

**Bible
Teachings
Series**

*A study of
the history
and growth
of God's
church*



The Christian Church

The Christian Church

A study of the history
and growth of God's church

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Level 1, Book 22



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Getting Started

This book will teach you about God's church. It teaches you about how it began and how it has grown throughout the history of the world. You will learn that the teachings of the Christian church are based on the Bible and not on what people think.

Each chapter begins with goals marked with a small star (*). These goals will tell you what you will learn in each chapter. Then you will read a few lines and answer some questions. At the end of each chapter there is a short test. The test questions cover only what you have read in the chapter and the questions you have answered.

When you finish answering a group of questions, you will be given a page number where you can turn to check your answers. Check your answers before reading any further.

At the end of the book there is a final test. Before you answer the questions in this final test, go back and review the chapter tests. When you have completed the final test you can either return the test to the person who

gave you this book, or you can mail it to the address on the back cover of this book.

As you study about the Christian church and learn about its history and growth, we pray that you will see God's blessing on the church and on all who are members of the Christian church.



Chapter One

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE WORD CHURCH?

The word “church” is used in many different ways. In this chapter we wish to learn about:

- * The church we cannot see—the invisible Church, and
- * The church we can see—the visible church.

In the Apostles’ Creed we confess, or declare, that we believe in the “holy Christian Church.” We say that we “believe” in it because the holy

Christian Church is invisible to us. It is the church we cannot see. We cannot see it because this church is made up of believers in Christ, and only of believers, and we cannot look into anyone's heart to learn if that person believes in Jesus. So this church is invisible to us. Only God can see into our hearts and know who believes in him. "The Lord knows who his own people are" (2 Timothy 2:19). In the Old Testament God spoke to the prophet Samuel and told him, "Man looks at how someone appears on the outside. But I (God) look at what is in the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7).

1. The holy Christian Church is an _____ church.
2. We cannot look into anyone's _____ to learn if that person _____ in Jesus.
3. Only _____ can see into our _____ and know who believes in him.

(Check your answers on page 13)

By faith in Jesus we become members of the holy Christian Church. Why is the invisible church called a "holy" church? This church is made holy by what Jesus and the Holy Spirit

have done for us. We cannot make ourselves holy. But God has done it. God accepted the perfect life and death of Jesus as full payment for our sins when Jesus died on the cross. In 1 John 1:7 we learn that “the blood of Jesus, his (God’s) Son, makes us pure from all sin.” God has told us this in the Bible so that the Holy Spirit can use God’s word to bring us to believe in Jesus as our Savior and to keep us in that faith so we can be a part of the Holy Christian Church. It is God who makes us holy members of this invisible church that is made up of believers, and only of believers in Jesus.

This holy church is called “Christian” because all of the people who are in this church are disciples or followers of Jesus Christ who do what Jesus has said. Jesus told his disciples that they were to make disciples of “all nations” by baptizing them and by teaching people everything he has commanded. Therefore, a member of the holy Christian church will be baptized. We will also continue to study God’s Word faithfully so we continue to believe in Jesus. The apostle Paul tells us, “Christ is the head of the church. The church is Christ’s body. He is its Savior. The church follows the lead of Christ” (Ephesians 5:23,34). Because of what



Jesus sends the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Christ did for us and because he is our leader, we call ourselves Christians, followers of Christ. The name “Christian” is an old name that occurs only three times in the Bible. It is a label that the enemies of Jesus pinned on anyone who believed in Christ. The first time we read it is in the book of Acts where Luke is talking about followers of Christ in the city of Antioch. Luke says that, “At Antioch the believers were called Christians for the first time” (Acts 11:26).

4. By _____ in _____ we become members of the Holy Christian Church.
5. It is _____, not we, who makes us members of the invisible church.
6. The church is made up of _____ and only of _____.
7. The church is called _____ because the members are _____ of _____.

(Check your answers on page 13)

When you were born, your parents gave you a name. When you were baptized God gave you another name. God placed his name on you. This means that by faith in Jesus we are now members of God’s family. Ephesians 2:19

reminds us, “You are no longer strangers and outsiders. You are citizens together with God’s people. You are members of God’s family.”

When you are baptized, you become a member of the holy Christian Church and of God’s family. There is only one holy Christian Church. There may be many different groups of people and groups of congregations that make up all of the world’s church denominations. There may be those who are Roman Catholic or Baptist or Methodist or Lutheran, but there is only one holy Christian Church. It is made up of believers who are brought to faith in Jesus and kept in this faith by the means of grace. Wherever the means of grace, the gospel in God’s Word and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, are taught and administered correctly, there will be believers. They are the members of the holy Christian Church.

We thank Jesus for cleansing us from all our sins. We thank the Holy Spirit for calling us through the gospel to believe in Jesus as our Savior. We thank God the Father for making us members of his family and therefore of the holy Christian Church. Our salvation is the gift of a loving God.

8. When you were baptized, God received you into his family and you became a _____.
9. There is only _____ holy Christian Church.
10. The holy Christian Church is made up of believers who are brought to faith by the means of grace, the _____ in God's Word and the _____ of Baptism and the Lord's Supper that are taught and administered correctly.
11. Salvation is the gift of a _____ God.

(Check your answers on page 13)

We have learned about the invisible church. Only God knows who the members of the holy Christian Church are. Now we want to learn about visible church, that is, the churches we can see.

The word "church" is used in many different ways. When we speak about a church, we might mean a building in which people worship. Or, we might say that we are going to church, meaning that we will join other people to worship God. When someone asks you, "What church do you belong to?" we might answer, "I belong to the Lutheran church," or the

Methodist church, or the Roman Catholic church. This means that you are a member of a denomination, or a group of congregations, that work together to carry out the Lord's work in the world.

Members of a church will show their love for their God and Savior. They will share their faith. They will support the work of their church with their prayers and offerings. They will do whatever they can to help the spread of the gospel out of love for their Savior.

12. Members of a church will show their _____ for their God and Savior.
13. They will share their _____.
14. They will support the work of their church with their _____ and _____.

(Check your answers on page 13)

As members of a visible church, we will want to hear what Jesus says in the Bible to learn what a person does as a member of a congregation. Read the following Bible accounts in which Jesus teaches us how we serve him:

Luke 10:38-42 – Jesus tells us that listening to and studying the Bible are most important.

Luke 4:14-21 – Jesus regularly went to the synagogue (the Jewish place of worship) to worship.

Luke 21:1-4 – Jesus speaks of giving sacrificial offerings to the work of the church.

Matthew 18:20 – Jesus gives us the promise that he is together with those who worship him.

Review of Chapter One

When we speak of the church, we learn that there is a church we cannot see, the invisible church, and a church we can see, the visible church.

The invisible church is made up of believers and only believers. We cannot see who belongs to this church because we cannot look into people's hearts to see if they believe. Only God can do that. Therefore, only God knows who is a believer and is a member of the invisible church. This church is holy because Jesus made it holy by living a perfect life and dying for us on the cross. This church is Christian because those who are members of it are followers of Christ.

However, we can see those who are members of the visible church. The members of the visible church are the people who study God's Word with us. They are people who worship together with us. They are members of what is called a Christian congregation or a group of congregations. As members of the visible church, we show our love to God and we follow Jesus' example by studying God's Word, by

worshipping him regularly, and by supporting the work of the church with our gifts and prayers. Jesus promises that where two or three people are gathered together in his name, he is there among them even if we cannot see him.

Answers to the questions in Chapter One:

1. invisible; 2. heart, believes; 3. God, hearts; 4. faith, Jesus;
5. God; 6. believers, believers; 7. Christian, followers, Christ;
8. Christian; 9. one; 10. gospel, sacraments; 11. loving; 12. love;
13. faith; 14. prayers, offerings.

Chapter One Test

1. We cannot look into anyone's _____
to see if that person _____ in
Jesus.
2. Only _____ can see into our
_____ and know who
believes in him.
3. By _____ in _____ we
become members of the holy Christian
Church.
4. It is _____, not we, who makes
us members of the invisible church.
5. When you were baptized you received
membership in God's family and the name
_____.
6. There is only _____ holy Christian
Church.
7. Salvation is a gift of a _____ God.
8. Members of a church will show their
_____ for their God and Savior.
9. Members will support the work of their
church with their _____ and
_____.

