

Orientation Class #1

The New Life

Good News—Eph. 1:13

Ephesians 1:13

"In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation--having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise"

The Bible tells us that God is both loving (1st John 4:8) and just (Deut. 32:4). God in His love desires a right relationship with everyone, but God in His justice cannot ignore sin. Man, by his nature and deeds, is a sinner (Romans 3:23). Sin results in separation (Isaiah 59:2) and death (Romans 6:23). Man, because of his sin, is separated from a right relationship with God; man is spiritually dead (Ephesians 2:1). Unless this condition of spiritual death is remedied in this life, it will lead to eternal death (Heb. 9:27, 2nd Thess. 1:8, 9), eternal separation from God.

The good news is that God sent his Son Jesus to save us from death and separation and provide the way for us to have eternal life. Jesus is God the Son (John 1:1, 14, 17) and is the only way to God the Father (John 14:6). Jesus Christ came to die for our sins and provide the way back to God (1st Peter 3:18). Eternal life (salvation) is a free gift (Romans 6:23) offered to anyone who truly believes in the Lord Jesus Christ (John 3:16). Saving faith is trusting in Jesus Christ alone for eternal life (Acts 4:12, John 8:24).

The Bible says, "Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (2 Corinthians 5:17). We can't live the Christian life in our own strength, but God has provided all the resources we need--such as His Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), His promises (2 Peter 1:4), and His grace (2 Corinthians 9:8)--to live a life that is pleasing to Him. Jesus promises an abundant, eternal life for all who put their trust in Him (John 10:10, John 5:24).

Eternal Life—John 5:24

John 5:24

"Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life."

Congratulations! If you have truly received Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, then you have entered into a new life (2 Corinthians 5:17). Many wonderful things happened the moment you trusted Christ. The Bible says that you were sealed with the Holy Spirit--that is, the Holy Spirit came to take up permanent residence in your life (Ephesians 1:13). You also received total forgiveness for all your sins--past, present, and future (Acts 10:43, Colossians 2:13, 14).

Another wonderful benefit is the gift of eternal life. Your relationship with God will never cease! But sometimes circumstances may make you doubt your salvation. By memorizing the verse above, you will have God's word in your heart to overcome your doubts.

Other verses: John 6:35-40, 10:27-30, Hebrews 10:10-17, 1 John 5:11-13.

Growing in the New Life

The Word—2 Timothy 3:16, 17

2 Timothy 3:16, 17

"All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

What book gives us the knowledge of God? The Bible. We also call it the word of God, Scripture, the Scriptures, and the Holy Bible. It was written by men of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). Is it reasonable to believe? Yes! Manuscript evidence, archaeology, the unity of Scripture, and fulfilled prophecy are just a few of the areas that show us that the Bible is unique and true. We should believe it because of what Jesus Christ said about it (John 10:35, 17:17). The Bible is God's message to man. God gave it to us to reveal Jesus Christ (John 20:31), to reveal His plan of salvation (2 Timothy 3:15), to help us grow (1 Peter 2:2), to guide us (Psalm 119:105), to give us joy (Luke 11:28), and to help us know God (Proverbs 2:1-5). We are to obey it (James 1:22).

Prayer—Philippians 4:6, 7

Philippians 4:6, 7

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

Prayer is communication with God (Psalm 116:1, 2). Communication is essential for a growing relationship. God wants us to talk to Him just as any father likes to hear from his child. He also wants us to ask Him for all the things we need to carry out His plan for our lives. John Wesley said, "God does nothing but in answer to prayer."

God communicates with us through the Bible and we communicate with Him through prayer. Many Christians combine Bible reading and prayer to have an appointment with God, sometimes called a "quiet time." This is a daily 10 or 15 minute habit that allows us to speak to God through prayer and that allows us to hear from God through the Bible.

The Church—Acts 2:41, 42

Acts 2:41, 42

"So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they were continually devoting themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer."

We see in these verses the example of the early church.

In verse 41, Peter had been preaching the word, the good news about Jesus Christ. Many believed, and then were baptized.

In the New Testament people were baptized shortly after becoming true believers. Baptism is commanded (Acts 10:47, 48, Matthew 28:19, 20). A person can be baptized anyplace where there is enough water (Acts 8:36-39, John 3:23). Baptism is a symbol. When a believer goes under the water, it symbolizes that his old life is dead and buried with Christ. When he comes up out of the water, it symbolizes that he has been raised up to a new life (Colossians 2:12).

In Acts 2:42 we see the early church being devoted to four things. They were devoted to the apostles' teaching (the teaching of the word). They were devoted to fellowship, which is companionship, sharing in common. Fellowship is essential (Hebrews 10:24, 25, 3:13). They were devoted to breaking of bread, an ordinance instituted by Jesus that we are to do in remembrance of Him (1 Corinthians 11:23-28). And they were devoted to prayer.

The church is the pillar and support of the truth (1 Timothy 3:15), the base from which winning the lost and building the saved are to occur.

Meetings of the Church

Sundays

9:00-9:45 AM--Breaking Bread

This is our worship time, a time to remember our Lord Jesus, His Person and His work. In 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 we read, "For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, 'This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me.' In the same way He took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes."

10:00-10:45--Sunday School

We have a Sunday School for young children, and also for adults and youth. We examine the Scriptures together and discuss its meaning and application for our lives.

11:00-12:00 Noon--Family Bible Hour

We start and finish with hymns. Music and singing are important parts of worship, as seen in the Scriptures.

We also have a teaching time. In Ephesians 4:11-13 we read, "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ."

The Scriptures are the "comprehensive equipment of the man of God, and fit him fully for all branches of his work" (2 Timothy 3:17, Phillips). All believers need to become familiar with the truths of the Scriptures in order to best serve the Lord and fulfill His purposes for their lives.

SOUTH PLAINS BIBLE CHAPEL

South Plains Bible Chapel is a non-denominational assembly of Christians who meet simply in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer. We are believers in the Lord Jesus who desire to follow New Testament principles of life, fellowship, worship, ministry and mission.

Our origins are in what has been called the “Plymouth Brethren” movement. Some distinctive beliefs include: the non-sectarian nature of the church, the priesthood of all believers, the weekly celebration of the Lord’s Supper, and the leadership of Christ in His church through the Holy Spirit.

Our assembly is pastored by elders, qualified according to 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, who lead by teaching and example, seeking to help equip believers for the work of service (Ephesians 4).

We believe in ONE GOD, existing eternally in three persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; in JESUS CHRIST, the eternal Son of God, His full deity and humanity; in the BIBLE, the fully inspired Word of God, inerrant in the original writings, of absolute authority in all matters; in SALVATION, by God’s grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, entirely apart from human merit; and in the CHURCH, in its universal form all true believers in Jesus Christ, in its local form a body of believers organized for teaching, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayer.