

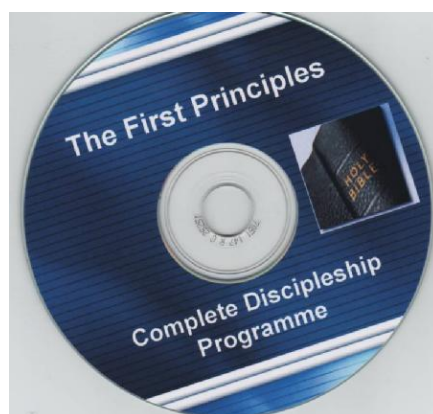
THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

Hebrews 5:12

*A Practical Bible Study
and Discipleship Course
For New Christians*

Director's Handbook

Let all things be done decently and in order.
1 Corinthians 15:40



Discipleship Director's Name: _____

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***For when for the time ye ought to be teachers,
ye have need that one teach you again which be
the first principles of the oracles of God.***

Hebrews 5:12

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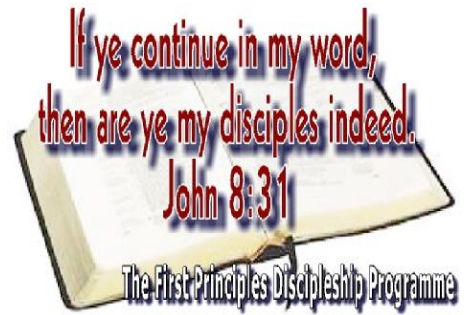
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FIRST PRINCIPLES

Welcome!



Discipleship is critical to the establishment of new believers in the word of God, and in the fellowship with other believers. Your effective coordination of this program and all its participants is critical to its outcome. This *Handbook* is your guide to making Discipleship in your church work like our Lord designed it to, and that your church would grow. Your attitude with both the Disciplers and their new Disciples will make or break their vision for growth, so please keep excited about what this programme will do and is doing in your church. Always remember that you may think that much of the truth's in the Discipleship Programme is "old hat" to you, but to those who just got saved, the Bible's truths are exciting and adventurous!

Some Things You Must Do:

- Stay on your Disciplers so that they maintain good and frequent relationships with their disciples. They need to befriend them, and help them grow with lots of interaction and fellowship – don't just interact at Church only. Use Discipleship time as a time to fellowship too if possible.
- Stay on the Pastor so that he keeps the need for everyone being discipled in front of the church members in the Church services.
- Use your Church's Bulletin to advertise Discipleship, and send out mailings to members who have not yet taken discipleship training asking them to come.
- Keep accurate and up-to-date records both on paper and in the designated computer databases.
- Be innovative! Always present any new ideas about discipleship to the pastor, and encourage your Disciplers to communicate any feedback to you about Discipleship.
- Make sure problems are resolved quickly and prayerfully – make much of prayer in this ministry!

Some Things to Have on Hand

- King James Bible – not a New King James, or another modern version. This version of the Bible is the foundation for all the teachings of a Christian. A Believer is commanded to be able to speak the same things as other Christians ([1Corinthians 1:10](#)) concerning doctrine, and cannot do that if everyone has different versions of the Bible that have been edited and corrupted.
- You will want to have other versions of the Bible for comparison – other versions will be referenced and explored to see just how corrupt they are.
- A large pad of blank paper for drawing out diagrams and illustrations that will help the student see what you are trying to teach.

Grow With Your Disciples!

Never stop growing and learning in your personal study yourself as the Director! The truth's of the Scriptures MUST stay fresh and life changing in YOU if they are going to be attractive to the new babes in Christ ([2Peter 2:2](#)). Be always open to God showing you new and helpful truths even as youth teach what you think you already know all too well!

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Summary of Course

The First Principles Bible Study Course

When the Lord Jesus was on this earth, He spent three and a half years teaching His disciples all the things we need to know to find forgiveness and full life in the kingdom of God. By setting aside time to study His word, you are showing God that you too wish to become a follower of Jesus Christ. The *First Principles Bible Study Course* was established to equip believers to live for Jesus through the study of God's word just as Jesus taught.

What's on Offer

The *First Principles Discipleship Study Course* provides a complete set of Bible lessons to help everyone know Jesus as their Saviour and Lord, and to thoroughly learn God's word. The Study Course includes the Bible's teaching on the following subjects:

1. ***Biblical Salvation - What Is It?***
2. ***Eternal Security of the Believer - Can you lose your Salvation?***
3. ***Believer's Baptism - What does Baptism mean?***
4. ***The Word of God - Can we Trust the Bible?***
5. ***Bible Study Techniques - How To Study the Word of God, and How We Got the Bible!***
6. ***The New Testament Church - What is the Difference between all the Churches and Religions of the World?***
7. ***Bible Memorization - How do I memorize God's word and benefit most from it?***
8. ***Knowing God - How Well Can I Know God?***
9. ***Praise and Worship - How Can I Worship the Lord Like I Should?***
10. ***The Lord's Supper - What does the Bible say about Communion and the Lord's Table?***
11. ***Prayer - How Do I Get Answered Prayer?***
12. ***The Will of God - What is God's Will for my life?***
13. ***Spiritual Warfare - How Do I Deal With Sin and Temptation?***
14. ***The Christian Family - How to have a Christian Home***
15. ***Finances The Bible's answer to Money Headaches***
16. ***Personal Evangelism - Who Needs to Know Jesus, and How can we show them His Salvation?***
17. ***The Christian and Work - How to be a Christian on the Job***
18. ***Wine and Strong Drink - What the Bible teaches about Drink and Drinking***
19. ***Creation and Evolution - Which theory is Really "Scientific?"***
20. ***The Future - What Is Mankind's Future?***
21. ***Discipleship - What is God's next step for Me?***

The Bible

We believe the Bible is the inerrant, infallible, inspired Word of Almighty God. We further believe that God's word is perfect in every way, and that it has been preserved in the English language in the King James Bible. Our aim is simply to learn the Bible and apply its truths to our lives, not to correct it, or think we can improve upon it. The goal of learning the Bible is for it to correct, and improve us! To use this Study Programme, the Discipleship Director should believe that the Bible is the very word of Almighty God, perfect, and without error.

Requirements for a Person's Enrolment in the First Principles Study Course

All a person has to do to enrol is simply request to join the *First Principles Bible Study Course* by filling out a request form provided on page 19 of this handbook. They will need a Discippler assigned to them that they will meet regularly with, and become accountable to. That Discippler needs to be above reproach and accountable to both the Pastor of your Church, and the Discipleship Director. Once the student receives their first Study Lesson they are officially enrolled in the *Course*. Each student will need a Bible to complete the courses. Expect each student to complete every lesson, and encourage them to complete all twenty one lessons!

Costs for the First Principles Study Course

The Church should charge a minimum amount for each student to pay for either each lesson, or the entire Study Course. This makes the student work harder at completing the Course than if it was just given to them. The Church and the Discipleship Director has the freedom to freely give away the Course depending upon the situation.

How Long Does the Study Course take to Complete?

Depending upon the student, the Study Course is usually completed in less than two years. It can be done quicker, but with less depth, and it can take longer, if there are lots of questions.

What is the Fruit of the Study Course?

An unsaved person will thoroughly learn how to be saved, and usually will get born again; A new believer will get on fire for God, and get trained to study their Bible and stand for the Lord; backslidden Christians will get encouraged to get right with God, and get back in the spiritual battle for souls; and nominal believers will get on fire for the Lord because they will be back in the “meat” of God’s word, where they should have been all along..

FIRST PRINCIPLES

How to Teach Discipleship – Making Disciples

How to Teach this Study Guide, and What to Expect

This Bible Study Guide is just that – a guide. The real instruction is provided by the teacher, or the Discippler. The Study guide keeps you and the student on track so-to-speak, and provides a wealth of Scriptural principles to study, and discuss as you go through each lesson. The list of Scriptures presented for each subject are in no way exhaustive, but can be added to as you see the need to study further a given subject. It is important that you do include as many other Scriptures as necessary to enable the Disciple to fully understand, and thereby believe the truth as presented in God's word.

The instructor, or Discippler needs to have already learned the entire Discipleship course, and has sought the counsel of the Pastor to determine if he or she is ready to begin teaching another new Christian. Most people will need some basic pointers about how to teach. Here are a few:

- Have a plan. That's what this Study Course is – a prepared course that you just need to work your way through with your disciple
- Don't be rough or impatient with any student – it takes time to grow out of most of our life's situations the Lord finds us in
- Listen to the student – they may be totally misunderstanding what you are saying
- Talk to your discipler – get insights on how your teacher taught you
- Pray every day for your disciple!
- Make the time you spend teaching your disciple, your ministry – it is not just something you are doing because you are needed, but it is a God given task that needs God's help so that it brings God all the glory
- Use the discipleship programme to win people to the Lord – your disciple may not be saved, so don't over-look the opportunity to see people saved as they learn about the Lord Jesus!
- Prepare your disciple to one day teach the Bible themselves – that was the goal of our Lord when He commanded us to “teach all nations” ([Matthew 28:19](#))
- Don't teach too many people at once

Teaching a Lesson – How to go through the Discipleship Course, page by page, line by line.

Normally spend about fifteen minutes to an half hour at the beginning of session chatting and having tea or what ever. Use this time to be warm and friendly. Find out how they are. Ask them if they have any prayer requests. Then pray for those requests and for the study.

Start with prayer and make sure they have their Bible, study and a pen. Remind them of the memory verse they are to be learning and ask them to quote it from memory. Remind them to learn it off by heart. Read out the introduction to the lesson, and the lesson verse. Explain that this verse is the key verse for the lesson. Then ask each person in turn to read a few lines of the discipleship, and go to each Scripture reference listed. Tell the students where to find each verse and whether the book is found in the Old or New Testament. Left or right of John, Hebrews, Psalms etc. The disciple will need to explain each verse in their own words to make sure they understand how it connects with the truth being presented in the Discipleship lesson. It might be necessary to explain some words for them. Ask if they understand what was said. In the study there are words to be filled in. Ask the students to find these words from the Scripture. Ask him to read over again until he gets it.

Unless you are teaching just one student, do not let one person read all the time. It is better to pass the reading around to all the students.

If a student has a lot of reference Scriptures to look up and read, break them up and change over to another student. He may well get tired, especially if he is not used to looking up verses.

At the end of a study mark the finishing point in the discipleship. Explain that next time you will continue on from where you left off. Ask if there are any questions. There might be a need to go over a few verses again. Ask one of the students to pray and thank God for the study and for what we learned.

The next time start off the same way. Encourage the students to learn the memory verse by next week. Review and repetition will be the key to their remembering God's word, and letting it work on them in their daily lives.

Example of Teaching a Page

What follows is an example of how to teach through a page of the Discipleship. Refer to page 5, and go through the following items.

1. First of all, makes sure the student is on the same page as you, and has their Bible handy.
2. Read out-loud Roman Numeral V, "What is Truth?"
3. Then read out "Let's Compare John 18:36-38 with John 17:17."
4. Help them find the places in their Bible, and then read out-loud those Scriptures.
5. Return to the Study Course and continue reading out-loud. At any point, if you think your student wouldn't mind reading him or herself, then have then read a paragraph, looking up the Scriptures and reading them also out-loud, and then you reading the next paragraph, looking up the associated Scriptures and reading them aloud.
6. As you read, challenge your student with extra questions, to make sure they are understanding what they are reading.
7. Try and remember what it was like to be taught this stuff, and see if you can improve on the way it is presented for the benefit of your disciple.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES 21st Century Edition

V. What is Truth?

A. Let's Compare John 18:36-38 with John 17:17

1. In **John 18**, the Lord Jesus is standing before Pilate, accused of being a King. Jesus tells Pilate that He IS a King, but not of this world, and that His design is not to set up a physical kingdom, but to declare the _____.
2. Pilate responds, "What is _____?" But notice what Pilate does next. He does not wait around for the answer. He does not believe there is any such thing as "truth." It is the same with most people. They have been lied to so many times about Santa, the tooth fairy, and Easter bunnies they think that God and truth are only lies as well.
3. Yet, in **John 17:17**, Jesus Himself says God's _____ is truth! Now, either Jesus was a liar, or crazy, or telling the truth. Which is it?

B. Let's first agree on three things:

1. There must be something, somewhere, that is *true*. Because, without *truth*, there is no way of knowing what is really true or false, good or bad, right or wrong, and anyone's guess becomes as good as another's.
2. **God** is the Author of truth. He cannot "_____" or He is not God (**Titus 1:2**).
3. God has revealed truth through the Bible alone (**John 17:17**).

The Bible says, "Yea, let God be _____, but every man a liar." **Romans 3:4**

VI. The Purpose of the Bible

- A. It was written that we may "_____" that Jesus was who He said He was - the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to pay our sin-debt (**John 20:31**).
- B. It was also written, so that we may "_____" that we have eternal life, not just "hope" for it (**1John 5:13**)!

VII. The Purpose and Design of This Study Guide

- A. This Study will teach you the wonderful truths of God's word, so you can _____ to "perfection" or full maturity in Christ (**1Peter 2:2,3, 2Peter 3:18**).
- B. To do this, you need to develop in yourself the following life principles by reading, and learning from God's word daily (see **2Peter 1:4-8**)

Faith (you start off with this at salvation)	Patience (waiting on God & through trials)
Virtue (the inner strength to do right)	Godliness (becoming more like Christ)
Knowledge (knowledge of Jesus Christ)	Brotherly kindness (towards people)
Temperance (keeping a right balance)	Charity (having unconditional love)

The Bible finishes in verse 8 by saying, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor _____." That is what God wants - spiritual fruitfulness and success as a real Christian!

Have fun!

STUDY INTRODUCTION • 5

Teaching One-on-One and to Small Groups

With a group of people there will always be interruptions to the flow of the study. Any unusual or hard questions will usually take up a lot of time. Be prayed-up, and studied-up so that you can answer the questions simply and adequately – the whole reason why those people are letting you tech them is because they want some answers, so be ready to give them loads of answers from the Bible! If the questions take too long, you should suggest that you will deal with that question next week, and ask if you could continue with the lesson. This is normally fine with that person. You and your students will find that some of their questions will be answered later on in the course itself. Simply ask the person to hold on for a few more sessions and all will be revealed.