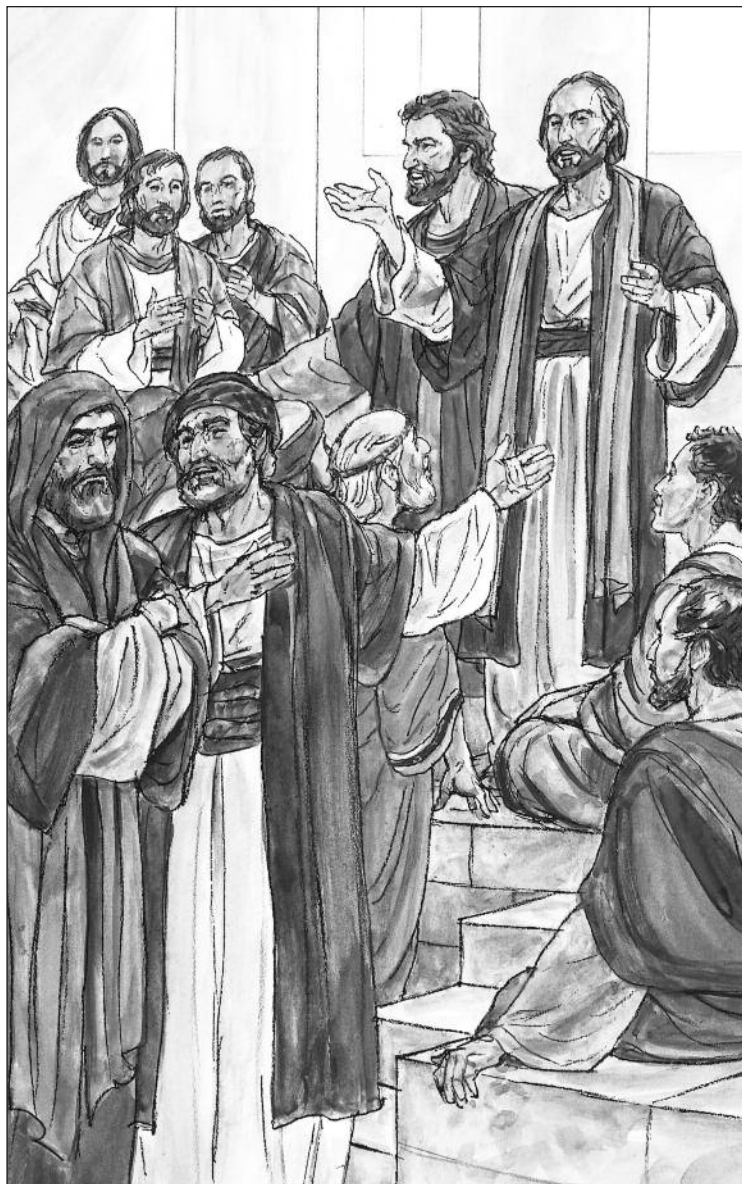
(Check your answers on page 85)



Chapter Two

THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

God's church existed from the beginning of time. We learn in the Old Testament about Cain and Abel, Adam and Eve's sons, who brought their offerings to the Lord (Genesis 4:1-5). Noah built an altar to worship God after the worldwide flood and praised God (Genesis 8:14-20). Abraham also worshipped God and was willing to offer his son, Isaac, as an offering to God (Genesis 22:1-19). There are many more examples from the Old Testament that speak of people worshiping God because he promised to provide a Savior for the world. The Old Testament church believed those promises and looked forward to the coming of Christ. In that sense, they were Christians too.



Paul and Barnabas preach God's Word.

But usually when we speak of the Christian church, we mean the group of believers in Jesus that began to form as soon as the Savior finished his great work. In this chapter we want to learn about:

- * The work of the apostles, and
- * The spread of the gospel in the world.

After he rose from the dead and before he returned to heaven, Jesus told his disciples that they would “receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you. Then you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem. You will be my witnesses in all Judea and Samaria. And you will be my witnesses from one end of the earth to the other” (Acts 1:8). We do not know where all the disciples went to preach the gospel. We know the apostle James became the head of the church in the city of Jerusalem. We know that the apostle Peter served especially among the Jews. Later in the book of Acts we learn much about the work of the apostle Paul. Paul became the apostle to the Gentiles (people who are not Jews). As a result he went on missionary journeys to the countries that today are called Turkey, Greece, and Macedonia.

Then he went to the city of Rome and possibly also to the country of Spain. The disciples of Jesus followed the Lord's direction and preached and taught about how people are saved by faith in Jesus Christ.

1. After Jesus rose from the dead and before he returned to heaven he told his disciples, "You will be my _____."
2. We know that the apostle Peter served especially among the _____.
3. Paul became the apostle to the _____.
4. The disciples of Jesus followed the Lord's direction and preached and taught about how people are saved by _____ in _____.

(Check your answers on page 28)

Soon after this, we learn that the church suffered persecution. Even rulers of the Roman Empire tried to destroy the church of Jesus Christ. But instead of destroying the church, persecution caused the church to spread. It was like what happens when a person throws a stone into water. As soon as the stone hits the surface, the water rises in rings that flow to the surrounding area. The same was true of the

church. New churches rose up in more and more cities until a powerful ruler by the name of Constantine became a Christian.

Constantine was the first Christian ruler of the Roman Empire. He made Christianity a religion that could be practiced throughout the Roman world.



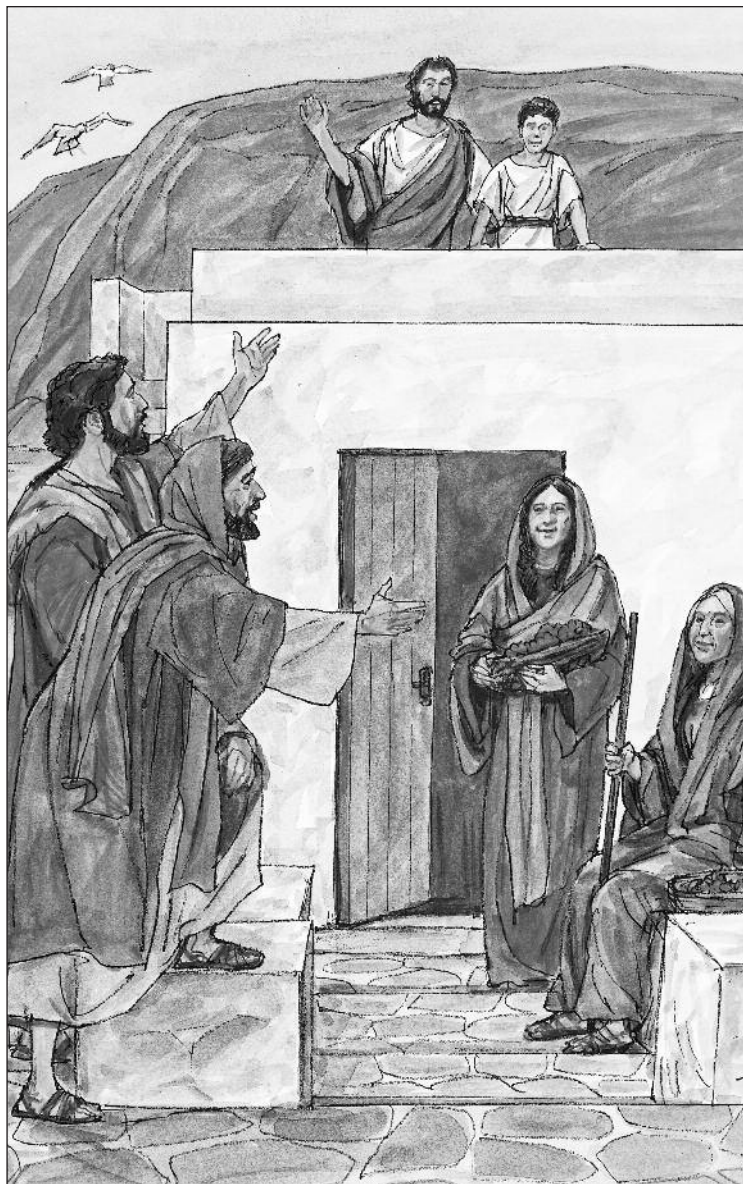
Areas that were a part of the Roman Empire

5. Roman rulers tried to _____ the church of Jesus Christ.
6. Persecution, instead of destroying the church, caused the church to _____.
7. An emperor by the name of _____ became a _____.
8. Constantine made _____ a religion that could be practiced throughout the Roman world.

(Check your answers on page 28)

The church grew like the mustard seed that Jesus taught about in a parable. Parables are earthly stories with a heavenly meaning. Read Mark 4:30-32. Jesus tells us that God's kingdom is like a very small mustard seed. But when it is planted into the ground, it grows to become like a tree, large enough for birds to make their nests in its branches. That is what happened with God's church. First there were only 12 apostles, then 70 disciples. At the feast of Pentecost 3,000 people were baptized. By the time of the Emperor Constantine, God's church had spread throughout the Roman world. And it is still growing today.

The devil tried in every way to destroy God's church. When he was unable to destroy God's church by persecution, he caused teachers in the church to lead people away from Jesus by the use of false teachings. In order to overcome the false teachers and their false teachings, Christian leaders wrote creeds, or brief statements of what the Bible teaches, to overcome the false teachings the devil was using to destroy the church of Jesus.



The holy Christian Church grows.

9. The devil tried in every way to _____ God's Church.
10. The devil misled teachers in the church so they would lead people away from Jesus by the use of _____ teachings.
11. Christian leaders wrote _____, or brief statements of what the Bible _____, to overcome the false teachings of the devil.

(Check your answers on page 28)

There are three creeds, or statements of faith, that are used throughout the Christian church today. The creed that is most familiar to us is called the **Apostles' Creed**. This creed was not written by the apostles, but it is based on the teachings of the apostles that we find in the Bible. The Apostles' Creed is as follows:

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our
Lord, who was conceived by the Holy
Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered
under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
died and was buried. He descended
into hell. The third day he rose again
from the dead. He ascended into

heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty, from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

This is a short and beautiful confession of what Christians believe. This creed is based on the words of Jesus. In Matthew 28:18,19 Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. So you must go and make disciples of all nations. Baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Notice that Jesus speaks of three persons in the one true God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. In the same way the Apostles' Creed speaks of these same three persons and about what each person of the Godhead does for us. God the Father created us and takes care of us. In addition, because sin brought death to the world, God the Father sent the Son of God to rescue us by becoming the man, Jesus Christ. He lived a perfect life and died for us to redeem us. And, equally

important, the Holy Spirit has brought us to faith in Jesus and leads us to heaven. Each Christian should learn this creed as a statement of what he or she believes.

