

C. Its Example: The bread is symbolic of His broken body, broken in death for us. The cup symbolizes His shed blood through which we have redemption and cleansing.

1. Jesus took the \_\_\_\_\_ and blessed it; He took the \_\_\_\_\_ and gave thanks. (Matthew 26:26,27)
2. The disciples came together in the early Church to \_\_\_\_\_. (Acts 20:7)  
(How often should we observe it? As often as the Local Church decides. I Corinthians 11:26.)

IV. Stewardship - God has a plan for financing His program.

A. God's Pattern for Giving, is Tithing. It takes money to operate the Church and its programs. Giving is a Christian grace and helps one mature spiritually.

1. Personal tithing - "Let \_\_\_\_\_ lay him in store." (I Corinthians 16:2)
2. Periodic tithing - "Upon the \_\_\_\_\_ of the week." (I Corinthians 16:2)
3. Proportional tithing - "As God hath \_\_\_\_\_ him." (I Corinthians 16:2)

B. God's Plan for Giving.

1. In the Old Testament, the Jew began by giving 1/10 of his increase (tithes) to the Lord.
  - a. To hold this back was to rob God - "Will a man \_\_\_\_\_ God? Yet ye have \_\_\_\_\_ me. But ye say, Wherein have we \_\_\_\_\_ thee? In tithes and offerings." (Malachi 4:8)
  - b. Even before the Law of Moses, believers gave tithes to the Lord. Genesis 14:20 tells us that Abraham "gave Him \_\_\_\_\_ of all."
2. The New Testament goes beyond the one-tenth for here we are told to give:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (II Corinthians 9:7)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (II Corinthians 8:12)

C. God's Pre-requisite in Giving:

1. They first gave \_\_\_\_\_ (II Corinthians 8:5)
2. There be first a \_\_\_\_\_ (II Corinthians 8:12)

V. A Final Thought

The Scriptures make it plain that the New Testament, Independent, Bible-preaching, Local Church is God's program for today. Every believer of this age, has a Divine responsibility to be a baptized member, serving faithfully in a local church.

# *Growing in Grace*

## *Lesson Two*

## CHRISTIAN GROWTH AND THE LOCAL CHURCH

### Review from Lesson One:

(Know the answers to these questions before doing Lesson Two.)

1. Why does a person need to be born-again?
2. How is a person born-again?
3. What happens when you are born-again?
4. What does God expect of a born-again person?

(The Christian life entered through the "New Birth" is just that - a life. A new Christian is compared to a "baby" (I Peter 2:2) and is commanded to grow in grace (II Peter 3:18) to maturity. God has ordained that the Local Church should be the place where Christians learn to live the Christian life (I Timothy 3:15). Christian growth activities connected with the Local Church are Baptism, the Lord's Supper, membership, attendance, and stewardship.)

### I. Believer's Baptism

A. What is the Method of Baptism According to the Scripture? (The word baptize" comes from a Greek word "baptizo" which means "to dip, plunge or immerse." In the sense of the believer's baptism it never means to pour or sprinkle as that would never depict the true meaning and purpose of Scriptural baptism.)

1. John baptized near Aenon because there was \_\_\_\_\_ water there. (John 3:23)
2. Philip and the Eunuch went down both \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and he \_\_\_\_\_ him. (Acts 8:38)

### B. What is the Meaning of Baptism?

1. It is a three-fold memorial. Write the three memorials it depicts from Romans 6:3-6:
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_
2. It is an OUTWARD DEMONSTRATION of our salvation, signifying the spiritual death of the believer's old man of sin, the spiritual burial of the old man of sin, and the spiritual resurrection of the new man in Christ Jesus.

### C. Why is Baptism Important?

1. It is God's command:
  - a. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you;" (Matthew 28:19, 20)
  - b. Jesus said, "If ye \_\_\_\_\_ me, keep My \_\_\_\_\_." (John 14:15)
2. Was Christ baptized to set the example?  
Matthew 3:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_
3. The early Church practiced it. (Acts 2:41)
4. It is a public testimony for faith in Christ. (Matthew 10:32)

### D. Who Should be Baptized?

1. Only those that \_\_\_\_\_ can be baptized. (Acts 8:36,37)
2. Then they that gladly received his \_\_\_\_\_ were \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41)
3. This excludes baptism of babies because they can't believe on Christ and there is not one New Testament record of baby baptism.

### E. When Should You be Baptized?

1. As soon as possible after receiving Christ.
  - a. "Then \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ His word were \_\_\_\_\_; and the \_\_\_\_\_ there were added unto them about three thousand souls." (Acts 2:41)

- b. "And he took them the \_\_\_\_\_ of the night.. and was baptized, he and all his \_\_\_\_\_." (Acts 16:33)

## II. Church Membership

### A. Who May Join a Church?

1. What two pre-requisites came before anyone was added to a Church?
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41)
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:41)
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ adds to the Church those that are being \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:47)

### B. Why Should You Join a Church?

1. The Bible teaches it - Not to forsake the \_\_\_\_\_ (Hebrews 10:25)
2. Believers in New Testament times automatically were added to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 2:47)
3. For growth and fellowship.
  - a. "They continued in the Apostles \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_" (Acts 2:42)
  - b. "For the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ." (Ephesians 4:12)
4. The Church is to be the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ (I Timothy 3:15)

### C. What Kind of Church Should You Join?

1. One that teaches and practices membership of only born-again Christians, and baptism by immersion. (Acts 2:41)
2. One that teaches and builds up the people of God. (Acts 20:26-28)
3. One that reaches the lost for Christ in local church evangelism/personal evangelism. (Acts 1:8)
4. One that exercises discipline and Godly love over the membership. (Matthew 18:15-17 & I Corinthians 5)
5. One that practices Biblical separation from worldliness, false doctrine, and false teachers. (II Corinthians 6:14-18)

### D. What is the Mission of the Church? (SEE Matthew 28:19,20)

1. "Go ye therefore and \_\_\_\_\_ all nations (EVANGELIZE THE LOST)...
2. \_\_\_\_\_ them in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (IMMERSE BELIEVERS)...
3. \_\_\_\_\_ them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you." (TEACH THE CONVERTS)

## III. The Lord's Supper (and Baptism were the only two ordinances performed by New Testament Local Churches).

### A. Its Meaning:

1. It is a time of remembrance: "This do in \_\_\_\_\_ of Me." (I Corinthians 11:24)
2. It is a time of obedience: "This \_\_\_\_\_ as oft as ye drink it ." (I Corinthians 11:25)
3. It is a time of examination: "But let a man \_\_\_\_\_" (I Corinthians 11:28)
4. It is performed as a prophecy: "Ye do show the Lord's death \_\_\_\_\_" (I Corinthians 11:26)

### B. Who May Partake?

1. Obedient, believers. "For he that eateth and drinketh \_\_\_\_\_ eateth and drinketh \_\_\_\_\_ to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ among you, and many \_\_\_\_\_" (physical death). (I Corinthians 11:29,30)