

## BASIC CHRISTIANITY 2023 – Lesson 1 - Motivation to Grow

### SINCE I AM A CHRISTIAN...

1. I am a part of the general assembly and the church of the Firstborn and my name is registered in heaven. (Hebrews 12:23)

(22) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, (23) to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, (Hebrews 12:22–23)

2. As a result of obeying the Gospel of Christ, a person is “called out” of the darkness and into the marvelous light of Christ. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

(9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (10) who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

(1 Peter 2:9–10)

**Notes:** Church = Gr. “*ekklēsia*” – The assembly of believers, the gathering of those summoned.

The “called out.”

- a. **Discovery:** Since I am in the “light”, what things can I no longer have as part of my life?

3. List 3 compelling reasons to live a righteous and godly life: (Titus 2:11-14)

(1) God’s grace compels us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passion

(2) Because of God’s grace we are compelled to live soberly, righteously, and godly during this life

(3) Because Christ died for us, we should live for Him

(11) For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, (12) teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, (13) looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, (14) who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. (Titus 2:11–14)

4. I am encouraged through the scriptures to “live a life worthy” of this calling. How? (Ephesians 4:1-3)

(1) Humble (2) Gentle (3) Patient (4) Bearing with one another in love

(1) I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, (2) with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, (3) endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1–3)

5. One of my goals is to become more perfect (mature) in Christ. (Ephesians 4:13)

**Notes:** Read and discuss Ephesians 4:11-16

Till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... (Ephesians 4:13)

#### **MY WEEKLY CHALLENGE: DAILY BIBLE READING**

6. According to 2 Timothy 2:15, what kind of daily effort must I put forth in order to be a good worker for the Lord? Diligent study of the bible, God's word

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)

**Notes:** The King James Version = "Study to shew thyself approved unto God"

7. What dangers come from not knowing God's will for our lives? (Hosea 4:6) spiritual destruction

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: Because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: Seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. (Hosea 4:6)

(11) Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

(17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Ephesians 6:11-17)

#### **ABOUT THE BIBLE:**

8. The bible is divided into two great parts:

(1) The Old Testament      (2) The New Testament

- a. What does the word "testament" mean? A "covenant" which is an agreement, a promise

**Notes:** The word "bible" comes from the Greek word meaning books.

#### **JEWELS FROM JAMES:**

9. The mature Christian will find joy in life's troubles. (1:2)

My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials... (James 1:2)

10. The testing of your faith will produce patience. (1:3)

(3) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. (4) But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. (James 1:3-4)

11. The word "perfect" in verses 3-4 actually means "to become MATURE."

**Notes:** The word “perfect” (Gr. telos) describes something that is complete, whole, or without blemish. Can also refer to someone who is blameless and has integrity. Maturing but never mature, as in Phil. 3:12.

Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. (Philippians 3:12)

12. How does the Christian become wise about life and spiritual things? (v. 5) Ask God

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. (James 1:5)

13. We must build on our faith to prevent becoming doubtful when things are difficult. (v. 6-7)

(6) But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. (7) For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord... (James 1:6–7)

#### **QUESTION OF THE WEEK:**

14. Ask the class for questions they may have concerning their faith. Record the questions. Answer and discuss at least one question per class.