

DEFINITIONS

To arrive at right conclusions we must begin with right premises. Much doctrinal conflict is based on different basic understanding of biblical terms. Therefore we seek to define clearly foundational words and phrases that are basic to ones teaching.

A subtle difference of how two people define something can result in a major difference in their perceptions. The reason for this course, therefore, is to establish the meaning of terms that describe major doctrinal entities. We may not be aware that others perceive such words as “flesh,” “humanity,” “Godhead,” “resurrection,” etc., in a different light than we do. These are common words that every believer should know. But do we all generate the same mental picture when we hear them? Because they are foundation stones in much of the subject matter, it is imperative that we understand how these terms are being used and what doctrinal truths are included when they are mentioned.

1. The Godhead
 2. The World
 3. Humanity
 4. Flesh
 5. Resurrection
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6. Church
 7. Predestination
 8. Hell
 9. Heaven
 10. Kingdom of God/Heaven

QUIET TIME

The importance of taking time and being able to hear from God cannot be overemphasized. Each missionary, even if on a team and under authority, must be able to determine the will of God and see from God’s perspective.

This section was originally part of “TOOLS OF DISCIPLESHIP.” How to use this as a tool for discipling others will be discussed under that heading. However, because you are to be a discipler and because “the husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruit,” it is of extremely great importance that you begin the training with the habit of consistent quiet time.

It is important, not only because you will be teaching others, but because it is intimate communion with God through the Word and prayer which produces in you the continual knowledge of Himself and of His will. As the glory of God shined on Moses’ face as a result of 40 days in God’s presence, so time in His presence produces the evidence of His glory in the character and countenance of the believer. This impartation of glory is commensurate to how much time is spent in intimate communion with the Lord.

This kind of heart preparation will prove to be the catalyst that makes every other kind of preparation valid. It will prove to be the most important activity of each day. This subject

and "ATTITUDES" have been given the priority slots on our schedule because that is how we view their importance.

PRINCIPLES OF EVANGELISM

What kind of a church emerges will be largely determined by what kind of evangelism is carried out. It is commonly recognized that there has been a major change in the character and standards of the Church in America over the past 50 years. But does God change? Is his Word meant to be adaptable to the trends of society? The prophets would say "no." The apostles would agree with them. Why, then, if the same message is preached, does the Church change its standards? The answer, of course, is that it doesn't. The problem revolves around the message. Evangelism in Jonathan Edward's America was different than evangelism in ours.

In this course, we will seek to determine where the differences are. We will discuss the message, the methods, and the Master of evangelism. This course of study is designed to prepare you for the initial presentation of the Gospel, how to approach people, and what to preach. It will lay basic foundations which will be expanded by your continuing study and ongoing practice. It will also provide you with material which, once digested, will equip you to teach others to do the same things.

ATTITUDES

It is probable that the singularly most important character trait in a Christian's life is RIGHT ATTITUDES. This section of teaching, though small in volume, is extremely large in importance. It is imperative that not only the "theory" that is taught in these lessons be grasped, but that practical application be made in the course of everyday situations.

Nothing spells greater disaster or has quicker negative results in a missionary's career than BAD ATTITUDES. They discourage family members, missionary team members, fellow believers, and wreak havoc in the fellowship of the saints. They also plant "infectious weeds" in the national church which is inclined to take its cues from the missionary to whom it initially looks with a certain amount of reverence. Wrong attitudes are contagious in any context, and when some of us may well become pioneers planting the Gospel in "virgin territory," what we plant may determine the character of that church for generations to come.

This section on attitudes will be brief in pages of notes and class-time allotted, but it will form the basis of on-going communication and observation as the training program progresses. In your mind, therefore, please underscore the importance of this teaching on attitudes.

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

A study of specific characteristics, attitudes, reactions and requirements of someone who dedicates himself to serving God in a missionary capacity in a world hostile to the gospel. What can we expect? What is normal? How should we react?

This is perhaps the most vital course in this Missionary Training program. In the early beginnings, this WAS the Missionary Training program. It is primarily derived from Paul's second epistle to Timothy. It deals with the mind set and the responses necessary to productivity and survival on the mission field.

