

BIBLE 1210

PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

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PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN LIVING FOR YOUNG ADULTS

As you grow in your Christian faith, you will continually discover new adventures in Christian living. Although you may hold beliefs that were transmitted to you by other people, as a young adult you must be able to document your Christian faith from the only authoritative source, the Bible. Your life must reflect this faith in attitude and actions.

In this **LIGHTUNIT** you will learn more about the fundamentals of the Christian faith, the Bible, the nature of God, and the characteristics of true Christianity. Understanding these fundamentals

will increase your skill in apologetics. Your own Christian growth and how you can continue toward maturity will also be studied. You will review opportunities to influence the world for Christ. Many teaching and witnessing opportunities arise because of cultic beliefs or heresies. Each life you touch will, in turn, touch and influence others. Each person brought to the Lord through your ministry or testimony or by the example of your life in Christ will influence untold numbers of other persons for Christ.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this **LIGHTUNIT**.

When you have finished this **LIGHTUNIT**, you should be able:

1. To discuss the doctrine of the Trinity.
2. To explain God's part and man's part in salvation.
3. To relate some of the history of the formation of the Biblical canon.
4. To describe the power of the Holy Spirit in daily Christian living.
5. To explain fundamental differences between cultic religions and Christianity.
6. To list activities that will contribute to your spiritual development.
7. To describe principles upon which Christian conduct is based.
8. To describe the considerations that enter your career and ministry choices.
9. To explain how you can influence others for Christ with your spoken testimony.
10. To outline your personal testimony.

Survey the LIGHTUNIT. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. FUNDAMENTALS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Scriptural doctrine and the daily leading of the Spirit of God are basic to the Christian life. As God equips you for a mature understanding of Christian concepts and realities, He will also enable you to share this understanding with others. Your Father will not leave you without the ability to know truth from error.

The fundamentals of the Christian faith spring from the nature of the triune God. The only authoritative source of information about the

person of God is the written record of His words and works, the Bible. The Bible reveals the way of salvation and provides insights into the defense of that way. In this section of the **LIGHTUNIT**, you will see how God dwelt with His chosen nation, Israel, and how in these last days He dwells in and empowers those who have received Christ as Saviour and Lord. The Spirit of God enables believers to discern the truth and to defend the faith.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. When you have completed this section you should be able:

1. To discuss the doctrine of the Trinity.
2. To explain God's part and man's part in salvation.
3. To relate some of the history of the formation of the Biblical canon.
4. To describe the power of the Holy Spirit in daily Christian living.
5. To explain fundamental differences between cultic religions and Christianity.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.



canon
condescension
metaphysical

paschal
Pentateuch



Read John, Chapter 1; 2 Corinthians 13:14; and Isaiah 48:16.

THE NATURE OF GOD

The reality of the Trinity is the central focus of Christian doctrine and faith. The very nature of the Godhead provides answers to life's most basic questions:

1. Who are we, and why are we here?
2. Where are we going, and how shall we get there?
3. How shall we live in this life and throughout eternity?

The characteristics of God our heavenly Father reveal how we were created; also they reveal His purpose for us. The characteristics of God the

Son further demonstrate why we are here on earth and what the direction of our lives should be. The characteristics of God the Holy Spirit illustrate how we should live this life; the Holy Spirit empowers us to live it victoriously.

The Trinity. Our only source of knowledge of the Trinity is the Holy Spirit-inspired Biblical **canon**. The emphasis of the Old Testament was on the revelation of God as Jehovah. The Israelites used the Old Testament as their only source of authority on personal and religious conduct. They saw God as one God. The

recorded history of God dealing with Israel encompasses the writings of Moses, the kings, and the prophets. They all show forth God as being one God. This view is contrasted to all of the other nations of the world where multiple gods were worshiped.

Jehovah dwelt in the presence of His chosen people, Israel. After the tabernacle was constructed, He dwelt between the cherubim on the mercy seat. The mercy seat was the gold cover on the ark of the covenant (Exodus 25:22). The ark was to be kept in the holy of holies to be seen only on the Day of Atonement and then only by the high priest. During the wilderness

wanderings, the ark was carried in front of the people. From this habitation in Israel, God ministered to and led his people.

His presence continued with them until His wrath was finally kindled at Shiloh (1 Samuel 4:1-11; Psalm 78:58-60). The Israelites began to follow other gods once again, and God withdrew from them. At that time He delivered them into the hands of their enemies at Ebenezer. The sons of Eli had decided to take the ark of the covenant into battle thinking that it would save them. However, God had withdrawn His presence from the mercy seat. Israel was defeated by the Philistines, and the ark was captured.



Complete these sentences.

