

CBM Senior Lessons



Lesson 43 Christian life

READING 1 Corinthians 13; 2 Timothy 3:14—17; Matthew 18:20;
Mathew 5:3—10 & 43—48; 1 John 1:3; Acts 2:42

LESSON

Baptism is the beginning of a new life in Christ for the believer. New beginnings bring changes. After baptism we start to live a life which is to please God and Jesus and not ourselves.

Read Acts 2:41 - 42. There were four important aspects to the lives of the new disciples:

Apostle's doctrine
Fellowship
Breaking of bread
Prayers

Notice that it says that they 'devoted themselves' (gave of themselves) to these four things. This means that they carried on doing these things regularly and consistently. They did not start with great enthusiasm but after a few weeks stop again. These four things became a real and very important part of their daily lives from that day until they died. Being baptised and starting a Christian life is a real commitment – a promise about how you will live all the rest of your life.

Apostle's doctrine

The apostle's doctrine is the teaching about Jesus. God has made sure that this teaching has been kept for us and we can read it in the Bible. The early Christians only had the Old Testament books to read, but the apostles were still alive and more was written. The writings of the apostles are the New Testament. So God has given us the whole Bible in which he tells us everything we need to know about Himself, his plan and purpose and about Jesus. The Bible is the only book in the world that tells us this.

We should give of ourselves to reading the Bible. Bible reading should become part of our daily life. It is best to be disciplined and decide on a time of day when we can sit down and read at the same time every day. It is good to follow a reading plan to ensure that we read all of the Bible.

Paul advised his young helper, Timothy, to 'continue in what you have learned' because the scriptures 'are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.'

Questions / Answers

1. How should our life change after baptism?
We should live to please God and Jesus instead of ourselves.
2. What are the 4 important aspects of Christian life?
Apostles' doctrine, fellowship, breaking bread, prayers.
3. What is the apostles' doctrine?
The apostles' teaching about Jesus. It was written down in the New Testament.
4. What should we do to learn about God's teaching?
Read the Bible every day.
5. Who do we have fellowship with?
God and Jesus and also our brothers and sisters in Christ.
6. Why should we not go to other churches to have fellowship?
Our most important fellowship is with God, we can only share fellowship with people who believe God's Truth.
7. What did Jesus do at the end of his last meal with the disciples?
He broke bread and poured wine. He told the disciples to do this to remember how he died to save them from their sins.
8. Does it matter when or where Christians meet to break bread?
No. Jesus will be with all those who break bread in faith.
9. Should we break bread with people who are not baptised?
No. They are not in true fellowship with God and Jesus.
10. What else should we do every day to grow nearer to God?
Pray to God every day.

Memory verses

Acts 2:42 Matthew 18:20 1 John 1:3

Discussion

Talk about the 4 important aspects of Christian life. Discuss how we can put these 4 aspects into practice in our lives.

Writing

Write about Christian fellowship and what makes it special.

Fellowship

It can be hard to continue giving yourself to anything if you are on your own. It's much harder to remain enthusiastic about something without encouragement from others. God understands our need for help and encouragement from other people. Fellowship is what God has provided for us to fulfil this need. Fellowship is friendship and support, but like everything God provides it is special. It brings many blessings but also requires effort on our part.

Fellowship is different from friendship or membership of a club where members have similar interests. The difference is that we have fellowship with God and with Jesus which is most important. After baptism we become a son or daughter of God and a brother or sister of Jesus Christ. It is our relationship with God that is most important. Just as in a family each child has a relationship with his father and this binds the children together.

In the spiritual family our relationship with God, is like the one we have with our father. This is fellowship with God and Jesus. Other believers are also children of God and so we can call them brothers and sisters. We also have fellowship with them. This is therefore more special than a friendship and the church should become our family. The apostle, John, explained it like this: "We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us: and our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son, Jesus Christ."

Because it is the fellowship with God which is most important, then we can only have true fellowship with people who share our beliefs about Him. It would therefore not be right to go to a church service if the people there did not believe the Truth taught in God's Word the Bible.

As in any family, it is not always easy to be good friends with all our brothers and sisters in the church. We like some people more than others. But as in our natural family, we have to learn to live together. Jesus told us that we should care for our brothers and sisters. If we quarrel, we should sort it out rather than let it grow and become a bigger problem.

God has provided fellowship to help us give ourselves to Him. We should therefore make it a priority to be together with our brethren and sisters. If there is a choice to be made about doing something with the church or doing something else, then going to church should always come first.

Breaking of bread

The breaking of bread is a simple ceremony to remember that Jesus gave his life and died for us.

Jesus ate his last meal with his disciples and at the end, he took some bread and gave a prayer of thanks to God. He gave the bread to his disciples and they each took a little. Jesus told the disciples, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me." Jesus then took some wine, and told the disciples, "This cup is the new testament in my blood which is shed for you." Afterwards Jesus and the disciples sang a hymn. This was the first breaking of bread service.

The breaking of bread service is to remember the life and death of Jesus. It is to remember the great hope of life that we have, because Jesus gave his life for us. The service does not need to be elaborate. There do not need to be many people there. The building does not matter. If there are two or more Christians meeting to remember Jesus, then Jesus will be there with them. This is a great comfort, but it also means we must be respectful and sincere.

The disciples used to meet as often as they could to break bread. Usually this was once a week on the first day of the week (Sunday). They chose this day because Jesus rose on the first day, and because it was a day of holiday so the disciples could meet more easily. Usually Christians meet on a Sunday – because Sunday is often a day off from work. But the day does not matter – the important thing is meeting regularly to obey Christ's command to remember him. Only baptised members can take the bread and wine because they have fellowship with God and with each other.

Prayers

Prayer is speaking to God. It is a great privilege to be able to speak to God who created the world. And we can speak to him as our Father.

We enjoy talking to family and friends and talk to them regularly. It is by talking to friends that our friendship grows. So it is with God, we need to talk to Him regularly. If we do, then we will gain a lot of help and comfort from prayer. Jesus spoke to God in prayer whenever he could. Most people find it helpful to pray regularly in the morning and evening and at mealtimes. Daniel prayed 3 times every day.

Learning to live a Christian life will take you all your life. But if you follow the practices of the first Christians and give of yourself to God, you will grow closer to God every day.