

God's Greatest Gifts



GULF SHORES
CHURCH OF CHRIST

BIBLE CLASS STUDY GUIDE

Prepared by Ray Reynolds



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This study guide was created by Ray Reynolds for use in Bible classes at the Gulf Shores Church of Christ (Gulf Shores, AL). The material presented in this class series will be gleaned from personal notes, the New King James Study Bible, and other various sources.

LESSON #1 = HIS PRESENCE (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: John 14:15-21

Introduction: People are surrounded by gifts from God: Rain and sunshine (**Matthew 5:45**), the earth and fruitful seasons (**Acts 14:17**), and life itself is a gift from God (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). We can learn a lot about God by looking at His gifts. **James 1:17** says that God's gifts are good and God's gifts are perfect. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Presence. . . .

Discussion:

I. The Holy Spirit Is A Gift From God

- A. The presence of God was sent by Jesus.
John 14:15-21, Acts 2:38-39, Acts 10:45
- B. The presence of God humbles us.
Genesis 3:8, Genesis 4:16, Jonah 1:3, Psalm 51:11
- C. The presence of God changes us.
I Corinthians 1:27-29, I Peter 1:15-16, Galatians 5:22-23, John 15:1-8
- D. God's presence is a privilege.
Psalms 140:13

II. The Holy Spirit Is A Good Gift

- A. The Holy Spirit is good because He brings us joy.
Psalms 16:11, Luke 15:10, John 15:11, I Thessalonians 2:19-20
- B. The Holy Spirit is good because He causes us to worship.
Psalms 100:2, John 4:24, I Corinthians 3:16
- C. The Holy Spirit is good because He helps us when we pray.
Hebrews 9:24, Romans 8:26-27
- D. The Holy Spirit is good because He brings us security.
II Corinthians 1:22, Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, II Timothy 2:19, Jude 1:24-25
I Chronicles 16:27

III. The Holy Spirit Is A Perfect Gift

- A. The presence of God is all that Moses needed to go before Pharaoh.
Exodus 33:14
- B. The presence of God is all that David needed to see His deliverance.
Psalms 139:7-10
- C. The presence of God is all that Paul needed to be comforted.
II Timothy 4:16-18
- D. Jeremiah pleaded with the people to cry out before the presence of God.
Lamentations 2:19
- E. The Holy Spirit is all you will ever need to sustain you.
Hebrews 6:4-6

Conclusion: Remember that the promise of God's Holy Spirit is given to ALL who are willing to accept Christ, repent of their sins, and are baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:28-39**). Are you thankful for God's presence? Are you enjoying God's presence?

LESSON #2 = HIS PLAN (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: **Romans 1:16-17**

Introduction: People are surrounded by gifts from God: Rain and sunshine (**Matthew 5:45**). The earth and fruitful seasons (**Acts 14:17**). Life itself is a gift from God. (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). We can learn a lot about God by looking at His gifts. **James 1:17** says that God's gifts are good and God's gifts are perfect. When we study God's Holy Word, from cover to cover, I believe that that it reveals some of God's greatest gifts. I hope and pray that you will be here each Sunday to learn about God's greatest gifts. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Plan/Salvation. . . .

Discussion:

I. Salvation Is A Gift From God

A. Salvation has a design and purpose.

Genesis 3:15, John 3:16, Hebrews 1:1-2, Hebrews 2:1-4

B. Salvation is a planned gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9, Mark 16:16, I Peter 1:9, Philippians 2:12

C. Salvation is a conditional gift.

Titus 2:11-12, Romans 2:11, I Peter 1:17, Hebrews 5:8-9

D. Salvation can be neglected.

Hebrews 2:1-4, Romans 5:1, II Peter 3:9, Romans 10:10, I Peter 3:10, 21, Philippians 2:12, Revelation 2:10, John 15:1-8