The mission field is a battlefield. For this reason, one who is sent must recognize that he is in the role not so much as a counselor or religious teacher, but as a soldier. He expects to encounter not the theory of battle, but the conditions of battle. Warfare can be uncomfortable, dangerous, frustrating, and above all, discouraging. Nothing, therefore, is more important than that which sustains the warrior in battle and causes him to be resilient, resourceful, and to survive—no, more than to survive—to be victorious and to conquer.

It is a sad fact that there are more starters than there are finishers in this campaign for the unreached nations. Many of the incidents of defeat can be traced to the mind set of the victim BEFORE he started. The reluctance of the 10 spies to enter Canaan land caused Israel to wander 40 years in the wilderness. It reflected their unbelief in the character and integrity of God. As you well know, the results were devastating to a whole generation. The confidence and obedience of Joshua and Caleb, despite the long delay, carried them to the successful possession of the promise.

The purpose of this course is to implement those values—the sanctified philosophy of faith that will contribute to your identifying with Caleb and Joshua rather than their defeated colleagues.

When this course was written, it was in the heat of battle. It seemed to us then, and still does, that the character and toughness of mind which produces steadfastness under fire is at least as important as theological correctness in the career of the missionary. I trust you will gain from this course what it is designed to give you.

TOOLS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Practical “packages of truth” to follow up young believers until they are “disciples indeed.” These are “pass-on-able” truths designed to teach faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.

When new believers are born into the Kingdom of God, they need to be nourished in order to grow to maturity. Paul told Timothy, “the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also.” This is referred to as multiplication. In order to multiply, those who are taught must in turn teach others. To do this, they must be able to pass on to others the truths they have learned.

The objective of this course is to give you guidelines in the form of an agenda suitable for teaching young believers. It is not meant to be a rigid curriculum because a certain amount of flexibility is required to meet the needs of individuals. However, as the title implies, it will give you tools to effectively use in your follow-up. You will learn these things and will pass them on to “faithful men” who will, in turn, be expected to teach others also.

The subjects in this course constitute only a basic tool box. You will add to it as God instructs you. This course will seek to teach you how to discern the needs of those whom you disciple and how to tailor an agenda or curriculum to meet their specific needs. Understanding how to use tools of discipleship will be indispensable to the establishing of believers on the mission field.

FAITH

It is imperative that each member of a missionary team understand the principles of "Faith." He must be able to recognize trials as being from God and to know how to interpret them. His confidence must not be in his resources but in God's faithfulness.

"Without faith it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God." That, being a true statement from God's Word, underscores the importance of faith. This being the case, it is obvious that no training related to the work of God could be adequate if it did not emphasize this subject. It is our intention not only to teach this as a classroom course, but to encourage by every means a life style that relies upon God and His promises in every eventuality. This is so foundational doctrinally and practically that it must be introduced at the most basic level wherever the Church is planted. It not only sustains the saints in times of testing, it also produces clear perspective in the matter of assurance and victory. A clear understanding of faith (and the application of it) is also a foundation which keeps all other doctrines in perspective and insures against misunderstanding and misapplication of biblical truth.

In this course, we are going to deal with the SOURCE of faith, how it is nurtured, the exercise of it and the result. Remembering that "whatever is not of faith is sin," we realize that FAITH and RIGHTEOUSNESS are so related as to be inseparable. This, therefore, is an extremely important section.

CHURCH STUDIES

If we trust what the Scriptures teach, we will recognize it is an indisputable fact that the Church is God's instrument in the earth to accomplish His will. The local assembly is that entity in every community through which God has planned to raise up His forces to glorify His name in every kindred, tongue, people and nation. Those who make up the local church are those who will be used to evangelize their community. The elders of that local assembly provide the oversight and the authority for those who make up its number. The Church is the training ground for the workers who will be developed, and the sending agency when it comes time to send them out.