12. The creed that is most familiar to us is called the _____ Creed.
13. This creed is based on the teachings of the _____ that we find in the _____.
14. The first part of this creed speaks about God the _____.
15. The second and longest part of this creed speaks about _____ the Father's only Son, our Lord.
16. The third part of this creed speaks about God the _____.
17. The Apostles' Creed is based on the words of _____.
18. God the _____ created us and takes care of us.
19. The Son of God became a man, Jesus Christ, and _____ for us to _____ us.
20. The Holy Spirit has brought us to _____ and leads us to _____.

(Check your answers on page 28)

The second creed that is used in the Christian church is the **Nicene Creed**. It is longer than the Apostles' Creed. There was a false teacher by the name of Arius who taught that Jesus is the Son of God but that he is not equal to God the Father. In order to overcome this false teaching, the Nicene Creed was written about 1,700 years ago. The second part of this creed that speaks about Jesus Christ is much longer than the second part of the Apostles' Creed. It carefully confesses that Jesus is "the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, Light from Light, true God from true God." These words remind all people that Jesus is the true God, that he is the only Son of God and is eternal.

Later, a third creed needed to be written because there were false teachers who denied that there are three persons—the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—who are the one true God. Another false teaching said that Jesus was not both true God and true man in one person. The creed that was written to correct these errors is known as the **Athanasian Creed**. It is named after a church leader who, three hundred years after the birth of Jesus, defended the teachings of the Bible. This creed is very long and would cover several pages of this book.

21. The second creed that is used in the Christian church is the _____ Creed.
22. The Nicene Creed was written because a false teacher taught that Jesus is the Son of God but not _____ to God the Father.
23. The third creed (The Athanasian Creed) was written because false teachers denied that there are three persons—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—that are _____ God.

(Check your answers on page 28)

These three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—are based on the teachings of the Holy Bible. They truly state what Jesus and the apostles taught. These creeds confess the faith of every believing child of God. We thank God that his teachings, revealed to us in the Scriptures, have been defended against error and kept pure throughout all the history of the Christian church. We pray to God that he will keep each one of us in a church that believes and declares as true all that the Bible teaches and that does not add to or subtract from those teachings. To God be the honor and praise for keeping us as believers and as members of his church.

24. These three creeds—the Apostles' Creed, the Nicene Creed, and the Athanasian Creed—are based on the teachings of the _____.

25. These three creeds truly state what _____ and the _____ taught.

26. These creeds confess the _____ of every believing _____ of God.

(Check your answers on page 28)

In order to learn more about the work of the Christian church in the years soon after Christ ascended, read the book of Acts in your Bible. Some important activities of that church are found in:

Acts 1:1-13 – Before returning to heaven Jesus tells the disciples they will be his witnesses.

Acts 2:42-47 – The members of the early church prayed and worked together.

Acts 11:19-26 – Believers were first called Christians in the city of Antioch.

Acts 17:10-11 – Believers in the city of Berea “studied the Scriptures very carefully every day.”

Review of Chapter Two

God's church is found in the Old Testament from the beginning of time. Christ, the Son of God, is the Savior that every believer worships—beginning with those who trusted God's promises in the Old Testament and continuing with every believer in Jesus who belongs to the Christian church of the New Testament. Jesus, the Christ, told his disciples to be witnesses of him throughout the world. They did go and preach the gospel. They taught Jews and Gentiles alike. The apostle Paul became the greatest missionary, reaching out to the countries of Europe.

The devil tried to destroy the church of God. Persecution drew the blood of the church, but that only caused the church to spread to new cities and countries. Then the devil tried to destroy the church through false teachers and false teachings. This caused the Christian

Answers to the questions in Chapter Two:

1. witnesses; 2. Jews; 3. Gentiles; 4. faith, Jesus Christ;
5. destroy; 6. spread; 7. Constantine, Christian; 8. Christianity;
9. destroy; 10. false; 11. creeds, believes; 12. Apostles';
13. apostles, Bible; 14. Father; 15. Jesus Christ; 16. Holy Spirit;
17. Jesus; 18. Father; 19. died, redeem; 20. faith, heaven;
21. Nicene; 22. equal; 23. one; 24. Holy Bible; 25. Jesus, apostles;
26. faith, child.

church to write creeds, or brief statements, about what the church believes. These creeds were based on what the Bible taught about God and his work.

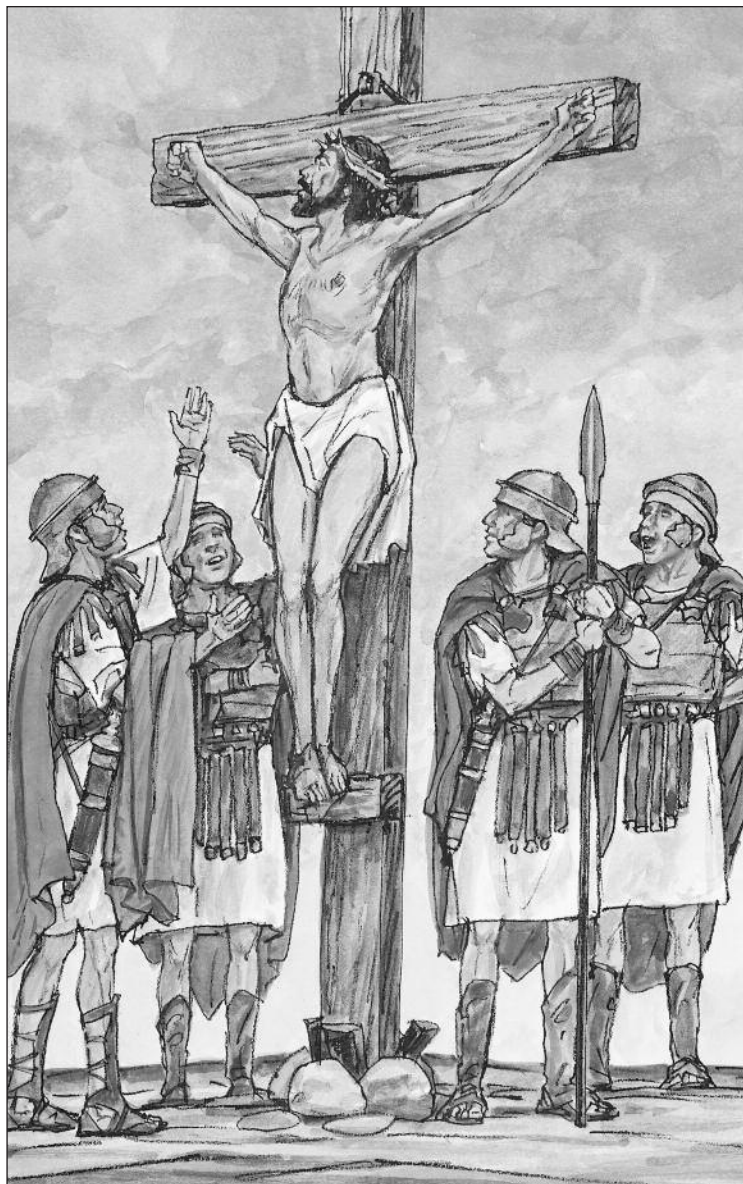
The Apostles' Creed is the most familiar creed. With it we confess our faith in God the Father who created us and takes care of us. This creed also states our faith in God's only Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lived a perfect life and removed the punishment that our sins deserve by giving his holy life for our sins. With the third part of the Apostles' Creed we praise the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith and leads us to heaven. This creed is called the Apostles' Creed because it is based on the teachings of the apostles found in the Bible. The Apostles' Creed as well as two other creeds, the Nicene Creed and the Athanasian Creed, are confessed around the world by Christian churches. All three creeds are based on the teachings of the Bible. These creeds clearly say what every child of God believes.

Chapter Two Test

1. After Jesus rose from the dead and before he returned to heaven he told his disciples, "You will be my _____."
2. The disciples of Jesus followed the Lord's direction and preached and taught about how people are saved by _____ in _____.
3. Roman rulers tried to _____ the church of Jesus Christ.
4. Persecution, instead of destroying the church, caused it to _____.
5. The devil misled teachers in the church so they would lead people away from Jesus by the use of _____ teachings.
6. Christian leaders wrote _____, or statements of what the church _____, to overcome the false teachings of the devil.
7. The creed most familiar to us is called the _____ Creed.
8. The first part of the creed speaks about God the _____.

9. The second and longest part about this creed speaks about _____
_____ the Father's only Son,
our Lord.
10. The third part of the creed speaks about
the _____.
11. God the _____ created us
and cares for us.
12. Jesus Christ became human and _____
for us to _____ us.
13. The Holy Spirit brings us to _____
and leads us to _____.

(Check your answers on page 85)



Jesus on the cross.



