Fundamentals *of the* Christian Faith

*O the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and knowledge of God!
how unsearchable are his judgments,
and his ways past finding out!
For who hath known the mind of the Lord?
or who hath been his counsellor?
Or who hath first given to him,
and it shall be recompensed unto him again?
For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things:
to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*

Romans 11:33-36

Trinity Bible Church
Sunday School
Summer 2008

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Introduction

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge,”*¹ warned the prophet Hosea over 2,500 years ago. The nation Israel was facing the imminent judgment of the LORD God. God had chosen them to bless and to be a blessing, but instead, they had become indistinguishable from the pagan nations in their great sinfulness. With this cryptic comment, Hosea identified the root cause of their apostasy: there was no knowledge of God in the land.

We understand such a statement when made about unregenerate men. The natural man is in bondage to sin and neither knows nor seeks God. But here, Hosea is speaking about God’s chosen people. It was the nation which had seen the very visible hand of God in their deliverance from bondage in Egypt and their possession of the Promised Land. It was the nation which had uniquely received the revelation of God through the Law of Moses, the psalms of King David and the wisdom of his son Solomon. It was the nation among whom God had revealed His glory in the Tabernacle and the Temple. It was the nation to whom God had spoken by the prophets. It was the nation that had been given tremendous opportunities to learn of God, and, from what we learn from the historical accounts, a nation that still followed many of the proscribed religious practices. They still claimed the LORD God as their God. But they were sinful in heart and conduct and God’s wrath was about to fall upon them. To this people, the prophet Hosea came with a call to repentance. His great concern was not primarily their sins, which were many and heinous, but the root

¹ Hosea 4:6

problem: there was no knowledge of God in the land.

How can this be and how does the knowledge of God pertain to the conduct of His people? The Bible is very explicit in the place it gives to the knowledge of God in the work of salvation. As already noted, our condition as natural, unregenerate people is characterized by ignorance of God. It is by the Divine work of reversing this spiritual ignorance and shedding upon us the light of the knowledge of Jesus Christ that we come to salvation through faith in Him.²

*And this is life eternal,
that they might know thee
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ,
whom thou hast sent.
John 17:3*

We come to know God through Jesus Christ and receive eternal salvation. Subsequently, growth in holiness comes through the knowledge of God in Christ.³ As we increase in the knowledge of God, we are transformed daily into

the image of Jesus Christ. Ultimately, when Christ returns, there will be a wonderful expansion of our knowledge of God.⁴ Our understanding will no longer be impeded by the residual effects of sin. Therefore, where there is no knowledge of God, there is no salvation, no holiness and no hope of glorification.

How can we avoid the fatal flaw of Hosea’s age? Surely Hosea is not saying that our condition as God’s people is determined by our ability to recite the teachings of the Bible. What does he mean when he speaks of the knowledge of God? Clearly, it must include a basic knowledge of the truths about God, His person and work. But

² 2 Corinthians 4:6

³ John 17:17; 2 Peter 1:3-4;
2 Timothy 3:16-17

⁴ 1 Corinthians 13:12

Introduction (continued)

more than that, it is a penetration of that truth into the very heart and soul of the child of God. It is truth mixed with faith and love. True knowledge of God leads to a fear of God Who is holy, but also to a delight in God Who is good. It is evidenced by the pursuit of God and His holiness. It is a knowledge that grips the believer as much as the believer grips it. It is a knowledge that works transformation of character and leads men to desire Christ and His holiness.⁵

It is the burden of the Scripture writers, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to provide this knowledge of God, and they are explicit in the exhortations to this end.⁶ The life of the people of God begins with a revelation of the knowledge of God, and continues with a growing understanding of the glory and majesty of our sovereign, gracious God. The hope of every believer should be to stand in the presence of Jesus Christ our Savior and know Him more clearly than we could ever imagine. This hope is expressed by seeking to know Him more in this lifetime.

The mission of the church is to focus upon this great task of leading the people of God to an increasing knowledge of God.⁷ Only as the people of God are girded with a true knowledge of God will they be able to please Him and avoid sin.⁸ Had this pursuit of the knowledge of God characterized the

people of Hosea's day, they would not have faced God's wrath. The same is true of our own generation. It is with this concern that the study series in this booklet has been prepared. In this study, we will attempt to provide an introduction to some of the more fundamental truths of the Christian faith. We will focus upon foundational truths about God, His Person and His Works. God's glory is seen most clearly in the work of salvation through His Son, and these truths will be the central part of this study. The study is presented with a firm belief in the fact that the knowledge of God is essential to spiritual growth. It is the means of the transformation of the child of God into the image of Christ.⁹

The complaint of Hosea is not ancient history. It is the abiding danger of every generation of believers, including those of our own age. The Bible is more widely disseminated and the Christian message is more broadly proclaimed throughout the world in printed and electronic media than in any previous generation. Sadly, it seems true that the ignorance of God is more extensive than in any generation also. The people of God must seek remedy for this dilemma. They must pursue the knowledge of God with great diligence and perseverance.¹⁰ This study should be considered a beginning, and not an ending. For the new believer, it is an introduction. For the more mature believer, it is a re-examination of the foundation of our salvation. There is much more to be learned, but there cannot be less for those who truly seek a knowledge of God.