If so much importance is attached to the Church, it is evident that the Scriptures must give clear instructions as to its foundations, its structure, its order and its function. This course is designed to investigate what the Scriptures teach about these things. We will endeavor to distinguish between Western tradition, which has attached itself to the contemporary Church, and what the apostles taught in the New Testament. We will need to approach this subject from the perspective of the apostles who, in turn, saw the Church from the perspective of its head, the Lord Jesus Christ. Modern Western religion, to a large degree, has lost that perspective; and it is probable that some of us will view the Church with a bias derived from the influence of our own religious background. We will need to bear in mind

that we will be dealing with this subject ONLY from the Scriptures without drawing from tradition.

The importance of this course is to equip us with a view of the Church that will inhibit the inadvertent introduction of Western tradition into third-world cultures. It is especially important if we are pioneering the Gospel in an unreached people group.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS

The New Testament makes it clear that we are members of the body of Christ. Each member has a specific function; therefore, each member needs specific equipment. That equipment is in the form of spiritual gifts. It is not unusual in our religious society to neglect the gifts of the Spirit and to substitute structure and organization in order to have efficiency in the operation of the Church.

The purpose of this course is to make us aware of the gifts and to relate them properly to the function of the body ministry. In their proper order, they supply the structure and the organization to the collective ministry of the body of Christ. In this study, we will seek to circumvent the two tendencies of the contemporary Church: the one, as we have already mentioned, is to deny, neglect or ignore the validity of spiritual gifts in our age; the other is to abuse the term "spiritual gifts" and to make them something they are not meant to be. The key to understanding and proper application will be BALANCE.

GENESIS FOUNDATIONS

Because all the beginnings are in the book of beginnings, we seek to establish the basic principles of all of our New Testament precepts by searching out foundational truths.

In a sense, the first six chapters of Genesis present us with a synopsis of history from creation to "The Day of the Lord," when, in the days of the coming of the Son of man, it shall be as it was in the days of Noah. This course will include a study of those first six chapters of the Bible. We are calling it "GENESIS FOUNDATIONS" for obvious reasons.

GENESIS means BEGINNINGS. We find in this book the beginning, not only of creation, at which time the history of the material world began, but also the beginnings of the intangibles that give meaning and personality to the material world. We are going to talk about the beginnings of principles that are extremely important to our understanding of God's viewpoint in an ungodly societal structure, also, the beginning of the world system and the transfer of authority from God's "man" to the one described as the serpent who became known in the New Testament as "the god of this world." This involves basic changes in principle which are restored in the Kingdom of God through the work of Jesus Christ.

"FOUNDATIONS" refers to the fact that a grasp of all these principles is foundational to our understanding New Testament truth. Separation, spiritual warfare, the great commission, marriage, etc., all have their foundations in this first book of the Bible. Without it, our understanding of truth would be deficient and misguided. You will find this to be a very important and enlightening segment of this missionary training course.

GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSE

This is a much-needed overview of God's purpose for humanity, the purpose and responsibility of the present-day church, the outcome of our present efforts and God's plan for humanity in eternity. It gives purpose and guidance not only to what we are doing, but why we are doing it.

Perhaps the most helpful thing in "putting things together," is to have an overview of the whole picture. It could be compared to the plans of a large and complex building. I may see a detail on the plumbing of the lower floor. I may study it and memorize the "specs" very accurately, but that does not help me see what the whole building is supposed to look like. It may not even help me to know how this detail relates to the rest of the building. Very often this is the case in the matter of doctrine. We have the pieces but not always in context.

In this course we will deal with: Why Humanity?, The Philosophy of Sin, The World System, The God of this World, The Fall and the Process of Redemption, and ultimately the finished product, Man in the Image of God. The purpose is to give a context to all that we learn from the Word of God; to give us insight into why the historic process was necessary and what it is that God is producing through the sometimes confusing incidents of history. At the end of this course, we should have some insight into what God has in mind and what we have to look forward to. It is meant to give reason for what we are involved in as we pursue the will of God. It is also designed to give a foundational basis to the doctrine of "separation."

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

This course will review the use of the weapons at our disposal; how to proceed against enemy strongholds; recognizing enemy actions and what to do about them.