Chapter Three

THE REFORMATION OF THE CHURCH

In this chapter we want to learn about a man named Martin Luther who reformed the church beginning in the year 1517, and we want to see the importance that his 400-year-old reformation of the church has for us today. We will learn:

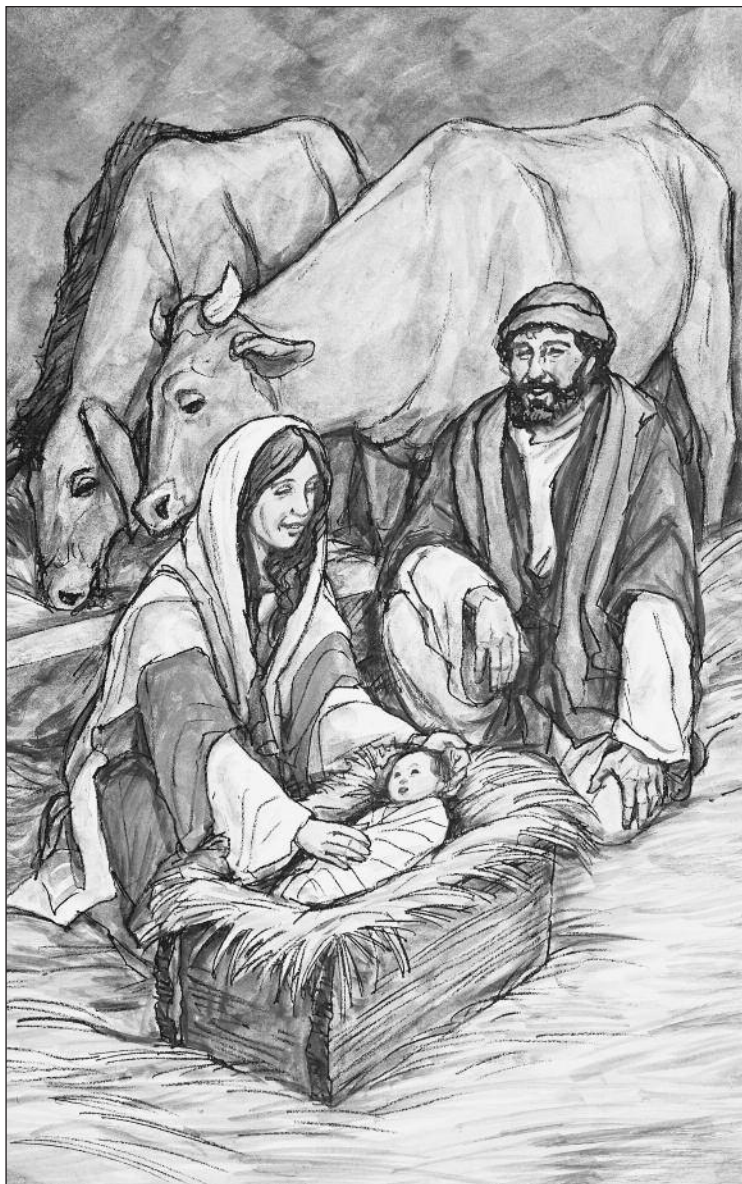
- * What happened to the teachings of the church during the history of the church,
- * Who Martin Luther was and what he taught, and
- * How the Lutheran church spread around the world.

We learned that the teachings of the church are the teachings of the Bible. What the Bible says about Jesus Christ **formed** the Christian church. Jesus came into our world to be our Savior. He lived a perfect life without sinning. He died an innocent death on the cross to be punished for our sins. Then God raised Jesus from the dead, accepting what Jesus did for us. God justified us. To be justified means that our sins are forgiven because of what Jesus did. "Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. He was raised to life in order to make us right with God" (Romans 4:25).

1. What the Bible says about Jesus Christ _____ the church.
2. Jesus came into the world to be our _____.
3. Jesus lived a _____ life without sinning.
4. Jesus died an innocent death on the cross to be punished for _____ sins.

(Check your answers on page 44)

We also learned that the devil tried to destroy the church through false teachings. Some false teachers did not believe that Jesus is the Son of God. They taught their own false teaching



Jesus is born.

even though the Bible tells us clearly that Jesus is the Son of God. When Jesus was baptized, God spoke from heaven saying, "This is my Son, and I love him" (Matthew 3:17).

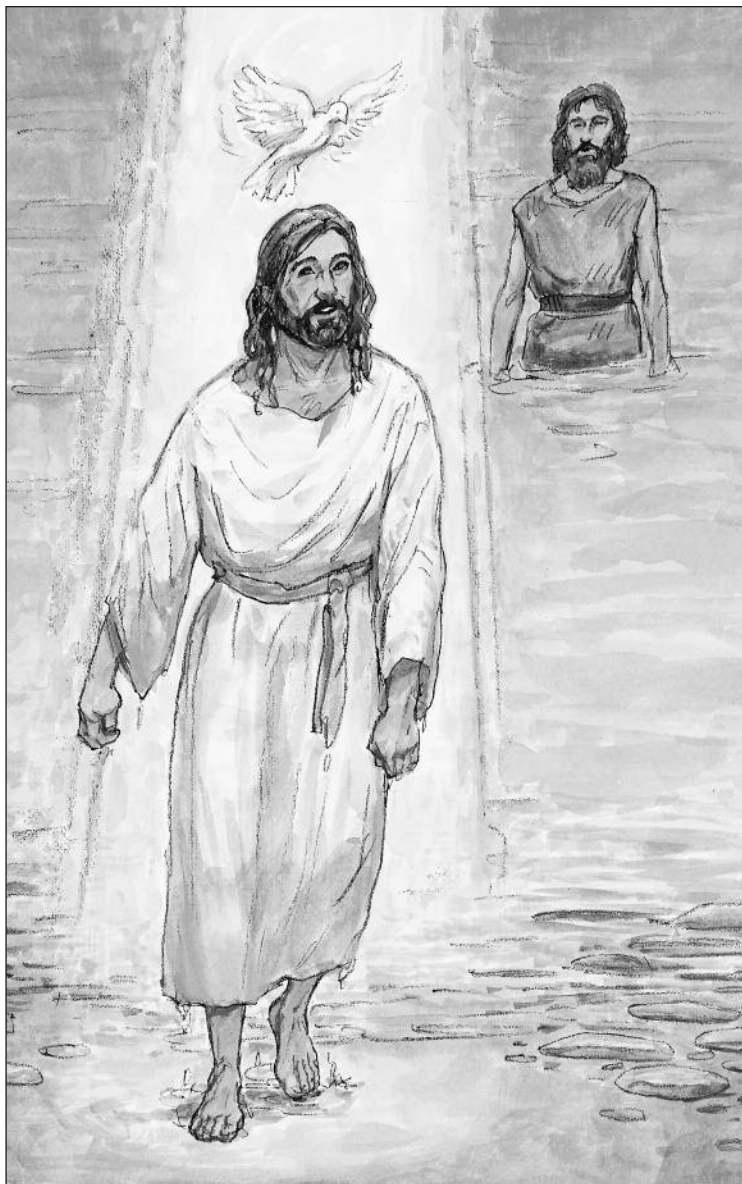
Romans 1:3, 4 clearly says, "The good news is about God's Son. As a human being, the Son of God belonged to King David's family line. By the power of the Holy Spirit, he was appointed to be the mighty Son of God because he rose from the dead. He is Jesus Christ our Lord."

False teachings **deformed** God's church, hiding the gospel of Christ under man-made laws. Throughout the history of the church many other false teachings entered into the church.

5. The devil tried to destroy the church through _____ teachings.
6. Some _____ teachers did not believe that Jesus is the _____ of God.
7. The _____ tells us clearly that Jesus is the Son of God.
8. False teaching _____ God's church.

(Check your answers on page 44)

Centuries went by and the church grew. It divided into two parts: the western and the eastern church. The western church is known



Jesus is baptized.

as the Roman Catholic Church. The western part of the church is led by a man called the Pope. The Roman Catholic Church taught that faith in Jesus would not be enough for anyone to become a part of God's family. It taught that certain works or deeds needed to be done in addition to believing in Jesus.

A man by the name of Martin Luther reformed the church and brought it back to the teachings of the Bible. Martin Luther was born in the country of Germany about 500 years ago. He became a Roman Catholic priest and studied the Bible carefully. To his surprise, while reading Romans 1:17 he learned, "The good news shows how God makes people right with himself. From beginning to end, becoming right with God depends on a person's faith. It is written, 'Those who are right with God will live by faith.'" The teachings of the church at the time of Luther did not agree with these words from the Bible. The Bible told Luther that we are saved only by faith in Jesus. But the church denied this. In fact in Luther's day there was a man in the church who came to Germany and taught that people could buy the forgiveness of their sins. He sold pieces of paper to assure people that they had paid for the forgiveness of all their sins. Martin Luther knew the Bible said we are saved by faith and not by our works or

by purchasing forgiveness with money. Therefore, on October 31, 1517, he nailed 95 statements on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, asking the church to repent of its sins. This date is known as Reformation Day, the day Luther began to reform the church.

9. It was a man by the name of _____ who _____ the church.
10. Martin Luther brought the church back to the teachings of the _____.
11. Martin Luther was born in the country of _____.
12. By reading Romans 1:17 Martin Luther learned that we are made right with God by _____.
13. What is the date that Luther nailed 95 statements on the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, and began the Reformation? _____

(Check your answers on page 44)

Church officials ordered Luther to take back what he had written and said. However, standing in the presence of the Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire and before officials of the Roman Catholic Church, Luther said, "I cannot

and will not take back what I have written. Here I stand. I cannot do otherwise. God help me.”