II. Salvation Is A Good Gift

A. It is good because of the consequences of sin.

Isaiah 59:1-2, Ephesians 2:11-12, Romans 6:16-17

B. It is good because we are unable to save ourselves.

Ephesians 2:8-9, Titus 3:5

C. It is good because we are worthless without God.

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

III. Salvation Is A Perfect Gift

A. Salvation is perfect because we are delivered.

Romans 8:1-3, Hebrews 10:1-4, Hebrews 8:12

B. Salvation is perfect because we can be saved eternally.

II Peter 1:5-11

C. Salvation is perfect because we have a perfect sacrifice.

I Peter 2:21-25

Conclusion: Are you ready to be saved? "*Now is the day of salvation*" (**II Corinthians 6:2**). God is willing, ready and able to save you right now! You should be willing, ready, and responsive and God WILL save you. Gratitude for the goodness of God should lead us to obedience (**Romans 2:4**). Are you thankful for God's plan? Are you enjoying God's plan for your life?

LESSON #3 = HIS HEALING (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: **Luke 17:11-19**

Introduction: We are in the middle of a series of lessons presenting God's greatest gifts. In this lesson, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Healing. Jesus gave us principles for thanksgiving in an often overlooked story. His teaching is recorded in **Luke 17:11-19** through His encounter with ten lepers. Let's study this great story together, see who has trusted in His healing, and what His healing can do for us today

Discussion:

I. God's Healing Is A Gift From God

- A. We need to get up (**Luke 17:11-12**).
- B. We need to get in (**Luke 17:13**).
- C. We need to get out (**Luke 17:14**).
- D. We need to get back (**Luke 17:15-16**).
- E. We need to get right (**Luke 17:17-19**).

II. God's Healing Is A Good Gift

- A. His healing was good enough for David.
Psalm 6:2, Psalm 41:4
- B. His healing was good enough for Isaiah.
II Kings 20:8, Isaiah 6:1-8, Isaiah 58:8-9
- C. His healing was good enough for Jeremiah.
Jeremiah 17:14, Jeremiah 46:11
- D. His healing was good enough for Paul.
II Corinthians 12:9, Philippians 4:10-13

III. God's Healing Is A Perfect Gift

- A. His healing perfectly cleanses us.
I John 1:9, I Corinthians 5:7
- B. His healing perfectly completes us.
John 17:23, James 1:2-4
- C. His healing perfectly saves us.
Hebrews 5:9, Hebrews 12:23
- D. His healing perfectly transforms us.
Romans 12:2, Philippians 1:6

Conclusion: Are we really that far removed from this scene of Jesus and the ten lepers? The disease of sin is far more dangerous than that of leprosy. One destroys only the body, but sin destroys both body and soul. Desperation may bring you to Christ, but only gratitude can keep you there. We need to find our place at the feet of Christ. Jesus is passing by. Where are the nine? Are you thankful for God's healing? Have you experienced His healing?

LESSON #4 = HIS CLEANSING (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: I John 1:8-10

Introduction: People are surrounded by gifts from some of God's greatest gifts. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Cleansing. We live in a society obsessed with cleanliness. Everywhere you go you see Germ-X! One thing God is known for doing is cleansing His people.

Discussion:

I. Cleansing Is A Gift From God

- A. God's cleansing is a gift that reveals truth.
I John 1:8, John 14:6, John 8:32
- B. God's cleansing is a gift that forgives sin.
I John 1:9, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-14
- C. God's cleansing is a gift that matures us.
I John 1:8-10, Romans 3:23, I Peter 2:2-3

II. Cleansing Is A Good Gift

- A. It was good when Naaman was cleansed from leprosy.
II Kings 5:1-14
- B. It was good when David cleansed his soul.
Psalms 51
- C. It was good when Jesus cleansed the temple.
Matthew 21:12-13
- D. It is good when we allow God to cleanse us.
II Peter 1:9