⁵ Philippians 3:10

⁶ Proverbs 2:1-5; John 17:3;
Philippians 3:8; Colossians 1:10;
1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18

⁷ Ephesians 4:11-16

⁸ John 17:26; Psalm 119:11;
Ephesians 6:11

⁹ 2 Corinthians 3:18

¹⁰ 2 Timothy 2:15

SCHEDULE

- June 1, 2008 Lesson 1: The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice
2 Timothy 3:1-4:5
- June 8, 2008 Lesson 2: The Bible
1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21;
1 Corinthians 2:6-12
- June 15, 2008 Lesson 3: The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:7-9, 16-17
- June 22, 2008 Lesson 4: Creation
Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 19:1-6; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:18-20

The Doctrines of Grace

- June 29, 2008 Lesson 5: Salvation – Part 1: Total Depravity of Man
Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:9-20; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3
- July 6, 2008 Lesson 6: Salvation – Part 2: Unconditional Election
Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14
- July 13, 2008 Lesson 7: Salvation – Part 3: Limited Atonement
John 10:11, 15-16; Ephesians 2:4-7; 5:25-27; 1 Peter 2:24
- July 20, 2008 Lesson 8: Salvation – Part 4: Irresistible Grace
John 6:44, 63-65; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31;
Galatians 1:15-16
- July 27, 2008 Lesson 9: Salvation – Part 5: Perseverance of the Saints
John 10:27, 28; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 John 1:5-7;
1 John 2:3-5, 15-17, 19

- August 3, 2008 Lesson 10: The Christian Life
1 Peter 2:2-3; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4;
Ephesians 4:17-24
- August 10, 2008 Lesson 11: The Christian's Three Enemies
Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Peter 5:6-10
- August 17, 2008 Lesson 12: The Church
1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 1:1-3, 21-24;
1 Timothy 3:1-13
- August 24, 2008 Lesson 13: The Last Things
John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:1-31;
Matthew 25:31-46
- August 31, 2008 Lesson 14: Review
Joshua 1:8; Matthew 7:21-29; Colossians 1:9-14;
James 1:19-27; 4:17

Scripture Memory

Isaiah 55:6-11

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.

Hebrews 13:20-21

20. Now the God of peace,
that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,
that great shepherd of the sheep,
through the blood of the everlasting covenant,
21. Make you perfect in every good work to do his will,
working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight,
through Jesus Christ;
to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Amazing Grace

John Newton, 1779

Traditional American melody
Arr. by Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921

1. A - maz - ing grace-how sweet the sound- That saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. And when this flesh and heart shall fail, And mor - tal life shall cease,
 5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright shin - ing as the sun,

I once was lost, but now am found— Was blind, but now I see.
 How pre - cious did that grace ap - pear The hour I first be - lieved!
 'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
 I shall pos - sess with - in the veil A life of joy and peace.
 We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we've first be - gun.

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Lesson 1: The Importance of Doctrine in Faith and Practice

2 Timothy 3:1-4:5

Memory: Isaiah 55:6

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *In a day when in many churches the importance of Biblical doctrine is either minimized or denied altogether, it is important for Christians to see the place that doctrine has in Scripture, along with the practical application of those doctrines to daily living.*

1. What will men be like in the last days?
2. Why did Paul say to turn away from these evil men?
3. Why did Paul compare these men to Jannes and Jambres?
4. What was the testimony of Paul's life to Timothy?
5. How could Timothy guard himself against false teachers?
6. What did Paul say about Scripture?
7. What charge did Paul give to Timothy?
8. What did Paul tell Timothy about the time to come?
9. What was Timothy's responsibility?