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

Who is our enemy? What are his objectives? Why does he act that way? What is his strategy? Here are insights into his hierarchy in the cosmos. This course is to reduce the number of "surprises" in our warfare.

Few armies in history would have successfully engaged the enemy without having gained some intelligence about his character, his strength, his position, and his intentions. No doubt this is the reason God has put so much in His Word that reveals these things about our enemy. It is at our peril that we would ignore what the Word reveals about him. We must identify him and understand his philosophy and his objectives.

This course is designed, through the Word of God and through a measure of experience on the part of the instructors, to familiarize us with the warfare and with the enemy against whom we wage that war. It will try to identify his domain, his helpers, his tactics, his philosophy, and his objectives. It will also endeavor to define specific weapons and means by which to overcome him.

Although his methods are as old as history and his strategy varies little, there are different manifestations of those things in various geographical fields and differing circumstances. This course endeavors to precondition us for confrontation with the enemy on the mission field in order to minimize the surprises, maximize our discernment, and arm us for the expected conflict.

THE GOSPELS

Using the Gospel of Luke as a basis and including teaching from the other gospels, this course is an overview of the life and ministry of Jesus.

PRIESTHOOD OF THE BELIEVER

Beginning in Genesis, this course offers a biblical presentation of the believer's priesthood and what it comprises.

THE FAMILY

There is no more important entity than the family unit. The evidence of that is probably in the degree in which it is being attacked today by a world system that is openly hostile to God. The demise of the American family has resulted in a generation filled with hostility, confusion, immorality, and a resistance to marriage and the order of a normal home. The most important rules in our society's structure have been belittled almost to the point of dissolution. This is an attack of the very foundations of the nation. But what is true here is true in any nation that does not know God's order in the family unit.

This course is an important one even for those who may never enter into missionary service. Every Christian would do well to order his family life according to the Word of God. This is especially true, however, for those who seek to convey the message of the Gospel to those presently beyond its reach. The Christian family is as much a part of that message as the things we preach. An inconsistency here can change the perceived message considerably.

MARRIAGE AND DIVORCE

This course centers on the biblical basis and moral issues surrounding marriage and divorce; its impact on the present-day church; and why it is especially important in those who are establishing the Gospel in new places.

RELATIONSHIPS TO HUMAN GOVERNMENTS

In the course of the Church's history, it has continually come into conflict with the trends and traditions of the world's society. Most Christians understand that, and, if they are sensitive to God, are able to comprehend the doctrine and practice of "separation."

However, it seems less apparent to many believers that there are times in this age of growing government hostility toward God's Word, when the believers may be required to resist the demands of human government. This is apparent at several points of biblical history and it has often been true in contemporary nations in our time. The questions for some is "when should we resist," while for others it is "should we resist at all?"

This course is designed to help resolve that dilemma so that, as the missionary ventures forth to reach lost men in a dark world, he might have a basis for decision when the challenge comes. We want to know the scope and the limitations of human government and how we relate to it in both positive and negative circumstances. This subject will be of growing significance as time passes. You will need to form personal convictions according to God's Word and the direction of the Holy Spirit.

FAITH TRIP

This can be considered a course of study. The basic guidelines for this activity are found in Luke 9:1-6 and Luke 10:1-9. We recognize Jesus' method of training these men in faith. Toward the end of Jesus' ministry (Luke 22:35) as He prepared them for his departure, he referred back to their faith trips asking the question, "When I sent you without purse and scrip and shoes, lacked ye anything?" Confidence in God was apparently the objective of this activity.

It is not the intent here to promise that you will not endure testing and that you will not miss any meals or experience no discomfort. But it is our intent to let you know that in retrospect, you will be aware that you have learned valuable things which will affect your perspective for years to come. This is part of the preparation for your service on the mission field.

The following courses are ones that have been taught in previous years, and are used specifically for Missionary Training.

VISION

Like the architect's drawings, this topic presents the vision of what we expect to accomplish under God in our pursuit of His commission, and why our success is assured.

We are told in the Word of God that where there is no vision, the people perish. That should not be difficult to understand. Everything that transpires begins with a vision. Every building, every project is first a vision. From that grows a plan or strategy and from that develops a method of operation. That is no different in the matter of fulfilling the Great Commission. The completion of a mission must begin with a vision.