There usually will be comments by your students on all type of things, usually politics and any recent current event. These justify some small comment but as the Discipler, you need to get things on track again as quickly as possible.

Try to give equal time to every one and value their input to the study

Concerning Section Tests

Every section ends with a test, that presents questions concerning the previous five lessons (or in the case of the fourth section, it covers the previous six lessons). These tests ought to be taken by the student on their own, on their time, and then the following week, at the beginning of the discipleship time, the answers reviewed, and corrected by the Discipler and the Disciple together.

What follows is a Basic Scope and Sequence outline of each lesson, and how long to expect to take teaching each lesson. The recommended time needed for each teaching session is at least 1 hour, but no more than 2 hours. It is best to keep it short enough so that the student does not get too much information and become over-loaded. The measure of how difficult each lesson might be for the student to grasp is a generalization, and may not be true for all students. It is just intended to give you an idea of the ease of teaching each lesson.

Most students will be taught best by going through each lesson as presented in this Study guide. But some students may have needs that ought to be addressed by covering specific materials in later lessons, and then returning to the normal sequence. Feel free to jump around to other lessons as needed, but it is recommended that you at least try to keep with the laid-out sequence of lessons, as most as possible.

Generally, if you spend about an hour and a half each time you meet, you will get in about one hour's worth of study, and about a half hour of discussion. If you can stay kind of close to the time, and to the notes in the study, you should be able to complete a Discipleship Course in about a year and a half, to two years.

There may be "shorter" programmes available, but none will answer as many questions, and deal Biblically with as many modern issues as the First Principles Discipleship Study Course.

Using The "My Daily Journal"

Included in the Discipleship Programme, is a "My Daily Journal" for everyone, including the Director, to be working through on a daily basis.

<p>My Daily Journal Today's Date _____</p> <p>1. Daily Bible Time Minutes in the Bible _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Pray and ask God to speak to you through His perfect Word</small></p> <p>Daily Proverb 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31</p> <p><small>What is God saying to you, about your heart and life, or what did you learn?</small></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Daily Bible Reading Book and Chapters Read _____</p> <p><small>What did God speak to you about in these Scriptures today?</small></p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p><small>Write a few of the above thoughts down onto your Daily Meds Card (3 x 5 card), and take it with you today, and meditate on the truths you have now learned. If there is a Scripture you would like to memorize and meditate on, what would it be?</small></p> <p>2. Time With God's Teachers</p> <p><small>If you attend church today, or get to listen to a teaching or preaching tape, take the time to record your thoughts below. Otherwise, skip this part.</small></p> <p>To day's Message Title _____</p> <p>Special Scriptures that spoke to you _____</p> <p>What did you learn from this message today? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p>3. Personal Prayer Time Minutes in Prayer _____</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Praises (Answers to Prayer)</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">What Needs to be Forgiven <small>(Wrong things I have said, thought, done)</small></th> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">Needs</th> <th style="text-align: center;">Who Needs Protection</th> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table> <p><small>Take time right now to pray through this list, trusting that God will answer (Jex 33: 3)</small></p> <p>4. Wise Counsel</p> <p><small>What are some questions/personal issues that you are seeking wisdom about?</small></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>5. Actions and Accountability</p> <p><small>What I must do today because of what I have learned from God...</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">People that I will Encourage</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Type of Encouragement</th> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table> <p><small>Who do I need to talk to concerning something the Lord has convicted me about?</small></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 5px;"> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">People I Need to Go and Talk To</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">About What?</th> </tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td></tr> </table> <p><small>Things I have to start doing because of what God is teaching me lately...</small></p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p><small>Who will I become accountable to (or am already accountable to) so that I obey God in the above areas of my life?</small></p> <p>Close in prayer asking God to make your day prosperous as you honour Him</p>	Praises (Answers to Prayer)	What Needs to be Forgiven <small>(Wrong things I have said, thought, done)</small>																			Needs	Who Needs Protection									People that I will Encourage	Type of Encouragement							People I Need to Go and Talk To	About What?						
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TEACHING TIME AND EFFORT TABLE			
Lesson	Normal Duration	No. Pages	Difficulty Level (1-5)
Introduction	1 hour	2	1
1 - Biblical Salvation	2 hours	6	1
2 - Eternal Security	2 hours	2	1
3 - Believer's Baptism	2 hours	3	2
4 - The Word of God	4 hours	6	2
5 - Bible Study Techniques	5 hours	14	3
Section 1 Exam	1 hour	2	2
6 - The New Testament Church	6 hours	10	3
7 - Bible Memorization	1 hour	2	1
8 - Knowing God	8 hours	8	2
9 - Praise and Worship	3 hours	4	2
10 - The Lord's Supper	3 hours	4	2
Section 2 Exam	1 hour	2	3
11 – Prayer	3 hours	3	2
12 – The Will of God	2 hours	3	3
13 – Spiritual Warfare	4 hours	4	3
14 – The Christian Family	6 hours	12	3
15 – Finances	3 hours	5	3
Section 3 Exam	1 hour	2	3
16 - Personal Evangelism	2 hours	5	3
17 - Wine and Strong Drink	5 hours	10	4
18 - My Job and Employer	2 hours	5	2
19 - Creation and Evolution	5 hours	12	4
20 - The Future	4 hours	6	2
21 - Discipleship	2 hours	4	2
Section 4 Exam	1 hour	2	3
Totals	78 hours	146	Average 2

The above table shows the various lessons along with approximate time that needs to be allowed for with straight-forward teaching times. Those times are not set in stone, but will usually be longer for the new Disciple, and depending on the Disciple/Student, questions and other interactions can make the lesson times stretch-out a whole lot longer than intended. Be careful to not allow yourself to chase down too many rabbit-trail type questions. Keep to the Study Course, but allow for ample questions to make sure they are adequately learn the subject matter.

Also, the levels of difficulty related to a given lesson are described as follows:

- Level 1 can be done usually by a Disciple on their own – it is best to have a Teacher, but the material is simple enough for a new believer on their own.
- Level 2 needs teacher/disciple interaction because the material requires testing during the teaching, and questioning to make sure the material is understood.
- Level 3 needs extra resources to be brought in to the lesson teaching time, like various other Bible versions, or concordances, etc.
- Level 4 requires the Disciple taking a lot of time to go through the study materials because they can be easily misunderstood.
- Level 5 involves loads of preparation on the part of the Disciple before the lesson is actually taught. This Study Course has been designed so that level of work does not exist in any teaching session.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

The Discipleship Team

Our Lord taught us to work in teams ([Matthew 18:16](#); [Luke 10:1](#)) – no one individual can accomplish the tasks that God designed for a Church to do together. In Discipleship, there is a team that needs to be put together to train all believers in the truths of the Bible. That team consists of: Pastor, Discipleship Director, Church Secretary, Disciplers, and Disciples.