III. Cleansing Is A Perfect Gift

- A. God promises to perfectly cleanse our path.
Psalms 119:9-11, Matthew 7:13-14
- B. God promises to perfectly cleanse our praise.
Psalms 22:3, Hebrews 13:15
- C. God promises to perfectly cleanse our prayers.
Romans 8:26-27, Hebrews 4:16, I Peter 3:12, James 5:16
- D. God promises to perfectly cleanse our purpose.
Romans 8:28-30, Psalms 1:2, Psalms 119:15-16, Psalms 145:4, I Timothy 4:15-16

Conclusion: A description of the priests is given in **I Chronicles 23:18**. It says, "For their duty was to assist the sons of Aaron for the service of the house of the LORD, having the care of the courts and the chambers, the cleansing of all that is holy, and any work for the service of the house of God." The priests were given the privilege of helping to cleanse the temple of God. Peter teaches us in **I Peter 2:5-9** that we are part of the holy priesthood today. Paul tells us that our bodies are not the temple of God (**II Corinthians 6:16**) and that inside of each of us the Holy Spirit dwells (**I Corinthians 6:19**). Have you submitted to a full cleansing of your holy temple? Are you thankful for God's continual cleansing? Are you still waiting to experience God's cleansing?

LESSON #5 = HIS WORD (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: II Peter 1:20-21

Introduction: We are very blessed! We are surrounded by gifts from God: Rain and sunshine (**Matthew 5:45**). The earth and fruitful seasons (**Acts 14:17**). And life itself is a gift from God. (**Ecclesiastes 12:7**). We can learn a lot about God by looking at His gifts. **James 1:17** says that God's gifts are good and God's gifts are perfect. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Word/The Bible. Do you ever wonder what God is thinking? Do you ever wonder what God wants you to do? Its time to unlock the mysteries of the unknown! Let's open one of God's gifts

Discussion:

I. The Bible Is A Gift From God

- A. The Bible is an inspired gift from God.
II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:20-21
- B. The Bible is a gift from God to men through holy men.
Matthew 1:22, I Corinthians 14:37
- C. The Bible is gift from all of the Godhead.
I Corinthians 2:9-12, Romans 9:17, Revelation 22:18-19

II. The Bible Is A Good Gift

- A. Man's need of the Bible demonstrates the goodness of God's gift.
Jeremiah 10:23, Psalm 119:105, James 1:21, Acts 20:32
- B. Man's desire for the Bible demonstrates the goodness of God's gift.
Ephesians 5:17, Matthew 2:18-20, Mark 16:15-16, Acts 1:8-9
- C. Man's study of the Bible demonstrates the goodness of God's gift.
II Timothy 2:15, II Corinthians 3:6-18, Hebrews 8:7-12, Hebrews 10:9-10, Matthew 7:7
- D. Man's faithfulness to the Bible demonstrates the goodness of God's gift.
Romans 10:17, Hebrews 11:6, Acts 2:37-38, I John 1:9, Revelation 2:10

III. The Bible Is A Perfect Gift

- A. The Bible is a perfect revelation of God's truth to man.
II Timothy 3:16-17, II Peter 1:3
- B. The Bible is the perfect law of liberty.
James 1:25, 2:12, I Peter 1:22-23, Galatians 5:1
- C. The Bible is the perfect textbook for the final test.
John 12:44-50, John 14:24, John 1:1, Colossians 3:12-17

Conclusion: Since the Bible is a revelation from God, we should read the Bible in order to be wise and obey the Bible in order to be holy. What do I mean when I say obey the Bible? The Bible has commands that were written for our benefit. God's Word is able to save us (**Acts 20:32**). Can you go to heaven without loving God? Of course not, **John 14:15** says, "*If you love me, keep my commandments.*"

LESSON #6 = HIS FAMILY (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Ephesians 2:19-22

Introduction: Where would we be without the gift of the church? This group of Christians comprises so much more than just an assembly, we are a family! Today, we are going to study about God's family

Discussion:

I. The Church Is A Gift From God

- A. God planned this gift from eternity (**Ephesians 3:10-11**).
- B. God planned this gift for all mankind (**Ephesians 3:20-21**).
- C. The prophets spoke of this gift (**Isaiah 2, Joel 2, Micah 4**).
- D. John the Baptist spoke of this gift (**Matthew 3:1-2**).
- E. Jesus spoke of this gift (**Matthew 16:17-19**).