The purpose of this course is to outline a biblical vision so that we are able to clearly perceive God's plan and recognize the appropriate course of action. To many, the work of missions is a nebulous program with no foreseeable conclusion: something we work at but never really expect to finish. We must dispel such a notion and set before us a definable target. We must know what we are about and recognize how to finish the work God has given us to do.

THE FIVE POINT PROGRAM

This sets forth a specific modus operandi in the practical execution of the Commission from the time we are called until our specific project is completed. It is a practical framework based on the written Word of God in which we have the latitude and flexibility required by the Holy Spirit. It is a clear working agenda.

When we know what we are going to do, we next need to know how we are going to do it. It is a fact that many have gone to the mission field to pioneer a work without any understanding of what that work should entail. Without an understanding of what procedures to follow, those people have spent years of service without contributing in a tangible way to the completion of the task of world missions. We must be careful not to impede the work and direction of the Holy Spirit by some rigid agenda of our own. But, we must recognize some biblical procedure that will provide initial guidelines and a framework within which we will operate effectively.

This course will provide broad biblical guidelines to facilitate the planting of the work that will be reproductive. At the same time, it will encourage your waiting on God for His leading and will not interfere with your seeking His direction in your day-to-day operation. The steps that are discussed in this course are not based on human engineering, but are proven by biblical example, by historical precedent, and by effective present-day practice. We want you to have a clear understanding of how to apply your efforts effectively on the field where God chooses to send you. These proven steps can be passed on to those who emerge as national leaders so that they in turn can plant reproductive cross cultural and domestic works.

AUTHORITY / LEADERSHIP

A distinction must be made between authority and leadership. Also, there is more than one definition or application of authority. This course has as its purpose to define authority and to identify the various areas of authority. It will address the importance of the recognition and submission to it.

No project or institution can carry on efficiently or effectively without authority. A completely democratic endeavor will fail for lack of cohesion and direction. This is true even of those things God has directed us to do. Therefore, authority must be taken seriously on the part of those who exercise it and also on the part of those over whom it is exercised. One of the great lessons of the Scriptures is the revelation of authority. This course will be of extraordinary importance to you in your overall preparation.

In this course, we will deal with the nature of the Church, its inauguration, its function, the components of fellowship and biblical Church order. This will be extremely important and foundational information with great relevancy to your missionary future.

The purpose of this course will be to make clear the roles of husband, wife and children. It will deal with attitudes and with family "atmosphere." It will seek to give solutions to common problems and deal with common misconceptions. Proper family life will be a significant factor in any missionary trainee being recommended for missionary service.

FELLOWSHIP PRINCIPLES

This is a study of principles governing fellowship practices which keep a New Testament Church true to New Testament teaching. It is important because these can be effectively practiced in the most hostile environments where "traditional" practices are prohibited.

The primary work of a pioneer missionary is establishing churches. All of our work, including evangelism and follow-up, should result in the establishment of growing, scriptural assemblies. Not only is it important that these churches exist, but that the people in them (especially those who establish them) know WHY they exist. The average Christian in the modern American city probably has a less-than-adequate understanding of the reason for, or the biblical function of, the local church.

The purpose of this course is to address these issues. Being more of a family than a religious institution, the local assembly exists specifically to nurture to maturity every member of the body of Christ. The discourses and ministry in the local assembly are for the building up of the saints for the work of the ministry. The assembling of the saints is specifically to facilitate the exhorting of one another, the provoking to love and good works, the exercise of spiritual gifts and ministries, and remembering the Lord's death till He comes.

BIBLE STUDIES

The establishing of Bible studies is an important part of the training program, and it will be a significant part of your work as a missionary. Inasmuch as faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God, it is only reasonable to endeavor to get people into the situations most conducive to their listening to what the Bible teaches. And for those who are saved, we know that the Word of God is defined in the Scriptures as the sincere milk by which we grow. Therefore, Bible studies are of tremendous significance.

