

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-29 Living Your Faith

The New Testament Book of Philemon has only one chapter. It is actually a personal letter from the apostle Paul, who was in prison in Rome. He wrote it to a Christian friend who lived in Colosse and was part of the church there. Philemon was probably a convert of Paul. He was a slave owner. The story is a fascinating one, in which Paul tells Philemon about his former slave, Onesimus. He had run away to Rome and had come into contact with Paul. The Apostle had led him to Christ. A strong bond of friendship developed between Paul, the spiritual father, and Onesimus, his son in the Lord. Paul is sending him back to Philemon. He is appealing to Philemon to receive Onesimus back, not as a slave, but as a brother in Christ.

The short Book of Philemon shows us how Paul and the Early Church dealt with the social problems of the day. They lived out their faith. Paul set forth Christian principles that removed the harshness of Roman slavery and finally led to its total end within Christianity. The letter is an example of living out your faith in daily life, based on the principles you have learned.

Lessons 29 and 30 will be a review of the 13 *Statements of Faith*, along with the important points to remember from each lesson of this course.

The Inspired Scriptures: The Bible has been given by inspiration of God (2Tim 3:16). As God's Word, it is infallible, without error, and authoritative. The Bible is our foundation for living. If we obey it, we will please God. His Word is eternally true, enduring, and speaking to all times, generations, and cultures. The Bible can be trusted and obeyed. Developing a habit of daily Bible reading and prayer will strengthen our love for God and help us fight Satan's temptations.

Statement of Faith #1: "We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. They are the revelation of God to man, the unchanging rule of faith and conduct."

God in Three Persons: The divinely inspired Bible describes God as a single being consisting of three related persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We worship one God. Even though the idea of a "three-in-one" Trinity has no exact comparison in the physical world, the doctrine of a spiritual trinity is absolutely scriptural. It is necessary to our understanding of the many attributes of God. Knowing about the Godhead helps us appreciate the holiness, wisdom, and power of God. Each person in the Trinity ministers to us: the Father's love; the compassion, grace, and forgiveness of Jesus the Son; and the moment-by-moment help of the Holy Spirit.

Statement of Faith #2: "We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

The Lord Jesus Christ: The supernatural birth of Jesus, his sinless life, his miracles and healings all prove he is the divine Son of God. He came to earth as a human to die for our sins. No death of a mere human, no matter how good he was, could provide forgiveness of sin for the

entire human race. Jesus' life provides an excellent pattern for us to follow. He was human just as we are, yet he did not sin. Jesus was resurrected from death to life and ascended to heaven to be with the Father. He is presenting our needs to God the Father.

Statement of Faith #3: "We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, as revealed in the Scriptures, by his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, his death on the cross, his bodily resurrection from the dead, and his position at the right hand of God.

The Creation and Fall of Man: When Adam and Eve sinned against God in the Garden of Eden, they used a kind of power that every person has. They used their will or power of choice. We can choose whether or not to obey God, just as they did. Every person is born with the tendency to choose self and sin. Unless that person accepts Christ as Savior, they will be eternally separated from God. Just as Satan tempted Adam and Eve and they sinned, so we are also tempted by Satan. If we pray, read the Bible, and trust in God's power to help us, we can resist Satan.

Statement of Faith #4: "We believe that human beings were created in the image of God for a loving relationship with him. They chose to disobey God, however, and thus experienced physical death and separation from God."

God's Great Salvation: Knowing that mankind is naturally inclined to sin leads us to search God's Word for the remedy for this tendency to choose self. The central message of the Bible is God's great salvation, which restores the relationship that God has always intended to have with mankind. God loved sinful humans so much that he gave his Son to die for our sins. This Cross made it possible for us to have eternal life with God. Every person who experiences salvation becomes a new person in Christ. Salvation is available to anyone who personally asks Christ to be their Savior. We receive salvation by admitting we have sinned and repenting. We must believe Jesus is God's Son, who died for our sins. And we confess our sins to him and ask forgiveness.

Statement of Faith #5: "We believe mankind's only hope of salvation is through the shed blood of Jesus, the Son of God. The gift of eternal life is received when we repent of our sins and confess our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ."

Baptism in Water: Water baptism is an important ordinance because it is a public way of saying you are going to serve the Lord. It is a testimony—a symbol of dying and being buried to sin and being raised to walk in newness of life in Jesus.

Statement of Faith #6: "We believe water baptism by immersion is commanded of all who repent and believe on Christ as Savior. Water baptism is a witness to the world that we have died to sin and are raised to new life in Christ.

This lesson is **important** because it is a review of the first six *Statements of Faith* and a reminder of what each one teaches.

The **main thought** of this lesson is that we must know the truths of our faith, teach them to others, and live them out in our daily lives.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. Name three things that we believe about the Word of God. [Pause.]

A. If you said any three of the following, “The Bible was verbally inspired by God, is timeless, is God’s revelation to mankind, is unchanging, and is our rule of faith and conduct,” you are correct.

2. Name the three persons of the Trinity. [Pause.]

A. If you answered, “The three persons of the Trinity are God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, you are right.

3. What plan did God have to solve the problem of sin? [Pause.]

A. If you answered, “God sent his Son Jesus as the perfect sacrifice for our sins on the Cross,” you answered correctly.

Your **assignment** is to review the first six *Statements of Faith* and be able to share these with family and friends. Let them know it is your goal to live out these truths of faith in your daily life.