II. The Church Is A Good Gift

- A. We have salvation in the church (**Acts 2:40-47**).
- B. We have reconciliation in the church (**II Corinthians 5:8-10, Ephesians 2:16**).
- C. We have identification in the church (**Ephesians 5:22-33, Acts 2:40-47**).
- D. We have justification in the church (**Acts 20:28, I Timothy 3:15**).

III. The Church Is A Perfect Gift

- A. It is perfect in its organization.
 1. Christ, of course, is the Head of the church (**Ephesians 5:22-33**).
 2. Elders oversee, feed the flock (**Acts 20:28, I Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9, I Peter 5:1-4**).
 3. The deacons work and serve the flock (**I Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 1:1**).
 4. Evangelists teach and preach God's word (**I & II Timothy, Titus**).
 5. Autonomy and love binds us together (**Philippians 2:1-5, Jude 3, Galatians 5:1**).
- B. It is perfect in its worship.
 1. We worship in spirit and in truth (**John 4:23-24**).
 2. We meet on the first day (**Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:1-2, Hebrews 10:24-25**).
 3. We worship with a cappella singing (**Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16**).
 4. We pray (**Acts 2:42; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17, James 5:16**).
 5. We edify one another with preaching and teaching (**Ephesians 4:16, I Timothy 4:14**).
 6. We take communion (**Acts 20:7, Hebrews 10:24-26, I Corinthians 11:20-31, 16:1-2**).
 7. We take a collection (**I Corinthians 16:1-2, II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9:7**).
- C. It is perfect in its purpose.
 1. We believe in seeking and saving the lost (**Luke 19:10**).
 2. We believe in fulfilling the Great Commission (**Matthew 28:19-20**).
 3. We believe in remaining faithful to the church (**Hebrews 10:24-25**).
 4. We believe in remaining faithful to God (**Revelation 2:10**).
- D. It is perfect in its work.
 1. We believe in performing service (**Matthew 7:12**).
 2. We believe in using our gifts (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
 3. We believe in doing good works (**John 15:1-8**).

Conclusion: Are you thankful for the church? Are you an active part of the Lord's family? Have you praised God for this blessing? Are you inviting others to enjoy this blessing? May God continue to bless His family!

LESSON #7 = HIS GRACE (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Ephesians 1:3-14

Introduction: People are surrounded by gifts from God. **James 1:17** says that God's gifts are good and perfect. When we study God's Holy Word from cover to cover I believe that it reveals some of God's greatest gifts. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Grace. Have you ever wondered why we have so many songs in our hymn books that talk about grace? Grace is such a beautiful word. We love to talk about God's grace. So let's study about it

Discussion:

I. God's Grace Is A Gift

- A. The benefits of God's grace (v.3).
- B. The origin of God's grace (v.4).
- C. The purpose of God's grace (v.5).
- D. The privilege of God's grace (v.6).

II. God's Grace Is A Good Gift

- A. God's grace is good because it is rich (v.7).
- B. God's grace is good because it is free (v.8).
- C. God's grace is good because it is planned (v.9).
- D. God's grace is good because it brings unity (v.10).

III. God's Grace Is A Perfect Gift

- A. God ordained a perfect plan (v.11).
- B. God chose to perfect His people (v.12).
- C. God gave us His perfect Spirit (v.13).
- D. God gives us perfect promises (v.14).
 - *God's presence - **Hebrews 13:5***
 - *God's protection - **Genesis 15:1***
 - *God's power - **Isaiah 41:10***
 - *God's provision - **Isaiah 41:10***
 - *God's leading - **John 10:4***
 - *God's purposes - **Jeremiah 29:11***
 - *God's rest - **Matthew 11:28***
 - *God's cleansing - **I John 1:9***
 - *God's goodness - **Psalms 84:11***
 - *God's faithfulness - **I Samuel 12:22***
 - *God's guidance - **Psalms 25:9***
 - *God's wisdom - **Romans 8:28***

Conclusion: God's amazing grace should lead us closer to Him. Every time we study about the qualities of God we should gain greater appreciation for the Lord. We need to understand and appreciate all of God's plan. We need to realize the power of His saving grace. Have you accepted this gift from the Savior? Have you accepted the grace of God? Are you walking in the grace of God and sharing the good news with others?