The Pastor ([Ephesians 4:11,12](#))

God ordained the leadership of a church to be in the hands of a Bible believing pastor, who shepherds his flock as Jesus would. That includes feeding them, and guiding them spiritually through faithfully preaching and teaching the word of God. Discipleship begins in the pulpit, from the top down through to every hearer of the word of God. The pastor is the one ultimately in charge of discipling every believer, and making sure that they are in unity “speaking the same thing” ([1Corinthians 1:10](#)). Help your pastor fulfil the Great Commission by training new believers to trust and obey the word of God through discipleship!

The Discipleship Director ([Acts 6:3](#))

No single pastor can disciple everyone in his congregation, and still be able to do all the other areas of ministry that he is so often called upon to do, so there needs to be a faithful man who will lead this Discipleship Ministry. He is called the Discipleship Director. His job is to help the pastor disciple the believers in their church by organising and coordinating the discipleship-related activities of the church to enable the most people possible to get disciplined, and become disciplers themselves. This is no easy task, but very rewarding. The Discipleship Director is appointed by the Pastor to run the programme and to make sure that everyone is growing spiritually, and becoming thoroughly prepared to lead and stand for the truths of the word of God.

Church/Discipleship Secretary

This person helps out the Discipleship Director in maintaining the discipleship records, and making sure that all the forms are filled out correctly and that teaching materials are always on hand. The Church Secretary is usually quite capable of doing this, but another volunteer would be welcome to make this their ministry. Just make sure they are trustworthy because some of the information kept is of a personal nature.

Disciplers ([Matthew 28:19,20](#); [2Timothy 2:2](#); [2:24-26](#))

This is the strength of the Church being used to strengthen the rest of the believers. To become a Discippler, these men and women first must be disciplined themselves, and have a grasp of how to teach the materials in the programme. They do not have to be very smart – just burdened that other Christians get strong in the word of God. These men and women need to be very committed to both STARTING and FINISHING their teaching of new believers so that those disciplined believers become themselves Disciplers!

Disciples/Students of the Word ([Acts 11:26](#); [Philippians 4:9](#); [2Timothy 3:14](#))

Every person, even just slightly interested in the Bible and the things of God is a potential disciple of Jesus Christ. They don't have to be saved as of yet because discipleship is all about learning how to follow Jesus and none of the disciples were saved at their calling to following Him. These students will be changed from sinners to believers, and from believers to Disciples, and ultimately, as they learn to faithfully live for their Lord, they will be called “Christians” – Christ-like! Now that is the great goal of Discipleship!!!

The Chain of Command

It is important to have a chain of command. This lightens the load on the Discippler. If he or she is unsure of something that they are teaching, he or she should be able to call on the Discipleship Director for help, and if need be call on the Pastor for help. It just good to be able to talk to some one else for encouragement.

Occasionally there might come to light some problem which should be referred to the Pastor. The disciple should naturally have trust in you and may well believe you know it all. This where prayer and study comes in. The Holy Spirit will get you through many a difficult question. The truth is that you usually will be more Bible literate than the student. There is a respect that should develop between you two. Therefore be brave and speak with authority when you are teaching. Prayerfully you will not make too many errors. You will especially learn a lot by being a Discippler, and teaching this course.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

How to Use the Answer Key

The information in the Answer Key section of the Discipleship Course looks kind of cryptic, but is just an easy way to list the answers to the blanks in this kind of a study. The first thing you will notice is the Chapter Title and Heading (i.e., **Lesson One** – Biblical Salvation). Following that, on each line is the location of the question blank, as follows:

VI.A.1.b. hand

The first part locates where the blank is – **Section VI**. Each roman numeral (I, II, III, IV, etc.) is used in the study outline as a main topic. Find the part of the lesson that starts with the roman numeral VI (six), and then look down until you find the paragraph starting with capital 'A.'. Under that, the paragraph marked '1.' will have a sub-paragraph marked, small 'b.' at its start. In THAT paragraph, is the statement with the blank you are checking your answer against. Now, thankfully, not all of the answers are in sections so deep, with so many sub-sections, but you see how it works. There can be a few blanks that are actually not part of a paragraph that is numbered, so, the previous section number will be used.

Two other points need to be made concerning answers.

1. Usually there is only one answer that is correct for the fill in the blank, so one answer will be listed. But if another answer would be acceptable, it will be listed in parenthesis brackets "(...)"
2. If there are more than one fill in the blank in a paragraph for you to locate answers for, the answers will simply be separated by semi-colons (;).

Study Introduction

PARAGRAPH	ANSWERS
V.A.1.	Truth
V.A.2.	truth
V.A.3.	word
V.B.3.	true
VI.A.	believe
VI.B.	know
VII.A.	grow
VII.B.	unfruitful

Each lesson is in the above format and is clearly identified, with the answer matching the blank lines in the paragraphs marked in the outline.

Please Note – if you are only looking *in the Answer Key* for the answers to the fill in the blanks of the Study Guide, you are looking in the wrong place. The answers are found in the Bible, in the Scripture location referred to in the Study. Always look there first! The answers in the Answer Key could be wrong, so make sure you know what the Bible says, and not just what the Answer Key says.

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES 81st Century Edition

V. What Is Truth?

A. Let's Compare John 18:36-38 with John 17:17

1. In **John 18**, the Lord Jesus is standing before Pilate, accused of being a King. Jesus tells Pilate that He IS a King, but not of this world, and that His design is not to set up a physical kingdom, but to declare the _____.
2. Pilate responds, "What is _____?" But notice what Pilate does next. He does not wait around for the answer. He does not believe there is any such thing as "truth." It is the same with most people. They have been lied to so many times about Santa, the tooth fairy, and Easter bunnies they think that God and truth are only lies as well.
3. Yet, in **John 17:17**, Jesus Himself says God's _____ is truth! Now, either Jesus was a liar, or crazy, or telling the truth. Which is it?

B. Let's first agree on three things:

1. There must be something, somewhere, that is *true*. Because, without *truth*, there is no way of knowing what is really true or false, good or bad, right or wrong, and anyone's guess becomes as good as another's.
2. **God** is the Author of truth. He cannot lie or He is not God (**Titus 1:2**).
3. God has revealed truth through the Bible alone (**John 17:17**).

The Bible says, "Yea, let God be _____, but every man a liar." **Romans 3:4**

VI. The Purpose of the Bible

- A. It was written that we may "_____ " that Jesus was who He said He was - the Messiah, the Son of God, who came to pay our sin-debt (**John 20:31**).
- B. It was also written, so that we may "_____ " that we have eternal life, not just "hope" for it (**1John 5:13**)!

VII. The Purpose and Design of This Study Guide

- A. This Study will teach you the wonderful truths of God's word, so you can _____ to "perfection" or full maturity in Christ (**1Peter 2:2,3; 2Peter 3:18**).
- B. To do this, you need to develop in yourself the following life principles by reading, and learning from God's word daily (see **2Peter 1:4-8**)

Faith (you start off with this at salvation)	Patience (waiting on God & through trials)
Virtue (the inner strength to do right)	Godliness (becoming more like Christ)
Knowledge (knowledge of Jesus Christ)	Brotherly kindness (towards people)
Temperance (keeping a right balance)	Charity (having unconditional love)

The Bible finishes in verse 8 by saying, "For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor _____." That is what God wants - spiritual fruitfulness and success as a real Christian!