Lesson 2: The Bible
1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21;
1 Corinthians 2:6-12

Memory: Isaiah 55:6-7

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *To teach the verbal inspiration of the Scripture.*

1 Thessalonians 2:13

1. For what was Paul thankful about the Thessalonian believers?

2 Timothy 3:16-17

2. Why is Scripture so valuable to us?

2 Peter 1:19-21

3. What did Peter say about the prophetic word?

4. How did we get the prophecy of the Scripture?

1 Corinthians 2:6-12

5. What did Paul say was not true about the wisdom he spoke?

6. What did Paul say was true about the wisdom he spoke?

7. What evidence did Paul have that the rulers of this age did not know God's wisdom?

8. What lesson did Paul learn from the Old Testament Scripture?

9. What has God done that we might understand His wisdom?

Lesson 3: The Godhead – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
Matthew 28:18-20; 2 Corinthians 13:14; John 14:7-9, 16-17

Memory: Isaiah 55:6-8

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

PURPOSE: *To show that there are three Persons in the Godhead, a brief introduction to their attributes, and the work of each in salvation.*

Matthew 28:18-20

1. What claims did Jesus make about Himself in these verses?
2. What command did Jesus give His disciples?
3. How does this passage teach the doctrine of the Trinity?

2 Corinthians 13:14

4. How does this passage support the doctrine of the Trinity?

John 14:7-9

5. How can we know the Father?
6. What did Philip ask?
7. How did Jesus answer Philip?

John 14:16-17

8. How do we receive the Spirit of Truth?
9. How do the disciples of Jesus differ from the world?

Lesson 4: Creation

Genesis 1:1-2:25; Psalm 19:1-6; John 1:1-3; Romans 1:18-20

Memory: Isaiah 55:6-9

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *To examine the biblical account of creation and to show how God has glorified Himself in creation.*

Genesis 1:1-2:25

1. What is the first claim in the Bible?
2. How did God create the heavens and the earth?
3. What did God make on each of the six days of creation?
4. What is unique about the creation of man?
5. What special duty did God give to man?
6. Why did God create Eve?

Psalm 19:1-6

7. What is the testimony of creation?

John 1:1-3

8. What does this text teach about the creation of the world?

Romans 1:18-20

9. What is the testimony of creation?

Lesson 5: Salvation – Part 1: Total Depravity of Man
Genesis 3; Psalm 51:5; Romans 3:9-20; 5:12; Ephesians 2:1-3

Memory: Isaiah 55:6-10

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

PURPOSE: *To show from Scripture the extent to which man has been affected by Adam’s sin.*

Genesis 3

1. How did the serpent tempt the woman?
2. Why did Eve take the forbidden fruit?
3. What happened to Adam and Eve when the forbidden fruit was eaten?
4. What judgments did the LORD God pronounce?
On the serpent On Eve On Adam
5. What did the LORD God do after pronouncing judgment upon Adam and Eve?

Psalm 51:5

6. What did David believe about his condition at birth?

Romans 3:9-20

7. What did Paul mean when he said that both Jews and Gentiles were “under sin”?

Romans 5:12

8. Why are all men sinners?

Ephesians 2:1-3

9. What does it mean to be dead in trespasses and sins?

Lesson 6: Salvation – Part 2: Unconditional Election
Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:3-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

Memory: Isaiah 55:6-11

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

PURPOSE: *To show the Father’s work of choosing those who would be saved.*

Romans 8:28-30

1. For whom will all things work together for good?

2. Who will be glorified?

Ephesians 1:3-6

3. Why did Paul bless the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ?

4. What did God choose before the foundation of the world?

5. Why did God do this?

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14

6. Why was Paul bound to give thanks to God?

7. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in salvation?

8. What is the role of the Word of God in salvation?

9. What reason is there to preach the Gospel?

Lesson 7: Salvation – Part 3: Limited Atonement
John 10:11, 15-16; Ephesians 2:4-7; 5:25-27; 1 Peter 2:24

Memory: Hebrews 13:20 and review

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

PURPOSE: *To answer from Scripture the question, “For whom did Christ die?”*

John 10:11, 15-16

1. Who is the Good Shepherd, and what does He do?
2. For whom did Jesus lay down His life?
3. What did Jesus say about other sheep?

Ephesians 2:4-7

4. What did God do for us?
5. Why did God do this?

Ephesians 5:25-27

6. What pattern does Christ set for a husband?
7. For whom did Christ give Himself?
8. Why did Christ give Himself?

1 Peter 2:24

9. What did Christ accomplish on the cross?

Lesson 8: Salvation – Part 4: Irresistible Grace

John 6:44, 63-65; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Galatians 1:15-16

Memory: Hebrews 13:21 and review

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

PURPOSE: *To show the work of God in drawing sinners to Christ in order that they might be saved.*

John 6:44

1. What does it mean to come to Jesus, and who can come?

John 6:63-65

2. What is the source of life?

3. How can anyone come to Jesus?

Romans 8:28-30

4. What does it mean to be called of God?

5. How does this text teach the doctrine of irresistible grace?

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

6. Why does no one have cause to glory in the presence of God?

7. What does Christ become for those who are in Him?

8. Why must all believers glory in the Lord?

Galatians 1:15-16

9. When did Paul become a believer in Christ?

Lesson 9: Salvation – Part 5: Perseverance of the Saints
John 10:27, 28; Colossians 1:21-23; 1 John 1:5-7; 2:3-5, 15-17, 19