LESSON #8 = HIS SON (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: John 3:16-17

Introduction: We are surrounded everyday by the greatest gifts of God. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Son/Jesus Christ. Jesus was sent to the earth as a gift from God. I fear that a day is coming when people will be ashamed to speak of Jesus' name in public. It is my prayer that we will see the birth of Jesus as the greatest gift God has ever given to mankind. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. Jesus Christ Is A Gift From God

- A. His gift expresses His interest in us.
Hebrews 11:24-25, James 1:17
- B. His gift expresses His love for us.
Isaiah 59:1-2, Romans 5:6-9, John 3:16, John 3:14-15
- C. His gift expresses His faithfulness towards us.
John 3:16, Genesis 3:15, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

II. Jesus Christ Is A Good Gift

- A. The goodness of God's gift is reflected in the rebellious nature of man.
John 3:16, I Timothy 1:15
- B. The goodness of God's gift is reflected in the blessings given through Christ.
Ephesians 1:3, Romans 5:1, Philippians 3:13-14, Philippians 4:4, 4:13, Hebrews 6:19-20
- C. The goodness of God's gift is reflected in the way Jesus was sent to earth.
Matthew 1-2, Luke 1-2

III. Jesus Christ Is A Perfect Gift

- A. The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ is perfect.
 1. The book of Matthew exalts Him as being perfect.
 2. The book of Colossians exalts Him as being perfect.
Colossians 2:8, Colossians 2:14-16, Colossians 2:17
 3. The book of Hebrews exalts Him as being perfect.
Hebrews 1:4-8, Hebrews 3:1-6, Hebrews 4:1-9, Hebrews 7:1-4, Hebrews 9:24-28
 4. The book of Revelation exalts Him as being perfect.
- B. His words reveal that Jesus Christ is perfect.
 1. Christ has the words of eternal life (**John 6:68**).
 2. His words can save us, and His words are recorded in the Bible.
- C. His works reveal that Jesus Christ is perfect.
 1. He can save us "to the uttermost" (**Hebrews 7:25**).
 2. He can save all who will obey (**Hebrews 5:8-9**).

Conclusion: If we are ungrateful for God's gift Jesus died in vain! **II Corinthians 9:15** says, "Thanks be to God for his unspeakable gift." Show your gratitude now by obeying the Lord (**John 14:15**). He came once and He will come again! Have you accepted the gift of God's one and only Son? Have you submitted to His will?

LESSON #9 = HIS RETURN (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

Introduction: Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Return. We need to study the Scriptures on this subject (**John 14:1-3, Ephesians 5:15-17, II Timothy 3:16-17, I Peter 1:7**). **II Thessalonians 4:13-18** tells us that we should encourage one another with this teaching. Let's open our Bible and study. . . .

Discussion:

I. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ Will Be A Gift From God

- A. The Promise of Jesus Coming Again
 1. He promised to come in a cloud with power and great glory (**Luke 21:27**).
 2. He was taken up into heaven in the same way He will return (**Acts 1:11**).
 3. He will appear the second time without sin (**Hebrews 9:29**).
 4. He will allow every eye to see Him when He returns (**Revelation 1:7**).
- B. The Purpose of Jesus Coming Again
 1. He will separate the evil from the righteous (**Matthew 25:31-32**).
 2. He will reveal the secrets of every person (**I Corinthians 4:5**).
 3. He will judge the living, the dead, and His Church (**II Timothy 4:1**).
 4. He will reward every man according to his work (**Revelation 2:10-12**).

II. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ Will Be A Good Gift

- A. Jesus Will Reward Believers When He Comes Again
 1. He will confess those who have confessed Him (**Matthew 10:32**).
 2. He will bless us if we are watching for Him (**Luke 12:27**).
 3. He will take us to heaven with Him to live (**John 14:3**).
 4. He will change our bodies into a glorious body (**Philippians 3:20-21**).
 5. He will give us a crown that cannot fade (**I Peter 5:4**).
- B. Jesus Will Condemn Unbelievers When He Comes Again
 1. He will deny those who have denied Him (**Matthew 10:33**).
 2. He will cause all the tribes of the earth to mourn (**Matthew 24:30**).
 3. He will be ashamed of those who are ashamed to serve and worship Him (**Mark 8:38**).
 4. He will take vengeance on those who do not know Him (**II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).
 5. He will reveal Himself to those who pierced Him (**Revelation 1:7**).

III. The Second Coming of Jesus Christ Will Be A Perfect Gift

- A. Jesus Will Come In The Perfect Way
 1. It will be sudden like lightning (**Matthew 24:27**).
 2. It will not be revealed to the angels in heaven (**Matthew 24:36**).
 3. It will not be revealed to the Son of God (**Matthew 24:36**).
 4. It will not be revealed to men on the earth (**Luke 12:40**).
 5. It will be sudden like a thief in the night (**I Thessalonians 5:2**).
- B. Jesus Will Come At The Perfect Time
 1. We need to live our normal lives until that perfect time (**Philippians 4:5**).
 2. We need to have faith that He will come at the perfect time (**Hebrews 10:37-39**).
 3. We need to have patience and keep our hearts steady until that perfect time (**James 5:8**).
 4. We need to hold strongly to what we have until that perfect time (**Revelation 3:11**).
 5. We need to pray for Him to come quickly at the perfect time (**Revelation 22:7, 20**).
- C. We Need To Be Ready For That Perfect Event
 1. We need to be ready for His coming (**Matthew 24:44**).
 2. We need to be a good steward of God (**Luke 19:13**).
 3. We need to wait patiently (**I Corinthians 1:7**).
 4. We need to keep ourselves blameless (**I Thessalonians 5:23**).
 5. We need to remain obedient to God's will (**I Timothy 6:14**).

Conclusion: We have the wonderful promise that one day we will appear with Christ (**Colossians 3:4**) and become like Christ (**I John 3:2**). We don't need to be ALARMED when we think about last day; we just need to be ARMED and ready. We cannot hide when Christ comes (**Psalms 139:5-12**), but why would you want to hide? It will be a glorious day!

LESSON #11 = HIS SPIRIT (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Romans 8

Introduction: We are surrounded everyday by the greatest gifts of God. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Spirit. The Holy Spirit needs to be studied more frequently. Unfortunately, this subject is often controversial because people are afraid of the discussion. Let's study together. . . .

Discussion:

I. The Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

- A. Author of Scripture (2 Peter 1:21, 2 Timothy 3:16)
- B. Bearer of Fruit (Galatians 5:22-23).
- C. Comforter (Isaiah 11:2, John 14:16;15:26;16:7)
- D. Convicter of Sin (John 16:7-11)
- E. Deposit for Salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)
- F. Guide (John 16:13)
- G. Indweller of Believers (Romans 8:9-11, Ephesians 2:21-22, I Corinthians 6:19)
- H. Intercessor (Romans 8:26-27)
- I. Revealer of Truth (John 14:17, 16:13, I Corinthians 2:12-16)
- J. Spirit of the Living God (Matthew 3:16, II Corinthians 3:17, I Peter 1:11)
- K. Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2)
- L. Teacher (John 14:26, I Corinthians 2:13)
- M. Witness (Romans 8:16, Hebrews 2:4, 10:15)