Have fun!

How much lee-way does an instructor have when the disciple offers another answer than what is expected? Let's look at another example, still using Lesson One, but this time, let's see multiple possible answers in the Answer Key, and learn how to deal with them.

Lesson 1 - Biblical Salvation

Turn to page 13 in the Discipleship Course, and notice how that some of the answers have semi-colons ';' in them that are answers to more blanks on that line. If there is something in parentheses (...), it is offering other possible answers to a question.

- IX.A. No
- IX.A.1.b. hand
- IX.A.2. chastising
- IX.A.2.b. loves
- IX.A.2.c. bastard (*that's a real Bible word*)
- IX.B. Confess it as a sin and forsake it right away
- X.A. saved; hell
- X.B. Bible
- X.C. Lamb; sins
- X.D. our sins
- X.E. death (or blood)
- X.F. internal
- X.G. mine (or all people of the world)
- X.H. it is instant (or straight away)
- X.I. (*the answer is up to the individual*)
- X.J. (*the answer is up to the individual*)

THE FIRST PRINCIPLES 21st Century Edition Lesson One

IX. Dealing With Sin Once You Are Already Saved

A. Can a Christian be happy while *disobeying* God? **Yes** or **No**?

1. Notice how it will affect you (**Psalm 32:2-5**) When you keep silent about your sin (**Iniquity** is another word for sin):
 - a. You will age faster.
 - b. God's _____ will be hard against you, not blessing you.
 - c. You will basically "dry up" like a desert.
2. See in **Hebrews 12:5-11** where God always **endeavors** to make us mature, and holy in our lives by _____ us when we sin.
 - a. Chastening means "correcting" NOT punishing. God brings trouble into your life to get you back "on the *strait* (hard path) and *narrow*"
 - b. God chastens His children because He _____ them.
 - c. If a person never experiences God's **chastisement**, it is evident that person never became a Christian at all and is a _____ (**Heb 12:8**) – God calls them *illegitimate* – not the real thing – a faker).

B. What should a believer do when they sin? (**1 John 1:9; Proverbs 28:13**) _____ and _____. To "confess" means to **agree** with God about the sinfulness of your life, and especially specific acts where you broke His direct commandments!

X. Concluding Questions - Fill in these questions from memory.

- A. The Bible was written for us to know that we are _____, and that as sinners we needed God to reach down to us (not for us to reach up), and to save us from _____.
- B. God has revealed truth through the _____ alone.
- C. The theme of the Bible from start to finish is all about "*the _____ of God which taketh away the _____ of the world*" (**John 1:29**).
- D. What has separated all of humanity from God? _____
- E. Our salvation depends only upon whether we are willing by faith to let the _____ of Jesus Christ be sufficient to pay off all our sin-debt to God, instead of trying to pay it off ourselves with our own good works.
- F. The term "*born again*" refers to what? An **external** birth, or an **internal** birth? (Circle one).
- G. When Jesus died, whose place was He taking? _____
- H. When a person repents of their sins, and calls upon Jesus Christ to save them from hell, how long does it take before they are forgiven of all sins, past, present, and future? _____
- I. Have you **let Him** take *your* place, and been born again yourself? **Yes** or **No**
- J. Is Jesus Christ worthy of your life being lived for His glory from now on? **Yes** or **No** (Circle one).

Date Lesson Completed _____ Disciple _____

BIBLICAL SALVATION • 13

It will be up to your discretion to allow for a different answer than provided in the Answer Key. Just don't give too much lee-way. Sometimes, a wrong answer by your disciple is an indication to you that he or she is not understanding the question.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Discipleship Record Information

This information is for the Discipleship Director and the Discipleship Secretary

DISCIPLESHIP DOCUMENTS

<i>Coordinator's Handbook</i>	A copy of this manual that you are currently reading. If any pages of this document need to be reprinted, this document can be accessed by locating it on the Discipleship CD and just opening up the file and printing it from Adobe or MS-Word. This Handbook contains most of the pages and documents and information to run the Discipleship Programme.
<i>Director's Notebook</i>	This ringed-binder will contain specific pages copied out of this Handbook (see page 15 for the layout) and will be added to as more Disciplers and Disciples are included in the programme.
<i>Training Schedule</i>	A schedule of the current training series with dates and times for each subject that will be taught. To access this document for modification or printing, look for it on the Discipleship CD.
<i>First Principles Study Course</i>	A complete copy of the First Principles document. To printout any of the pages, or the entire document, you will just need to locate it on the Discipleship CD and print out the correct edition.
<i>Student Information Records</i>	Student Information Form (pg 24) Student Information Cards (pg 23) Prayer list (pg 25) Disciple Lesson Tracking List (pg 22) Student Score Cards (pg 27) Section Test Score Record (pg 26)
<i>Certificate of Completion Awards</i>	Two awards are presented to those who have completed the <i>Discipleship Training Program</i> and are ready to disciple: 1) The Certificate of Completion (for those who have completed all 21 lessons, but have an average score of less than 85%), and Certificate of Achievement (for those who accumulated an average better than 85% in the Section Exams).

DISCIPLESHIP DATABASE INFORMATION

The following is a detailed listing of information describing the various databases used to track Discipleship Training, and Implementation. This database can be in either MS-Excel, or any other Database that you may be comfortable working in. An MS-Excel database example is provided on the Discipleship CD.

- Discipler List
- Disciple List
- Discipler to Disciple Matching List
- Example Mail-Merge Letter to the Disciples in your programme

How the Discipleship Director's Notebook should be laid-out

The following pages of this Handbook will need to be printed and placed in a ringed binder to keep records of your Discipleship Programme.

Page 36	Cover Page
Page 18	Discipler List
Page 19	Disciple List
Page 20	Discipler-Disciple List
Page 26	Student Test Score Record (keeps a copy along with every Discipler)
Page 29	Suggestion Form – to make suggestions on how to make the Programme better

Print out the following pages on heavy card stock, and then cut out the cards. These cards are to be kept by the Discipleship Secretary.

Page 23	Student Information Cards
Page 27	Student Score Cards

How each Discipler's Notebook should be laid-out

The following pages of this Handbook will need to be printed and placed in a ringed binder to keep records of your Discipleship Programme.

Page 36	Cover Page
Page 16	Welcome Sheet (to be given to every new disciple)
Page 21	Disciple Tracking Page
Page 24	Student Information Sheet (print out a page for every Disciple)
Page 25	Prayer List (print out a page for every Disciple, to follow after every page 18)
Pages 12,13	Explanation how to use the Answer Key
Page 29	Suggestion Form – to make suggestions on how to make the Programme better

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Welcome To New Student

WELCOME TO THE STUDY OF THE *FIRST PRINCIPLES* OF THE WORD OF GOD!

This study series is intended to establish you in the foundational truths of the Bible, and to instruct you on how to study God's word for yourself! There are twenty one study lessons that are intended to be gone through with a Discippler (a teacher). For those who are unable to meet with a Discippler, there is a tape series available that instructs the Disciple (the student of the word of God) through all the materials of the lesson series. Please take a moment and review that materials that you have received. Make sure that you have a Bible that you can read, and study as the lessons direct you. Each study session should take about 45 minutes. Your pace through the entire Study Course may differ based upon your interest, and current understanding. The best idea is to go at the rate that you feel comfortable, always making sure that you fully understand each subject lesson before going onto the next.