Luther was put out of the church, and he was said to be an enemy of the Empire. He went into hiding in the Wartburg Castle in Germany. There he translated the New Testament into the German language. For over 1,000 years the Bible had been difficult to read because it was published in the Latin language which most people could not understand. Now people could read the Bible in their own language. Later, after a friend in the government promised to protect him, Luther returned to the city of Wittenberg as a professor in the university there. He wrote many books to defend the teachings of the Bible. He wrote the Small and the Large Catechisms. He wrote many hymns that are still sung in Lutheran churches today.

14. Luther translated the New Testament into the _____ language so people could read the Bible in their own language.
15. Luther wrote many _____ to defend teachings of the Bible.
16. Luther wrote many _____ that are still sung in Lutheran churches today.

(Check your answers on page 44)

The teachings of Luther, based on the Bible, spread rapidly, and many Lutheran churches were begun throughout Europe. Later, the teachings of the Lutheran church spread into Asia, Africa, North and South America, and Australia. Today Lutheran churches are found around the world.

Unfortunately, the devil still tries to stop the church, and today not all Lutheran churches believe that the Bible is inspired by God and is without error. Some Lutheran churches do not believe that Jesus performed miracles or rose from the dead. They have departed from the true teachings of Scripture. But, by God's grace, there also are confessional Lutheran churches that still stand firmly on the teachings of Scripture. We need to be certain that we belong to such a confessional Lutheran church. We need to believe and confess the teachings found in the Bible. We need to be faithful to Jesus' teachings.

17. The teachings of Luther, based on the _____, spread rapidly.
18. Today Lutheran churches are found _____ the world.

19. Not all Lutheran churches believe that the Bible is _____ by God and is without _____.
20. There are some confessional Lutheran churches that still stand firmly on the teachings of _____.
21. We need to be certain that we belong to such a _____ Lutheran church.
22. We need to stand on the _____ found in the Bible.
23. We need to be _____ to Jesus' teachings.

(Check your answers on page 44)

Review of Chapter Three

God's church has existed from the very beginning of the world. Today we call it the Christian church. This church was **formed** around God's promises to send a Savior and based on the teachings of Jesus in the Bible. As time went by, the church grew, and finally it divided into two main parts, the eastern and the western church. The western church is called the Roman Catholic Church and is led by a man called the Pope. Gradually, false teachings entered into this church. As a result,

the church became **deformed**. A man by the name of Martin Luther brought the church back to the teachings of Jesus and of the entire Bible. He **reformed** the church.

Martin Luther was born in the country of Germany. He became a priest in the Roman Catholic Church. When he studied the Bible he learned from Romans 1:17 that we are saved by faith in Jesus Christ. However, the church taught that, while God showed us his grace, we had to help God along and do good works in order to be saved. There was also a man from the church who came to Germany and sold pieces of paper that said people could buy the forgiveness of sins. Luther knew we cannot buy our forgiveness.

He knew that we are saved only by the grace of God. On October 31, 1517, he wrote 95 statements inviting the Roman Catholic Church to discuss these things and to repent. The church ordered Luther to take back what he had written, but he could not do so. He would stand on the teachings of the Bible. To help people understand the Bible, Luther wrote many books and hymns.

The Lutheran church grew and is found around the world. However, Satan is also at work, and he led some of the Lutheran churches to depart from the teachings of the Bible. Some no longer believe that the Bible is the Word of God. Some do not believe that Jesus rose from the dead and is the only way to be saved.

Thanks to God, however, there also are confessional Lutheran churches who still believe that the Bible was inspired by God and is without error. The confessional Lutheran churches believe that Jesus performed miracles and rose from the dead. We will want to be members of such a confessional Lutheran church.

Answers to the questions in Chapter Three:

1. formed; 2. Savior; 3. perfect; 4. our; 5. false; 6. false, Son;
7. Bible; 8. deformed; 9. Martin Luther, reformed; 10. Bible;
11. Germany; 12. faith; 13. October 31, 1517; 14. German;
15. books; 16. hymns; 17. Bible; 18. around; 19. inspired, error;
20. Scripture; 21. confessional; 22. teachings; 23. faithful.

Chapter Three Test

1. The Christian church was _____ through what the Bible says about Jesus Christ.
2. Jesus came into the world to be our _____.
3. The devil tried to destroy the church by _____ teachings.
4. Some _____ teachers did not believe that Jesus is the _____ of God.
5. The _____ teaches us clearly that Jesus is the Son of God.
6. Martin Luther brought the church back to the teachings of the _____.
7. By reading Romans 1:17 Martin Luther learned that we are made right with God by _____.
8. Today Lutheran churches are found _____ the world.
9. There are confessional Lutheran churches that still stand firmly on the teachings of the _____.
10. We need to be _____ to Jesus' teachings.

(Check your answers on page 85)



God gives Moses the Ten Commandments.



Chapter Four

THE TEACHINGS OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We have learned that a confessional Lutheran church is one that bases its teachings on the Bible. The Bible teaches us that we are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, in this chapter, as we study the teachings of the Lutheran church, we want to learn that:

- * We are saved only by the Scriptures,
- * We are saved only by the grace of God,

- * We are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ, and
- * A confessional Lutheran church and its members do not fellowship with churches that teach false doctrines.

We are saved only by the Scriptures.

What is the source of Lutheran teaching? Where do we learn that it is God who created the world in which we live and also created us? Where do we learn that we are sinners? Where do we learn about Jesus Christ? Where do we learn about the Holy Spirit and what he has done to make us children of God?

We cannot learn the answers to these questions by listening to our own thoughts or opinions. Nor do we learn the answers to these questions from a newspaper or an ordinary book. We learn the answers from only one source, and that is the Bible. The Bible is the **ONLY** trustworthy source of Christian teaching.

1. We learn the answers to what God has done for us only from the _____.

2. The Bible is the _____ trustworthy source of Christian teaching.

(Check your answers on page 65)

The Bible is the source of the teachings of a confessional Lutheran church. Psalm 119:105 tells us, “Your word is like a lamp that shows me the way. It is like a light that guides me.” When we are in a strange city or have lost our way in the country, we can ask someone who lives there to tell us what street or road to take to get to where we want to go. When it is a dark night, we can use a light to show us where to walk so that we do not fall down and hurt ourselves. That is what the Bible does for us. We were lost in sin, but God shows us the path to heaven in the Bible. It is the Scriptures that tell us, “God has shown us how to become right with him.... It has nothing to do with obeying the law. We are made right with God by putting our faith in Jesus Christ” (Romans 3:21, 22). These words speak of the two main teachings of the Scriptures—the law and the gospel.

3. We were lost in sin but God shows us the path to _____ in the _____.

4. The two main teachings of the Scriptures are the _____ and the _____.

(Check your answers on page 65)

The law shows us our sins, and the gospel shows us our Savior. The only place we learn about the law of God and the gospel is in the Scriptures. The Gospel of John in chapter 1 verse 17 reminds us, “Moses gave us the law. Jesus Christ has given us grace and truth.”

God breathed into the writers of the Old and New Testaments the very words they were to write. The Scriptures are God’s Word and not the words of men. “Above all, this is what you must understand. No prophecy in Scripture ever came from a prophet’s own understanding. It never came simply because a prophet wanted it to. Instead, the Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke. So prophecy comes from God” (2 Peter 1:20,21). Therefore, Jesus could say, “Use the truth to make them (the believers) holy. Your word is truth” (John 17:17). Many people and churches use their own thinking and add it to God’s Word. But God’s Word is the only way we are taught how to get to heaven. We are not to add or take away anything from what God’s Word says.



The Magi visit and worship Jesus.

5. The _____ shows us our sins and the _____ shows us our Savior.
6. The only place where we learn the law of God and the gospel is in the _____.
7. The Scriptures are _____ Word and not the words of _____.
8. God's Word is the only way we are taught how to get to _____.
9. We are not to _____ or take away anything from what God's word says.

(Check your answers on page 65)

A confessional Lutheran church teaches us:

1. The Bible is God's Word.
2. God's Word is the truth.
3. The truth is that we are sinners and we are saved only through Jesus.
4. We are not to add or subtract from God's truth.
5. The truth is that we are saved **ONLY** by what the Scriptures teach us.

We are saved only by the grace of God.

Some people think that they can get right with God and go to heaven by keeping God's law and doing what God commands us to do in the Ten Commandments. Some people think that

they can help God get us to heaven by doing good things. But the Bible tells us we are saved **ONLY** by the grace of God.

God's grace is the undeserved love he shows to us. We cannot get to heaven by keeping God's law. The Bible tells us, "Everyone has sinned. No one measures up to God's glory. The free gift of God's grace makes all of us right with him. Jesus Christ paid the price to set us free" (Romans 3:23, 24). This Bible verse reminds us that we are all sinners and cannot measure up to what God wants us to do. This verse also tells us that it is God's grace that makes us right with him. God's grace is free. It is a gift. If you receive a gift from a friend, you do not pay for it. It is free and without cost to you. That is the same with the grace of God. We do not deserve God's love and salvation, but God gives it to us freely, without cost to us. Because we have sinned against God, we do not deserve this gift of salvation, but God gives it to us because he loves us. The apostle Paul writes, "God's grace has saved you because of (through) your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag

about earning it" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). We have been set free from sin, from the fear of death, and from an eternity in hell because God's grace is full and rich.