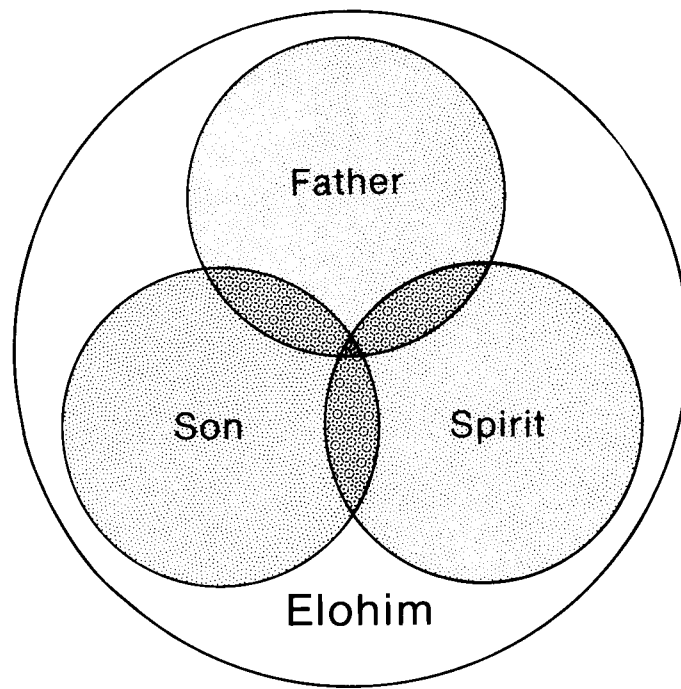
- 1.1 The three Persons of God are a. _____ , b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.2 We learn of Israel's experiences with God through the writings of a. _____ , b. _____ , and c. _____ .
- 1.3 God withdrew His physical presence from Israel because _____ .
- 1.4 Israel was defeated by the a. _____ , and the b. _____ was captured.
-

After God's visible presence departed from Israel, He ministered to them through kings and prophets and through Moses' word in the **Pentateuch**. In these writings, references are made to the three Persons of the Godhead. The emphasis, however, was on Jehovah's role as Father. He communicated daily with His people and expected them to follow His laws. He was known by the names El or Elohim, Yahweh, and I AM. He was also seen as the Father of Israel and the great and powerful king, Adonai.

These names for God—Yahweh, Elohim, and Adonai—were names to be given later to Jesus, the Messiah. The Apostle John quoted Jesus saying (John 8:58), "Verily, verily, I say unto you, before Abraham was, I AM." This name identified Jesus with the Person of Yahweh. In the Old Testament the Person of the Father was

often in view. In the New Testament the Son, the Messiah, is most often in view.

John reveals the truth that Jesus is God. According to John 1:1 through 3, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." However, according to Genesis 1:1 and 2, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth . . . And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." In these and other passages, the Person of the Holy Spirit was present and active at the creation of the world. Jesus is associated with the Holy Spirit and with Jehovah in the creation of the world.



God: A Trinity

Elohim is God in three persons, the Trinity. In Genesis 1:26 we find Elohim saying, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." And again in Genesis 3:22: "And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil."

The name identifying the Creator as a personal God is *Yahweh* (Jehovah), first described in Exodus 6:3. Other nations had gods, but Jehovah was different from these other deities. He required that His people be righteous. He Himself was completely righteous and would not tolerate sin. Jehovah presented Himself as the God who controlled all events in the entire world. He alone is the living God, and the so-called deities of the heathen are lifeless chunks of metal, stone, or wood.

When the Son of God came to the earth in the form of man, he filled two missions. He came as the eternal Word to reveal to us God's nature. We can see what the Father is like through Jesus' teaching about God and through Jesus' own perfection, love, and submissiveness to God.

He also came as Saviour, to redeem the human race. Before the foundation of the earth, the Trinity knew that Jesus would be the sacrifice that would save us from our sin. He was willing to die so that He could have our fellowship. The holiness of God will not permit sin in His presence, but Jesus made a way for the sin to be completely blotted out so that our fellowship with God could begin in this life and continue through eternity.

God the Holy Spirit is presented in the Old Testament as well as in the New Testament. The Spirit of God was present among Israel leading them through the wilderness and into the land of Canaan. In the New Testament writings the Holy Spirit is seen as the source of power and life for Christians. The gifts of the Spirit are necessary for the believers to grow. He is the source of knowledge and of the discernment of right and wrong, truth and error, wisdom and foolishness. As He empowered Christ during His earthly ministry, so He continues to empower each one who has trusted Christ as his personal Saviour and Lord.



Complete these activities.

1.5

On a separate piece of paper, answer the following questions in one or two paragraphs. You may use any source or person to help you.

a. What has the Father revealed concerning your individual worth and purpose?