Memory: Review

Hymn: “Amazing Grace”

***PURPOSE:** To emphasize the practical effects of salvation which will be evident in the life of a person who has really been saved.*

John 10:27, 28

1. Why are the sheep eternally secure?

Colossians 1:21-23

2. What transformation is accomplished by Christ’s death?

3. What is the evidence of this work of transformation?

1 John 1:5-7

4. What message did John declare, and where did he get this message?

5. What is the significance of our walk?

1 John 2:3-5

6. What comes from keeping God’s commandments?

1 John 2:15-17

7. Why did John command us not to love the world?

8. What did John teach about the world?

1 John 2:19

9. What is the difference between those with true faith and those with a false profession of faith?

Lesson 10: The Christian Life
1 Peter 2:2-3; 2 Peter 3:18; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Ephesians 4:17-24

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *To show that after a person is born again he or she needs to grow as a Christian.*

1 Peter 2:2-3

1. Why did Peter speak of babies and milk?

2. To whom was Peter speaking?

2 Peter 3:18

3. What was Peter's final word to the Church?

1 Corinthians 3:1-4

4. Why did Paul speak of babies and milk?

5. What does it mean to be carnal?

Ephesians 4:17-24

6. What did Paul say about the walk of the Ephesians?

7. How did Paul describe the unbelieving Gentiles?

8. What is the old man that Paul said to put off?

9. What is the new man that Paul said to put on?

Lesson 11: The Christian's Three Enemies
Romans 12:1-2; Galatians 5:16-26; 1 Peter 5:6-10

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

***PURPOSE:** To show that there are three major enemies every child of God faces: the world, the flesh, and the Devil, and how Christians are to deal with each of them.*

Romans 12:1-2

1. What is our reasonable service?

2. What can we learn about the will of God, and how can we learn it?

Galatians 5:16-26

3. What conflict is present within the believer?

4. What are the works of the flesh?

5. What is the fruit of the Spirit?

6. What provision has been made for us to walk in the Spirit?

1 Peter 5:6-10

7. Why is the might of God a comfort to believers?

8. Why must the people of God be sober and watchful?

9. How can we resist the devil?

Lesson 12: The Church
1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 1:1-3;
Galatians 1:21-24; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

***PURPOSE:** To point out how the word "Church" is used in Scripture, who its leaders are, and what specifically the ministry of the Church is.*

1 Corinthians 12:13

1. What does this verse teach about the Church?

Ephesians 4:11-16

2. What did Christ give to the Church?

3. What is the purpose of the offices in the Church?

4. What should be expected from the ministry of a pastor-teacher?

Galatians 1:1-3

5. To whom did Paul write this epistle?

Galatians 1:21-24

6. Who heard about Paul's conversion and ministry, and how did they react?

1 Timothy 3:1-13

7. What personal characteristics are required of a bishop or deacon?

8. What did Paul teach Timothy about the family life of a bishop or deacon?

9. Why is the public testimony of the bishop so important?

Lesson 13: The Last Things

John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Matthew 24:1-31; 25:31-46

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *To acquaint us briefly with prophecy which is yet to be fulfilled.*

John 14:1-3

1. What word of comfort did Jesus speak to His disciples?

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

2. What did Paul teach about those who had "fallen asleep"?

3. How did Paul describe the coming of the Lord?

Matthew 24:1-31

4. What are the beginning of sorrows?

5. What is the time of great tribulation?

6. What will happen immediately after the time of great tribulation?

Matthew 25:31-46

7. What will the Son of Man do when He comes?

8. What will happen to the sheep, and why?

9. What will happen to the goats, and why?

Lesson 14: Review

Joshua 1:8; Matthew 7:21-29; Colossians 1:9-14; James 1:19-27; 4:17

Memory: Review

Hymn: "Amazing Grace"

PURPOSE: *To re-emphasize the practical effect that the knowledge of the Scriptures should have upon our lives.*

Joshua 1:8

1. What did the LORD tell Joshua about the Book of the Law?

Matthew 7:21-29

2. Who will enter the Kingdom of God, and who will not?

3. How did Jesus describe the wise man and the foolish man?

Colossians 1:9-14

4. What prayer did Paul make for the Colossian believers?

5. Why should we give thanks to God our Father?

James 1:19-27

6. What word of instruction did James give to his beloved brethren?

7. Why did James liken the Word of God to a mirror?

8. What is true religion?

James 4:17

9. What is sin?