10. God's _____ is the undeserved love he shows to us.

11. We cannot get to heaven by keeping God's _____.

12. God's grace is _____.

(Check your answers on page 65)

God shows his great love for us through his Son, Jesus Christ. In love God the Father sent Jesus into the world to save us. "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal life" (John 3:16). It was Jesus who came into our world to live a perfect life for us. We cannot live the perfect life God demands of us. But Jesus did. No sin was found in him. "We have a high priest (Jesus) who has been tempted in every way, just as we are. But he did not sin" (Hebrews 4:15). It was Jesus who was punished for our sins when he died on the cross. "The blood of Jesus, his Son, makes us pure from all sin" (1 John 1:7).

For all the undeserved love God has shown to us, we should thank and praise God. “So let us boldly approach the throne of grace. Then we will receive mercy. We will find grace to help us when we need it” (Hebrews 4:16). Our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sins. That forgiveness of our sins is a free gift from our loving God.

13. God shows his great love for us through his Son, _____.
14. It was Jesus who came into our world to live a perfect _____ for us.
15. It was Jesus who was punished for our _____ when he _____ on the cross.
16. Our greatest need is the _____ of our _____.
17. Forgiveness of our sins is a _____ gift from our _____ God.

(Check your answers on page 65)

A confessional Lutheran church teaches us:

1. We cannot get right with God or even help along in our salvation by what we do.
2. We are all lost sinners.
3. God’s grace, or undeserved love, is a free gift.

4. God's love is shown to us in Jesus Christ, God's Son.
5. Jesus lived a perfect, sinless life for us that we cannot live.
6. Jesus loved us and died for us on the cross.
7. We are saved ONLY by the grace of God.

We are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ.

What is meant by the word faith? The Bible gives us the answer to this question. The writer of the book of Hebrews tells us, "Faith is being sure of what we hope for. It is being certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). A Christian is sure of being saved by Jesus Christ and of going to heaven. We have not seen Jesus nor have we seen heaven, but we have faith that Jesus has saved us and that heaven is waiting for us. We trust that what God tells us about our salvation through Jesus is true. Faith is God's power working in us, reaching out and taking what God gives us through Jesus. This faith alone saves us. The apostle Paul reminds us that God's grace has saved you through faith in Christ (Ephesians 2:8).

18. Write a definition of the word “faith” that the Bible gives us in Hebrews 11:1.

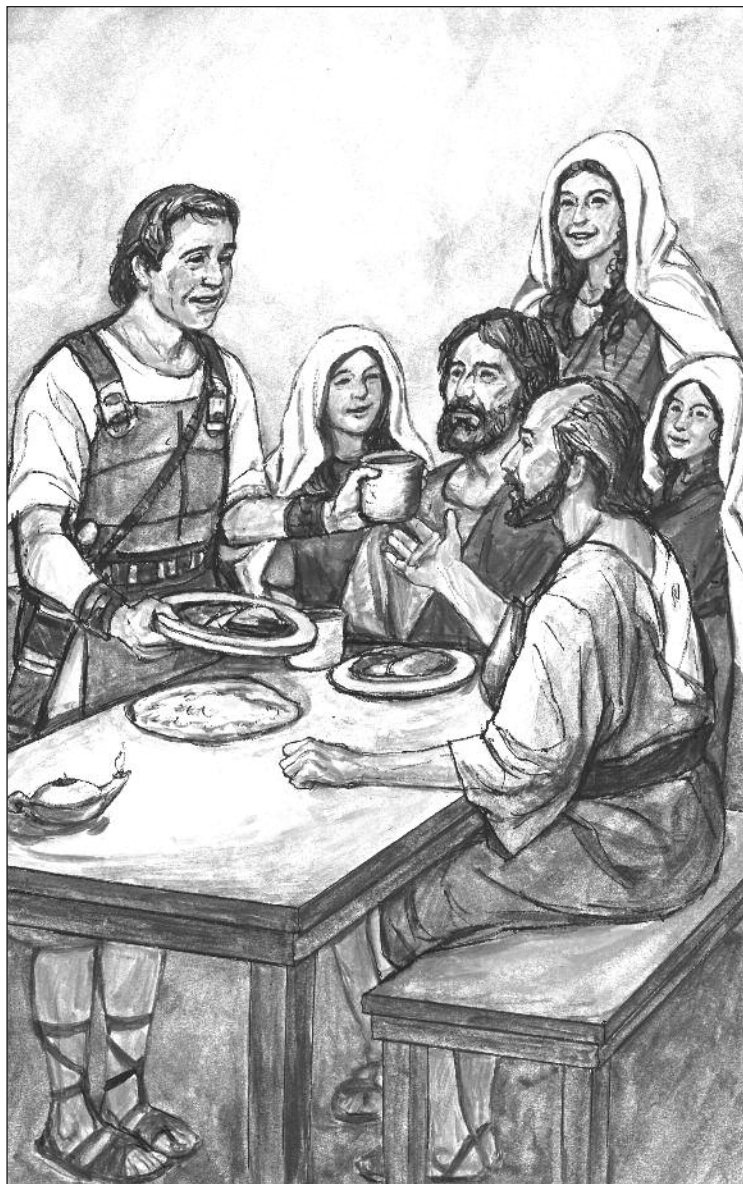
19. We _____ what God tells us about our salvation through Jesus is _____.

20. Faith _____ saves us.

(Check your answers on page 65)

The word “believe” used in the Bible also explains what faith is. An important event in the life of the apostle Paul is written in Acts chapter 16:16-40. Paul and his co-worker Silas were put in prison in the city of Philippi. Near midnight a powerful earthquake released Paul, Silas, and the other prisoners from the chains that held them. The prison doors flew open. The jailor was filled with fear. He thought the prisoners had escaped. He pulled out his sword and wanted to kill himself, but the apostle Paul told him that he and the prisoners had not run away. Then, shaking with fear, the jailor asked Paul, “What must I do to be saved?” Paul gave him the answer, “Believe in the Lord Jesus. Then you and your family will be saved.”

It is God’s gift of faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son, that saves us. We are not saved by our



Paul and Silas with the jailer and his family.

own good works. We are not saved by keeping the commandments. But we are saved by faith, by believing in Jesus Christ. "God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will have eternal life" (John 3:16). Jesus himself tells us, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6). Faith in Jesus is the only way to get to heaven.

21. What answer did Paul give to the jailor when the jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" _____
22. It is God's gift of _____ in Jesus Christ, God's Son, that _____ us.
23. We are not saved by our own _____.
24. Faith in Jesus is the _____ way to get to heaven.

(Check your answers on page 65)

It is God the Holy Spirit who brings you to believe, to have faith, in Jesus Christ. "Without the help of the Holy Spirit no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord'" (1 Corinthians 12:3). In Romans the apostle Paul also tells us, "God has poured his love into our hearts. He did it

through the Holy Spirit, whom he has given to us" (Romans 5:5).

The Holy Spirit brings us to faith and keeps us in faith through the gospel in God's Word and in the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Holy Spirit uses the good news about God's love for us to bring us to faith and trust that Jesus is our Savior. We are made a part of God's family through Baptism. Then the Holy Spirit continues to keep us in this faith through the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Each time we take part in the Lord's Supper we are assured personally that our sins are forgiven. Because of this, we call the gospel in God's word and in the sacraments "the means of grace." This is the tool God uses to connect us with his love.

25. The Holy Spirit brings us to faith and keeps us in faith through the _____ of _____.
26. The means of grace are the gospel in God's _____ and in the sacraments of _____ and the _____.

(Check your answers on page 65)

A confessional Lutheran church teaches us:

1. Faith is trust in God. Faith believes that what he teaches us in the Bible is true.
2. Faith is the hand that reaches out and takes what God gives us through Jesus.
3. We are saved **ONLY** by faith in Jesus who is the **ONLY** way to heaven.
4. It is God the Holy Spirit who brings us to faith and keeps us in the faith.

We have learned that we are saved by the Scriptures alone, by the grace of God alone, and by faith in Jesus Christ alone. The teaching of the Scriptures on which the church stands or falls is the doctrine of justification (forgiveness of our sins) by the grace of God through faith in Jesus. Romans 4:25 tells us, “Jesus was handed over to die for our sins. He was raised to life in order to make us right with God (justification).” God the Father was satisfied that Jesus lived a perfect life that we cannot live. He was satisfied with the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross by giving his life as a payment for our sins. Therefore, God raised Jesus from the dead to show to the world and to us that Jesus is our one and only Savior. This is what the confessional Lutheran church believes and teaches.

Unfortunately, there are many churches that do not teach what the Bible teaches. False doctrines are taught in many churches. They do not teach, as the Bible does, that in the Lord's Supper Jesus' body and blood are together with the bread and the fruit of the vine. These false churches do not teach that our sins are forgiven in Baptism. They do not believe the doctrine of original sin that we are born with a sinful nature inherited from Adam and Eve. There are many churches that do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God and that he rose from the dead.

When we learn of such false teachings in other churches, what are we to do? The Bible tells us what we are to do. God warns us, "I am warning you, brothers and sisters, to watch out for those who try to keep you from staying together. They want to trip you up. They teach you things opposite to what you have learned. Stay away from them!" (Romans 16:17). God's Word is plain and simple. When we learn of those who teach contrary to what God's Word teaches, we are to stay away from them. We are not to worship with them; we are not to go to the Lord's Supper with them; and we are not to pray with them. We will want to join together

with confessional Lutheran Christians, in order to hold onto God's Word, study it, and teach it so that we have the blessed hope of eternal life in heaven together. We thank and praise God because he has taught us the truth.