II. The Super-Natural Gifts of the Holy Spirit (Temporary)

- A. Wisdom (I Corinthians 2:4-7; 12:8; II Peter 3:15)
- B. Knowledge (I Corinthians 12:8; 13:8)
- C. Faith (I Corinthians 12:9; 13:2; Matthew 17:19-21)
- D. Prophecy (John 14:26; 16:13; I Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 3:5; Acts 21:9)
- E. Distinguishing of Spirits (Acts 16:16-18; I Corinthians 12:9; I John 4:1)
- F. Healings (I Corinthians 12:9; Acts 3:1-10, James 5:14-15)
- G. Miracles (Acts 20:9-12; 28:3-6; I Corinthians 12:10)
- H. Tongues (Acts 2:7-18; I Corinthians 12:10; 12:27-28; 14:22; Acts 2:6-8)
- I. Interpretation of tongues (I Corinthians 12:10; 14:13,28)

III. The Natural Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- A. Prophecy: (Romans 12:6; I Corinthians 12:28; Ephesians 4:11)
- B. Serving (Acts 20:19; Romans 12:7; 12:11; Galatians 5:13)
- C. Teaching (Romans 12:7; I Corinthians 14:6; Colossians 3:16; II Timothy 4:2)
- D. Exhortation (Romans 12:8; I Corinthians 14:3; I Timothy 4:13; Hebrews 13:22)
- E. Giving (Romans 12:8; Philippians 4:15; I Corinthians 16:1-4; II Corinthians 8-9)
- F. Leadership (Acts 28:17; Romans 12:8; I Timothy 3:1-8; Titus 1:5-9; I Peter 5:1-4)
- G. Mercy (Romans 12:8; II Corinthians 4:1; James 2:13; 3:17)
- H. Love (Romans 12:9; I Corinthians 13; Galatians 5:13; Hebrews 10:24; I Peter 3:8)

IV. The Fruit of the Holy Spirit

- A. Love (John 13:34-35, Romans 5:8; Galatians 5:22; I Corinthians 13:1-13)
- B. Joy (John 15:11; Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22; Philippians 1:2,7; 4:4)
- C. Peace (Romans 16:20; Galatians 5:22; I Thessalonians 5:23-24, II Timothy 2:22)
- D. Patience (Romans 2:4; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 1:9-12; I Timothy 4:17)
- E. Kindness (Romans 2:3-4; 12:10; Galatians 5:22; Colossians 3:12-17)
- F. Goodness (Romans 15:14; Galatians 5:22; II Thessalonians 1:11-12; Titus 3:4-5)
- G. Faithfulness (Romans 3:3; Galatians 5:22; I Corinthians 4:14-17; II Timothy 2:2)
- H. Gentleness (Romans 12:16; Galatians 5:23; II Corinthians 10:1; Philippians 4:5-7)
- I. Self-control (Romans 6:20-23; Galatians 5:23; I Corinthians 7:5,9; Titus 2:1-6)

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit continues to bless the church of Christ! Have you accepted the gift of Holy Spirit? Have you been baptized into Christ to receive the Holy Spirit? Have you submitted to the will of God?

LESSON #11 = HIS HOPE (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: I Peter 1:3-6

Introduction: We are surrounded every day by the greatest gifts of God. Today, we are going to study about one of God's greatest gifts: His Hope. You might recall the famous triplet: faith, hope, and love (**I Corinthians 13:13**). These are three great and powerful virtues. Hope defined is an "earnest expectation, or something for which we are longing and waiting." We need this gift! Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. What Is the Hope of God?

- A. The Lord provides a hope of a heavenly reward (**Matthew 6:19-20, Colossians 1:5**).
- B. The Lord provides a hope of resurrection (**Acts 23:6, I Corinthians 15**).
- C. The Lord provides a hope in the gospel (**Acts 28:20, Colossians 1:5, 23**).
- D. The Lord provides a hope of eternal life (**Titus 1:2, 3:7**).
- E. The Lord provides a hope of salvation (**Romans 8:24-25, I Thessalonians 5:8**).
- F. The Lord provides a hope in our calling (**Ephesians 1:18, 4:4**).