When the Lord Jesus was on this earth, He spent three and a half years teaching His twelve disciples all the things that we now have written in the Bible. By you setting aside dedicated time to study the Bible, you are demonstrating to God that you too wish to become a disciple (learner) of Jesus Christ. We are dedicated to the goal of providing materials to people that will enable them to personally know Jesus Christ as their Saviour first of all, and then secondly to enable them to grow in His grace and knowledge as disciples of Him! The **ONLY** way that this goal can be achieved though is by encouraging interested people to turn back to the only Book that changes hearts and lives from the inside out.

The studies that are included in the *First Principles Discipleship Course* are intended to instruct you in the foundational subjects of the Bible. They are in no way exhaustive, and yet they are also not a superficial "skimming of the surface" so to speak. We have developed this course with both the novice and intermediate level student in mind. There are *Twenty One* Lessons altogether covering subjects that range from what Biblical Salvation is, to Knowing the Will of God, How to Pray the Bible Way, some Bible Study Techniques, and Knowing the Future. The entire series is divided into *Four* Sections of five lessons each, each having a primary goal of you understanding a foundational principle. It is those foundational principles that will change your life! These lessons will equip Sunday School teachers, youth workers, soul-winners, parents, young and old alike to better serve our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ! You are in good company!

You now are beginning a fantastic "journey" through the Bible that won't end until you meet the Author of its pages face to face one day. Take your time and thoroughly learn each *Lesson*, but make sure that you make the time because so many things will come up to distract you.

As you complete each section of five lessons, you can opt to take the appropriate Section Test. You do not have to take these tests. These four tests will however provide you with the opportunity to see whether you have adequately learned the material of that Section. Once you have completed the entire Course, you will be contacted about receiving your Certificate of Completion or Certificate of Achievement based on your scoring!

You will truly enjoy your trek through the glorious wonders of God's Holy Word as you study it, and apply its eternal words to your life, and begin to live as Christ intended you to live! May God bless your journey through His marvellous word!

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Discipleship Leader Qualifications and Assessment Sheet

The Discipleship Director and all Disciplers have the Biblical obligation to be in submission to, and in agreement with their Pastor.

It is recommended that the Discipleship of children under 16 will not take place in a one-on-one setting – they will only occur when there is another adult present.

It is also recommended that men teach men and boys, and that ladies teach other ladies and girls. If there is a mixed crowd, a lady may teach younger boys and girls, but men should lead the discipling of older boys and girls.

Discipler Information

This information is to be obtained from a person that has finished being disciplined, and wants to now begin to teach his or her own new convert.

Today's Date _____

Discipler Name _____

Address _____

City _____ County/State _____ Post/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Birthday _____ Age _____ Sex _____ Marital Status _____

Salv Date _____ Baptism Date _____

Date Completed Discipleship _____ Average Score _____

Church Ministries you have been involved in, and what you have done in those ministries:

Notes _____

Signatures acknowledging this person is trustworthy, and ready to train people in the Discipleship Course:

Pastor's _____ Date _____

Discipleship Director's _____ Date _____

The following information must be obtained if this person is going to be teaching children:

Background Check

Personal interview by the Pastor or Director Who: _____ Date: _____

Self-Declaration Form must be filled out and accepted

Checked by: _____ Date: _____

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Discipler List

For the Discipleship Director, Please make sure that as you add Disciplers to this list, that the computer database is kept up-to-date. Make as many copies of this page as needed and keep in your Master Folder. These are the key people that you as the Discipleship Director need to be praying for every day.

Discipler Name	Age	Sex	Date Completed Discipleship	Telephone	Notes
			/ /		
			/ /		
			/ /		
			/ /		
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FIRST PRINCIPLES

Disciple List

Discipleship Director, Please make sure that as you add Disciples to this list, that the computer database is kept up-to-date. Make as many copies as needed.

Disciple Name	Age	Sex	Date Requested Discipleship	Telephone	Notes
			/ /		
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FIRST PRINCIPLES

Discipler-Disciple List

Coordinator, Please make sure that as you add people to this list, that the computer database is kept up-to-date. If there are any changes, those changes need to be made in the database also.

Discipler Name	Disciple Name	Date Discipleship Started	Date Discipleship Completed	Date Certificate Awarded	Notes
		/ /	/ /	/ /	
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		/ /	/ /	/ /	
		/ /	/ /	/ /	
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		/ /	/ /	/ /	

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Discipler's Weekly Schedule

This schedule is to be filled in by each Discipler listing when each discipleship session is scheduled, and with whom. The Discipleship Director may want to keep a copy of this schedule, but it is not necessary.

	Morning		Afternoon		Evening	
	Time	Person(s)	Time	Person(s)	Time	Person(s)
Mon						
Tues						
Wed						
Thur						
Fri						
Sat						
Sun						
Total People						

Additional people that are potential disciples:

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Student Information Cards

This page should be copied onto heavy card stock paper and then into individual cards to be filled in by every new Disciple. The cards need to be turned into the Discipleship Director.

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Information Card**

The following Student Requests to begin the First principles Discipleship Course.

Mr. Mrs. Miss Today's Date _____
 Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____
 Mobile _____
 E-mail _____
 Church _____

For Office Use...
 Discipler _____
 Date Enrolled _____
 Completed _____
 Exam Average Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Information Card**

The following Student Requests to begin the First principles Discipleship Course.

Mr. Mrs. Miss Today's Date _____
 Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____
 Mobile _____
 E-mail _____
 Church _____

For Office Use...
 Discipler _____
 Date Enrolled _____
 Completed _____
 Exam Average Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Information Card**

The following Student Requests to begin the First principles Discipleship Course.

Mr. Mrs. Miss Today's Date _____
 Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____
 Mobile _____
 E-mail _____
 Church _____

For Office Use...
 Discipler _____
 Date Enrolled _____
 Completed _____
 Exam Average Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Information Card**

The following Student Requests to begin the First principles Discipleship Course.

Mr. Mrs. Miss Today's Date _____
 Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____
 Mobile _____
 E-mail _____
 Church _____

For Office Use...
 Discipler _____
 Date Enrolled _____
 Completed _____
 Exam Average Score _____

Make as many copies of this page as needed, and cut out the cards to be filled in.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Student Information Sheet

For the Discipler: This form is to be kept up to date for each of your disciples.

Discipler Name _____ In-House [], By-Post []

Disciple Name _____ Age _____

Address _____

City _____ County _____ Post/Zip _____

Telephone _____ Birthday _____ Aniv _____

Salv Date _____ Baptism Date _____

Notes _____

Notes _____

Discipleship Edition Being Taught: is it the US [, European [, or Concise [, Year [_____]

	Lesson	Date Began	Date Completed	Notes
	Introduction			
1	Salvation			
2	Assurance			
3	Baptism			
4	Word of God			
5	Bible Study			
Section 1 Exam				Score:
6	Church			
7	Memorization			
8	Who is God?			
9	Worship			
10	Lord's Supper			
Section 2 Exam				Score:
11	Prayer			
12	Will of God			
13	Warfare			
14	Family			
15	Finances			
Section 3 Exam				Score:
16	Evangelism			
17	Wind and Drink			
18	My Job			
19	Creation			
20	The Future			
21	Discipleship			
Section 4 Exam				Score:
Read the Bible through?				