Review of Chapter Four

A confessional Lutheran church bases its teachings only on what the Scriptures teach us and not on what we think should be taught. The Bible is God's message to men, women, and children. It shows us the way to heaven just as a light guides us on a dark night. The Scriptures teach us that we are all sinners and that Jesus is our Savior. The Bible is the only way we can learn the way to heaven. We must not add to or subtract from what God teaches us in the Scriptures.

Some people think they can get right with God by doing good works or by keeping God's commandments. But the Scriptures teach us we are saved only by the grace of God. God's grace is his undeserved love that he shows to us sinners. God's grace is a free gift; we do not earn it. God showed us his love by sending his

only Son, Jesus, to live a perfect life for us and to die on the cross as punishment for our sins. Our greatest need is the forgiveness of our sins, and that forgiveness is a gracious gift from God.

The Scriptures teach us that we are saved only by faith in Jesus Christ. Faith reaches out and accepts the free gift of God's grace. We are forgiven through what Jesus has done for us. When the jailor in the city of Philippi asked the apostle Paul, "What must I do to be saved?" Paul replied, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ." It is the work of God the Holy Spirit to bring us to faith in Jesus. The Holy Spirit does this through the gospel found in God's Word and the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We are saved by the Scriptures alone, by the grace of God alone, and by faith alone. These basic doctrines are taught to us in the Bible. We as confessional Lutherans will stay away from those churches that teach false doctrines. We avoid such churches because God tells us in the Bible, "Stay away from them" (Romans 16:17). We thank and praise God because he has taught us the truth.

Answers to the questions in Chapter Four:

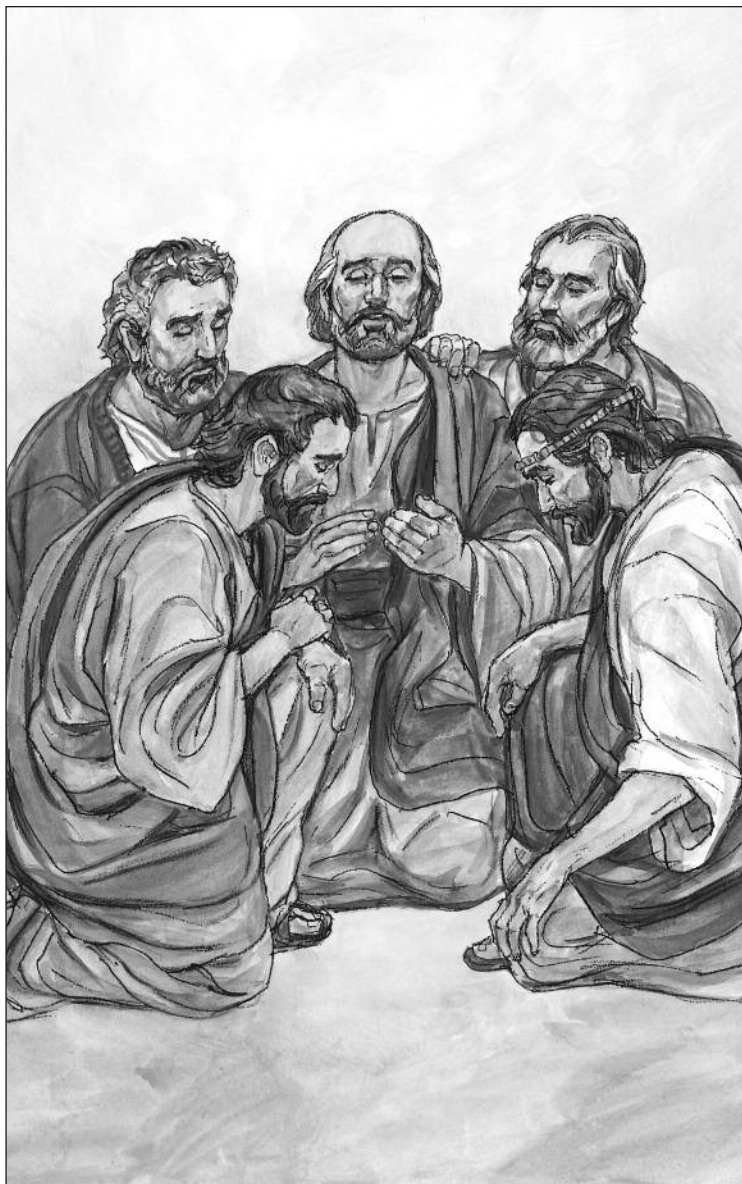
1. Bible; 2. only; 3. heaven, Bible; 4. law, gospel; 5. law, gospel;
6. Bible; 7. God's, men; 8. heaven; 9. add; 10. grace; 11. law;
12. free; 13. Jesus Christ; 14. life; 15. sins, died;
16. forgiveness, sins; 17. free, loving; 18. See Hebrews 11:1;
19. trust, true; 20. alone; 21. Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ;
22. faith, saves; 23. good works; 24. only; 25. gospel, God's Word;
26. Word, Baptism, Lord's Supper.

Chapter Four Test

1. We learn the answers to what God has done for us only from the _____.
2. The two main teachings of the Scriptures are the _____ and the _____.
3. The _____ shows us our sins and the _____ shows us our Savior.
4. The Scriptures are _____ Word and not the words of _____.
5. God's Word is the only way we are taught how we get to _____.
6. God's _____ is the undeserved love he shows to us.
7. God shows his great love for us through his Son, _____.
8. Our greatest need is the _____ of our _____.
9. It was Jesus who was punished for our _____ when he _____ on the cross.
10. What answer did Paul give the jailor when the jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?" _____

11. The means of grace are the gospel in
God's _____ and in the sacraments
of _____ and the
_____.

(Check your answers on page 85)



Paul prays with the Ephesian elders.



Chapter Five

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN YOUR COUNTRY

It will be necessary for you to do some research to find answers to the history of the Christian church in your country and especially the history of a confessional Lutheran church in your country.

In this chapter you will want to learn:

- * How and when the Christian church and the Lutheran church began work in your country, and

- * What blessings come to you as a member of a confessional Lutheran church.

This book will be used in different countries. It will not be possible to provide the information needed in each of these countries about the development of Christianity and Lutheranism in each of these countries.

Therefore, it will be necessary for your group or you as an individual to find out the answers to the following important questions.

1. When was the message of the Bible first brought to your country?
2. Who was the person or the church that first proclaimed the gospel in your country?
3. How was the message of the gospel received by the people in your country?
4. Where are Christian churches found in your country today?
5. When did the Lutheran church first come to your country?
6. Who was the person or the group that brought Lutheranism to your country?

7. Where do you find confessional Lutheran congregations in your country today?
8. What kind of work does the Lutheran church carry out in your country?

What blessings come to you as a member of a confessional Lutheran church?

There are many blessings that are yours as a member of a confessional Lutheran church!

You can rejoice that you are a child of God.

You have been saved to enjoy a blessed Christian life here on earth and a glorious eternal life in heaven. This blessing comes to you because you have learned about Jesus Christ, your Savior through your study of God's inspired, true Word, the Bible. In the Bible you have seen how it is God who granted you his grace and brought you to faith in Jesus. Ephesians 2:8,9—"God's grace has saved you because of (through) your faith in Christ. Your salvation doesn't come from anything you do. It is God's gift. It is not based on anything you have done. No one can brag about earning it."

1. Write a sentence or two about how you are saved.

You can worship the true God regularly.

The true God is God the Father, who has created you and the world in which you live in six natural days. He continues to provide you with all you need for your body and life because he is an almighty God.

Psalm 145:9 - "The LORD is good to all. He shows deep concern for everything he has made."

The true God is God the Son, Jesus Christ, who came into our world to live a perfect life and to die in our place on the cross so our sins can be forgiven.

2 Corinthians 5:21 - "Christ didn't have any sin. But God made him become sin for us. So that we can be made right with God because of what Christ has done for us."

The true God is God the Holy Spirit who has brought us to faith in Jesus Christ and keeps us in that faith so we can live a Christian life on earth and an eternal life in heaven.

1 Corinthians 5:11 - “Your sins were washed away. You were made holy. You were made right with God. All of that was done in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.”

This is the God who has revealed himself to you in the Bible. This is the God whom you can worship regularly in your home and together with fellow believers in your congregation. We should worship and praise God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for all he has done for us in our Christian lives.

2. Write down who the true God is.

You can study God's Word, the Bible.

God has blessed us with his inspired Word that is without error. As confessional Christians and Lutherans we should desire to continue to read and study God's Word. The Bible reveals

God's love for us and it strengthens our faith in him. The world around us and our own conscience tell us there is a God. But only the Bible tells us who the true God really is and what he has done for us. It is God's Word that leads us to Jesus.

John 20:30,31 - "Jesus did many other miraculous signs in front of his disciples. They are not written down in this book. But these are written down so you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. If you believe this, you will have life because you belong to him."

The Christians in the city of Berea at the time of the apostle Paul are an example for us to follow. Of those Christians it is said:

Acts 17:11 - "The Bereans were very glad to hear Paul's message. They studied the Scriptures carefully every day. They wanted to see if what Paul said was true."

Gladly hear God's Word when it is preached to you. Study the Scriptures carefully, and you too will learn the truth about God and yourself.