II. What Is The Nature of the Hope of God?

- A. The Lord provides a hope that is glorious (**Colossians 1:27**).
- B. The Lord provides a hope that is good (**II Thessalonians 2:16**).
- C. The Lord provides a hope that is blessed (**Titus 2:13**).
- D. The Lord provides a hope that is steadfast and sure (**Hebrews 6:19**).
- E. The Lord provides a hope that is joyful (**Hebrews 3:6**).
- F. The Lord provides a hope that is living (**I Peter 1:3**).

III. Why Do People Reject the Hope of God?

- A. Sinful living starts with a desire to sin (**James 1:15**).
- B. Sinful living continues to allow us to drift (**Isaiah 53:6**).
- C. Sinful living offers a very deceptive outcome (**I Corinthians 6:9**).
- D. Sinful living promises more than it can deliver (**Romans 6:6**).
- E. Sinful living is always destructive (**Romans 5:12**).
- F. Sinful living leads to eternal death (**Romans 3:23, 6:23**).

IV. How Can the Hope of God Change Our Lives?

- A. The Lord's hope will challenge you to pursue the Fruit of the Spirit (**Galatians 5:19-23**).
- B. The Lord's hope will remove your condemnation (**Romans 8:1**).
- C. The Lord's hope will cleanse you from your sins (**I John 1:9-10**).
- D. The Lord's hope will cover a multitude of sins (**Hebrews 10:14**).
- E. The Lord's hope will reverse your condition (**Romans 5:9**).
- F. The Lord's hope will compel you to tell others (**I Peter 3:15**).

Conclusion: What was Paul's prayer in **Romans 15:13**? I need that hope. You need that hope. The world needs that hope! Have you accepted the gift of God's hope? Are you full of an eternal hope? Have you been baptized into Christ to receive this hope? Are you sharing it with others?

LESSON #12 = HIS BLESSING (by Ray Reynolds)

Text: Deuteronomy 11:10-25

Introduction: For the past several weeks we have reflected upon **James 1:17**. The Lord's brother says that God's gifts are good and perfect. Today, we are going to conclude our study by considering another one of God's greatest gifts: His Blessing. The beginning of a new year always brings an opportunity for a new beginning. Before they crossed into the Promised Land, Moses reminded the children of Israel of God's care for them as they began their new life. He gave them His blessing. What does His blessing mean? How can appreciating God's blessings give us a renewed purpose? Let's study together

Discussion:

I. God's Blessings Are His Special Gifts

- A. God blesses us with His provision (**Deuteronomy 11:11**).
- B. God blesses us with His presence (**Deuteronomy 11:12**).
- C. God blesses us with His promise (**Deuteronomy 11:13-15**).
- D. God blesses us with His precepts (**Deuteronomy 11:16-21**).
- E. God blesses us with His protection (**Deuteronomy 11:22-25**).

II. God's Blessings Are A Sign of His Goodness

- A. God is the Giver of all good gifts.
James 1:17, Ephesians 1:3.
- B. Consider five great examples of men that experienced God's Goodness
 1. Joseph (**Genesis**)
 2. Moses (**Exodus**)
 3. David (**I & II Samuel**)
 4. Jesus (**The Gospels**)
 5. Paul (**Acts**)
- C. If we study these five examples we will see further signs of God's goodness.

III. God's Blessings Are Perfect For Meeting Our Needs

- A. God is the Giver of all perfect gifts.
James 1:17, James 1:4
- B. To receive God's blessing you must do five things
 1. Change Your Attitude (**Mark 12:30**)
 2. Change Your Altitude (**Luke 12:34**)
 3. Re-establish Your Gratitude (**Philippians 4:4**)
 4. Renew Your Servitude (**Mark 12:30**)
 5. Revive Your Fortitude (**Romans 12:1-2**)
- C. If we do these five things we are assured that God will meet our needs.

Conclusion: Every day offers a new opportunity and a new beginning. We need to cross over with God's blessing. Let's make this year the year when God takes full control of His church. Let's completely surrender to His will. Then we will receive His blessing! Are you ready to be blessed? Who will you tell about God's greatest gifts?