

## STUDY QUESTIONS - SURVEY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

### Chapter 1 - What is God Like?

- A. How do we know that God exists?
- B. What is the value of the "naturalistic arguments"? Is it possible to enter into a relationship with Jesus Christ purely on the basis of these arguments?
- C. Look at the divine attributes as a whole! (pp. 17-25) What are some of your general impressions of God's character? How does this concept of God (i.e. totality of attributes) compare with the average man's ideas of God?
- D. Relate the names of God with his attributes: write one or two attributes after each name. What is the value of studying God's names?
- E. Why is the trinity so difficult to define? Choose one clear reference which presents the doctrine of the trinity.

### Chapter 2 - Is the Bible Inspired?

- A. List and define the appropriate terms describing the source, nature, and value of the Scriptures.
- B. What is the problem over inerrancy? Why is inerrancy important?
- C. Review the tests of canonicity (p. 43). What is the date for final recognition of the complete Old Testament? New Testament? What are the central reasons for excluding the Apocrapha from the canon of Scripture?
- D. Summarize the reliability of text of our present Bible versions and translations.
- E. Read "Interpretation" (pp. 48-50) very carefully. Make those six ideas a part of your thinking whenever you approach the Scripture.

### Chapter 3 - Jesus Christ the Lord

- A. How important is Christology (the doctrine of Christ) to you?
- B. How would you develop a convincing argument for the deity of Christ? How would you prove His humanity?
- C. What do we mean when we speak of Jesus as the God-Man?
- D. Study Philippians 2: 1-11 carefully; use the textbook (pp. 57-59) as a guide.
- E. What personal encouragement do you gain from the idea of Christ's present ministry (pp. 65-66).

Chapter 4 - The Holy Spirit

- A. Why is the matter of the Holy Spirit's personality important?
- B. You are discipling a brand new Christian. Explain how he can know that the Holy Spirit is truly God.
- C. Read "The Work of the Spirit in Salvation" (pp. 75-79) carefully. Prepare yourself by looking up the major scripture references.
- D. (Optional - for "thinkers" only). Warning: Answering the following question may be dangerous even to advanced cases of spiritual apathy!

Compare and contrast the Spirit's work in the Old Testament (pp. 72-74) with this work in believers today (pp. 75-87).

Chapter 5 - The World of Angels

- A. You have just met a girl who said she was an angel. What features/proofs would help you decide if she was for real or just someone trying out a new pair of wings?
- B. Contrast the character of Satan with the character of God (pp. 17-25). Has Satan always existed?
- C. Read the section on demons (pp. 96-99). Do you detect anything which helps you to analyze the current fad interest in demonic activity (from Rosemary's Baby to The Exorcist).

Chapter 6 - The Nature of Man

- A. Note the six (6) positive statements about the Genesis record of creation (pp. 102-104); particularly assess the impact of the last one (6. p. 104)1
- B. Man is a sinner. In what ways is sin evident in a man's life?
- C. What have been the results of sin in the human race (both qualitatively and quantitatively)?
- D. How great must sin be in order to separate man and God?

Chapter 7 - Christ's Salvation

- A. A man once said that he didn't believe the doctrine of election. The Bible talks about the concept; what does it mean? Carefully read the section in the textbook (pg. 115-118) on this subject. Do you find yourself in disagreement in any of the areas?
- B. Why do so many people find the subject of God's election to be repugnant?
- C. Take a sheet of paper and outline the section from the textbook entitled The Death of Christ; give particular attention to the section entitled "Its Accomplishments."
- D. What is the difference between substitution and representation as it applies to the death of Christ on the cross for us?
- E. Think through the following concepts so that you are prepared to define and distinguish between them: 1) atonement, 2) redemption, 3) reconciliation, 4) propitiation.
- F. Look at some of the benefits of Christ's death (pg. 128-131). Take at least one of the sections and study it thoroughly looking up all of the scripture references and forming the complete picture of what Christ has done for us.
- G. I think I have just lost my salvation. Help me to recognize that I have not. Feel free to use the information from the text given on pages 131-134.
- H. How do the following relate to salvation: 1) dedication, 2) baptism, 3) church membership, 4) repentance.

Chapter 8 - What is the Church?

- A. After you have read through the chapter completely, define the two major presentations of the church: local and universal.
- B. What constitutes a local church? What kind of leadership should that church have and what are the qualifications for those positions?
- C. A variety of forms of church government are given on pages 146-148. Under which classification does our church come?
- D. What is the significance and benefit to the Christian in the ordinances of the church? Carefully define the basic purpose of the Lord's Table and water baptism.
- E. How did the illustrations of the universal church add to your understanding of the concept?
- F. I have always thought that the church began with Abraham or Moses or John the Baptist. Show me why I should believe that it did not begin until the Day of Pentecost.

Chapter 9 - What Does the Future Hold?

- A. Why is the Abrahamic covenant the most significant of all of the Biblical covenants?
- B. After you have read the entire chapter, define your position in reference to the following areas: 1) Christ's coming and the kingdom, 2) Christ's coming for the church and its time relationship to the tribulation.
- C. What is the purpose of the tribulation period? When does it begin and what marks the end of it?
- D. Why will Christ return to the earth to rule? In what way can the millennial kingdom be said to have an earthly character and a spiritual character?
- E. Why are there so many judgments still left in the future? What is the purpose for having a judgment for each one of these groups?
- F. Almost everyone believes in heaven? Do you also believe in the existence of hell? Why? What kind of a place will it be?