3. Write down why the Bible is so important for a Christian.

You can let the teachings of the Bible about Jesus shine in your life to lead others to Jesus.

Jesus said he is the light of the world.

John 8:12 – “Jesus spoke to the people again. He said, ‘I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will never walk in darkness. They will have the light that leads to life.’”

We as believers in Jesus will want to reflect and share that light with other people.

Matthew 5:16 – “Let your light shine in front of others. Then they will see the good things you do. And they will praise your Father who is in heaven.”

The best way we can let Jesus’ Word shine in our lives is to tell other people the message of how we are all saved by God’s grace through faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:14,15 – “How can they (unbelievers) call on him (Jesus) unless they believe in him? How can they believe in him unless they hear about him? How can they hear about him unless someone preaches to them? And how can anyone preach without being sent? It is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news.’”

In gratitude to God who has led us to Jesus by his Word, we will then share the message of the gospel with others so that they, like we, will have the hope of eternal life in heaven.

4. How can you let your light shine in the lives of other people?

You can pray for the spread of the gospel.

The gospel is very powerful. It is the power of God for the salvation of many people. Prayer is also very powerful. This is God’s promise.

John 14:13,14 – “I (Jesus) will do anything you ask in my name. Then the Son will bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name. I will do it.”

As believers who have heard the message of the gospel, we will pray that others too can learn about Jesus, believe in him, and be saved. We do this in the Lord's Prayer when we pray, "Your kingdom come." It is our prayer that we will be a part of God's family and kingdom and also that others will become a part of God's family and kingdom.

5. Write a prayer that expresses your desire for the gospel to reach other people.

You can support the work of the church so others learn about Jesus.

There are many ways we can serve our Savior. We can pray for the work of the church. Pray for those who lead you in your study of the Bible and in your worship services. Pray for missionaries who go to other countries to preach the gospel.

1 Timothy 2:1 – “First, I want all of you to pray for everyone. Ask God to bless them. Give thanks for them.”

We can offer ourselves as workers in the church. There are many ways we can serve God in our congregation. If we can teach, we can volunteer to teach children and others. We can help to keep our worship area clean. We can help our pastor.

Romans 12:6-8 – “We all have gifts. They differ in keeping with the grace God has given each of us. Do you have the gift of prophecy? Then use it in keeping with the faith you have. Is it your gift to serve? Then serve. Is it teaching? Then teach. Is it telling others how they should live? Then tell them. Is it giving to those who are in need? Then give freely. Is it being a leader? Then work hard at it. Is it showing mercy? Then do it cheerfully.”

We can also give money to support the work of our pastor and of our church as well as to send out workers to teach others about Jesus.

2 Corinthians 9:6,7 – “Here is something to remember. The one who plants only a little will

gather only a little. And the one who plants a lot will gather a lot. You should each give what you have decided in your heart to give. You shouldn't give if you don't want to. You shouldn't give if you are forced to. God loves a cheerful giver."

Notice that the Bible teaches us that we are to give of our time and money cheerfully as God has blessed us.

Our gifts of service are in response to God's love for us.

1 John 4:19 – "We love [God] because he loved us first."

6. Write down some ways you can help to support the work of the church out of love toward God.

Review of Chapter Five

From the time of Jesus and the apostles to the present day, the Christian church has spread throughout the world. The Lutheran church had its beginning in the country of Germany in 1517, and since that time has spread throughout the world. The history of the Christian church and the Lutheran church in each country of the world will vary from country to country.

There are many blessings that come to those who are members of a confessional Lutheran church. Those who are members of a confessional Lutheran church can rejoice because they know from the Bible that they are not saved by what they do but they are saved by the grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ. These members worship the true God who has created them, redeemed them, and brought them to faith in their Savior. Members of a confessional Lutheran church are encouraged to study God's Word regularly and let their faith shine in their lives to lead other people to Jesus, their Savior. As a member of such a church, each person will pray for the spread of the gospel and will support the work of the church in their village or city and throughout the world.

There are no test questions for chapter five.

Answers to the questions in Chapter Five:

The answers to the statements or questions in chapter five will vary from person to person.



Word List

Activities – A lot of things happening

Administered – To direct or give something for a person or group

Avoid – To stay away from, especially on purpose

Baptism – The application of water and God's word (his name) through which God adopts and saves a person

Century – A period of time of 100 years

Cleansing – To make something clean or pure

Confession – A declaration of a person's faith

Confessional – Confessional churches teach only what the Bible teaches

Conscience – A knowledge or sense of right and wrong

Contrary – The opposite of what someone says or does

Deform – To change something and make it worse

Denomination – A group of churches that have the same beliefs and that work together.

Deny or denied – To oppose what someone does or says

Deserve – To be worthy of something or to be suitable to receive something

Doctrine(s) – A belief or set of beliefs that is taught

Error – A mistake or something done wrongly

Fellowship – To join with others in worship and in the work of the church

Familiar – Something well known

Gentiles – People who are not Jews

Gospel – the Bible's good news about our Savior, Jesus Christ

Godhead – The three persons of God: the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit (the Trinity).

Grace – The undeserved love that God has for sinners

Grant(ed) – To give or to allow

Inherit – To receive when someone dies

Inspired(ed) – To breath into, to move or guide

Justify – To declare that a person is not guilty (Justification)

Lord's Supper – The body and blood of Jesus given to Christians in, with, and under bread and wine in order to strengthen faith through God's forgiveness.

Lutheranism – The teachings of the Lutheran church

Means of Grace – The tool God uses to bring his undeserved love to us. God's tool is the gospel in scripture and in his two sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper).

Offering(s) – An act of giving something to help other people

Opposite – Being against something or on the other side of something

Original Sin – The sinfulness that is part of us as soon as our life begins

Persecution – Treating someone cruelly causing them to suffer

Proclaim – To broadcast or make something known to the public

Reform – To change something to make it better
(Reformation)

Research – Careful study of a subject

Reveal(ed) – To show or make known something that is hidden

Sacrament – A holy act that God has given to the church in order to offer, give, and guarantee the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. There are two sacraments: Baptism and the Lord's Supper

Sacrificial – To make a gift of something that is valuable to you

Salvation – The saving of a person's soul from sin and its consequences

Source – Where something comes from

Surround(ing) – Everything that is on all sides or around something

Vary – To change in form or appearance

Witness(es) – A person who tells what he knows or saw happen



Answers to Chapter Tests

Chapter One (page 14)

1. heart, believes; 2. God, hearts; 3. faith, Jesus Christ;
4. God; 5. Christian; 6. one; 7. loving; 8. love; 9. offerings,
prayers.

Chapter Two (pages 30-31)

1. witnesses; 2. faith, Jesus Christ; 3. destroy;
4. spread; 5. false; 6. Creeds, believes; 7. Apostles';
8. Father; 9. Jesus Christ; 10. Holy Spirit; 11. Father;
12. died, redeem; 13. faith, heaven.

Chapter Three (page 45)

1. formed; 2. Savior; 3. false; 4. false, Son; 5. Bible; 6. Bible;
7. faith; 8. around; 9. Scriptures (Bible); 10. faithful.

Chapter Four (pages 66-67)

1. Bible; 2. law, gospel; 3. law, gospel; 4. God's, men;
5. heaven; 6. grace; 7. Jesus Christ; 8. forgiveness, sins;
9. sins, died; 10. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.; 11. Word,
Baptism, Lord's Supper.



Final Test

Congratulations! You have completed your study of the Christian church. Go back through the book and review any mistakes you made in the chapter tests. Also review the goals for each chapter. When you are sure you know all the goals, you are ready to take the Final Test.

Complete the Final Test without looking at the book. When you are finished, give the test to the person who gave you this book, or mail it to the address on the back of this book. Someone will check it for you. You may also ask for more Bible study books in this series.

If you are ready, remove the test from the book and put the book away. Take the test without opening the book.



The Christian Church ***Final Test***

1. We cannot look into anyone's _____
to learn if that person _____ in
Jesus.

2. Only _____ can see into our
_____ and know who believes in
him.

3. It is _____, not we, who makes us
members of the invisible church.

4. When you are baptized you received
_____ in God's family.

5. The Holy Christian Church is made up of
believers and is found where the means of
grace, the _____ in Word and
_____ are taught and administered.

6. The disciples of Jesus followed the Lord's
direction and preached and taught about
how people are saved by _____
in _____.

7. Persecution, instead of destroying the
church, caused it to _____.

8. The devil caused teachers in the church to lead people away from Jesus by the use of _____ teachings.
9. The creed most familiar to us is called the _____ Creed.
10. The first part of the creed speaks about God the _____.
11. The second part of the creed speaks about _____ the Father's only Son, our Lord.
12. The third part of the creed speaks about the _____.
13. Martin Luther brought the church back to the teachings of the _____.
14. By reading Romans 1:17 Martin Luther learned that we are made right with God by _____.
15. The _____ shows us our sin, and the _____ shows us our Savior.
16. God's Word is the only way we are taught how we get to _____.

17. The Scriptures are _____ Word and not the word of _____.

18. God shows his great love for us through his Son, _____.

19. Our greatest need is the _____ of our _____.

20. It was Jesus who was punished for our _____ when he _____ on the cross.

21. What answer did Paul give the jailor when the jailor asked, "What must I do to be saved?"

22. The means of grace are the gospel in God's _____ and in the sacraments of _____ and the _____.

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