Overall Exam Score: _____

Date Turned In to Discipleship Director _____

Certificate Qualified for: Certificate of Completion [, or Achievement []

Date Certificate Awarded _____

Make as many copies of this form as needed, and place them into your Discipleship Notebook.

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Student Score Cards

This page should be copied onto heavy card stock paper and then into individual cards to be filled in by every new Disciple. The cards need to be turned into the Discipleship Director.

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

**First Principles Discipleship Course
Student Exam Score Card**

Today's Date _____
 Student Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ County _____
 Post Code _____ Country _____
 Telephone _____ Age _____

Discipler _____
 Section Exam Number _____
Date Test Taken _____
Exam Score _____

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Help And Support Information

There are several ways of getting help with teaching the First Principles Discipleship Course. We will endeavour to help you with any queries or needs, and look forward to helping you train believers in the Bible!

Internet/Web: www.biblebc.com

E-Mail: discipleship@biblebc.com

Telephone:

Telephone within Ireland: **(021) 487-1234**

From USA: **011-353-21-4871234**

Int'l: **++353-21-4871234**

Mail/Post:

Bible Baptist Church Discipleship Ministries

Pastor Craig Ledbetter

Paul Layton, Course Dean

Unit B, Enterprise Park

Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland

US Contact Address: **c/o PO Box 849, Rossville, GA 30741 USA**

Any feedback is VERY appreciated!

As you study and teach this Discipleship Programme, you might come up with ideas about how to better teach a portion of the study – maybe you will come up with a helpful diagram, or a good illustration – send it on to us, and we will consider adding it to a later edition that may bless and help someone else down the line!

PRACTICAL DOCTRINE

Suggestion Form

Use this form to make suggestions for improvements and corrections in the Discipleship programme.

Discipleship Director Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State/County _____ Zip/Post _____
 Telephone _____ Email _____
 Church Name _____
 Church City _____ State/County _____

What Discipleship Edition are you currently using? (It is found on page 2 – if it is not clear, please look down at the very bottom of the page and record the entire last line).

Edition: _____

What Changes would you recommend?

Any Corrections? Please provide page numbers:

Page _____

 Page _____

 Page _____

 Page _____

 Page _____

 Page _____

Thank You! Please post a copy of this page to:

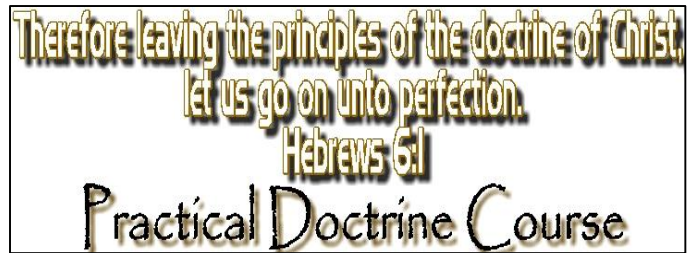
**Bible Baptist Church Discipleship Ministries
 Unit B, Enterprise Park
 Innishmore , Ballincollig, Cork, Ireland**

PRACTICAL DOCTRINE

The Next Step After Discipleship

So, What Do You Do Now?

The next stage of your growth involves either the study of individual Books of the Bible, or the next series of Lessons that are available called **Practical Doctrine**. Contact your pastor or the International Discipleship Director on the Help and Support Information page for more information.



What the Practical Doctrine Course Offers...

(To be provided)

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Award System

There are two awards for students who complete the First Principles Discipleship Course:

1. An Official **Certificate of Completion** for those who at least completed the Discipleship Course
2. An Official **Certificate of Achievement with Honours** for those who complete the Discipleship Course with a better than 85% scoring in all four Section Tests.

Examples of the Actual Awards are provided on the following pages and the documents to produce them are provided on the Discipleship CD. These awards can be modified to reflect your own Discipleship Programme, and Church Name, etc.

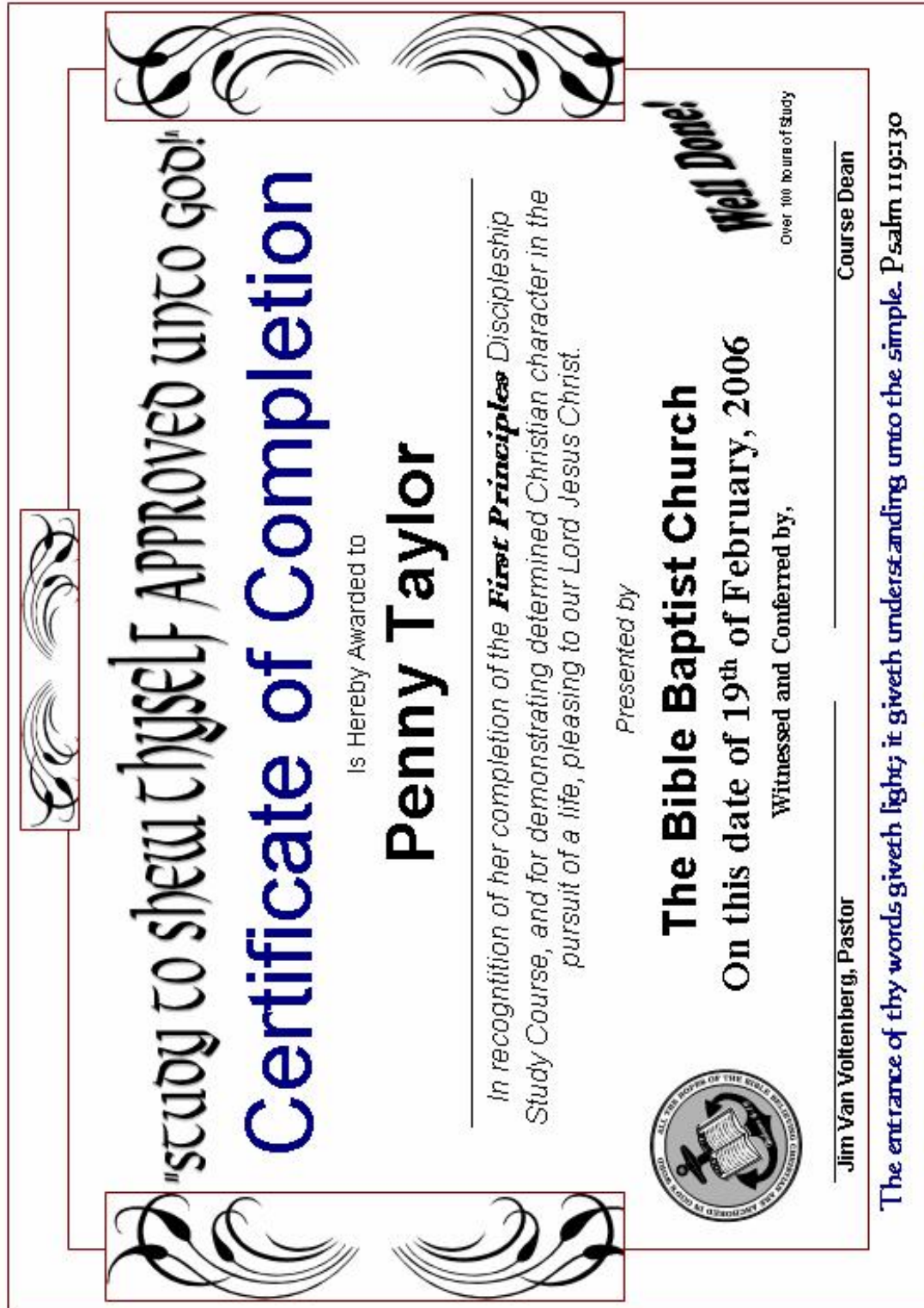
If a student has applied themselves through the Course, these Certificates prove that the student has effectively completed the equivalent of a basic First Year Bible College/Bible Institute study course, and may therefore easily pass any entrance exam that may allow them to skip several courses and advance into the next year's courses! If the student has scores less than 85% though, they may not adequately qualify for skipping Bible College courses. It is very important to emphasize to every student the need to study and learn these great truths as presented in the Discipleship Study Course.