This course of study is designed to help equip you to conscientiously and proficiently arrange and teach Bible studies. It will include "characteristics of learning," "preparation for learning," "communication," and "barriers to effective communication." There are many other indispensable specifics which will help you to get a handle on the important work of conveying Bible truth. At the same time, you will be reinforced in the knowledge that except the Lord builds a house, he labors in vain that builds it himself. You will know what we teach is God's Word and it must be revealed by his Holy Spirit.

This course also provides for the very important external factors of outward appearance and those unspoken things that either convey a message in themselves or make our hearers more or less responsive to what we seek to convey.

TEAM STRATEGY

It is probable that few things are more important on the mission field than team work. Statistics show that most missionary "casualties" are the result of a breakdown in relationships between fellow workers. That is, the missionaries cannot get along with their co-workers. Independence often results in inefficiency and duplication of effort. Sometimes even competition is present, which results in counter production. The Scriptures say "one shall chase a thousand but two shall put ten thousand to flight." That is much more than addition. Indeed, it is multiplication. In that equation, the addition of one man multiplies the result five times. Double the force and multiply the results by five. That is a significant argument for teamwork. But not the only one. There are other biblical reasons for emphasizing the importance of teamwork.

The purpose of this course is to present those reasons: to stress the value of teamwork and to explore its aspects. Applications of and insights into this subject will be effectively dealt with. This will prove to be of great importance, immediately and in the future.

SUPPORTING THE WORK AND SCRIPTURAL GIVING

Actually two different studies teaching the individual how to give, and then teaching how the work should be supported. Each newly established church (no matter where) should become a giving church contributing to the support of the work; ultimately sending and supporting its own missionaries.

CROSS-CULTURAL ORIENTATION

Part of the genius of God's purpose is to make missionaries cross-cultural because outsiders more readily discern weaknesses which are obscured by cultural immunity to those within. Before we enter other cultures, however, we need to be aware of and well-adjusted in our own culture. This course deals with topics related to cultural sensitivity; coping with so-called "culture shock"; understanding differences in world views; cultural analysis; theory and principles of communication; barriers to communication; bridges of communication; and reentry.

ESTABLISHING CHURCHES

Establishing churches is the primary purpose of missions. Everything else we do should, in some way, contribute to the fulfillment of this purpose.

Churches are the union of saints. They involve people as their basic ingredient. The first contact with the first person on the field is the beginning of the establishment of the local church there. It includes evangelism, both public and individual Bible studies, follow-up, social contacts, and all other forms of community intercourse.

This course is designed to help us pursue the most meaningful approaches and activities, and to direct us in some of the essential areas of instruction to young churches. The brevity of this course should not be construed to mean it is of little importance. The information will play a significant part in you effectiveness as a church planter.

ESTABLISHING NATIONAL CONFERENCES

Conferences have proved to be of major significance in the establishing of the Church on almost every mission field. They must not be overlooked as a most effective tool for encouraging, teaching, strengthening, motivating, and mobilizing the Church to specific action. Most conferences begin as a retreat for a single group or a small convention of two or three or more small churches. The idea of being responsible for the convening of such a conference the first time is somehow intimidating to some missionaries.

This course is very simple, but is designed to give you the basis for such a gathering and to give at least some broad guidelines upon which to act to get an effective conference started. Details will vary from nation to nation; however, we believe that conferences (step three of the five-point program) are an explosive way to initiate area-wide or even nation-wide action.

ESTABLISHING TRAINING PROGRAMS

Training is something that ideally is done in the local church by those who have the gifts, experience, and authority necessary to adequately impart the information and skills to produce mature missionaries. Initially, however, it becomes an apostolic responsibility necessary for developing leadership for the local assembly and for the extension of the work.

It should be kept in mind that this is not an initial step, but something that is instituted when there are people ready to participate.

This course is designed to assist you in recognizing those who are ready to attend and choosing the teachers, as well as recognizing the type of atmosphere in which the training should be conducted and what should be taught. It also defines training as opposed to simply teaching. Much help will be derived from this course, even if it is your intent to return to work in your local assembly rather than proceeding to a foreign mission field.