FIRST PRINCIPLES

Certificate of Completion

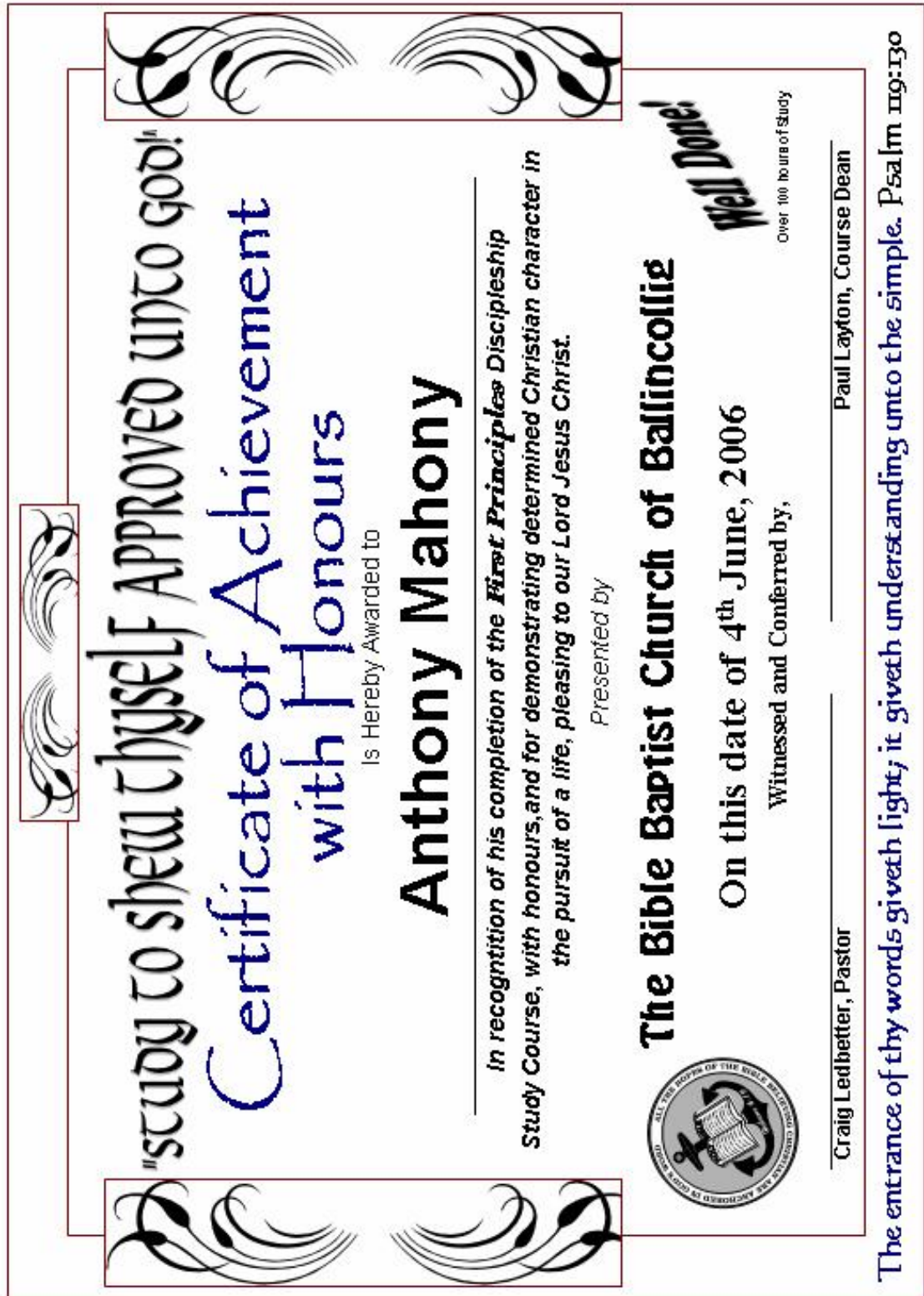
Below is an example of the Certificate of Completion that is awarded to the student who completes the entire twenty one lessons but has earned less than 85% in their overall test scoring from the Section Tests. It is not the actual award, but just a scanned in image. If the student has completed the course and earned higher than 85%, they have qualified for the Certificate of Achievement with Honours that is shown on the next page.



FIRST PRINCIPLES

Certificate of Achievement With Honours

Below is an example of the Certificate of Achievement with Honours that is awarded to the student who completes the entire twenty one lessons, and earned at least 85% in their overall test scoring from the Section Tests. This graphic is not the actual award, but just a scanned in image.



FIRST PRINCIPLES

What's On the CD?

If you have ordered the Discipleship CD, the following items are included on the CD in various file formats:

Document	MS-Word	PDF	Other
Examples of Discipleship Flyers and Advertisements	YES	YES	
First Principles Discipleship Course in US Sized Format (8 ½" x 11")		YES	
First Principles Discipleship Course in European A4 Sized Format (8 ¼" 11 ¼")		YES	
First Principles Discipleship Course in European A5 Sized Format (8 ¼" 11 ¼")		YES	
Discipleship Director's Handbook	YES	YES	
Certificate of Completion	YES	YES	
Certificate of Accomplishment	YES	YES	
Introduction to the Practical Doctrine Course		YES	
Example of Discipleship Database			MS-Excel
You Can Do It Bible Study Course	YES	YES	Mp3 Audio

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Bible Baptist Church Discipleship Ministries

Unit B, Enterprise Park
Innishmore, Ballincollig, Cork
Ireland

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Order Form

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Entire Discipleship Programme on a CD (Includes a printed Discipleship Course Book) (Licensed for use by an individual Church) (Doctrinal Agreement Form must be signed and included with this order)	\$160	€100	[_____]
Discipleship Course Book (165 page book)	\$15 each	€10 each	[_____]
When ordering more than 10 Books	\$12 each	€8 each	[_____]
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Each Individual Lesson by Email/Web Download	FREE	FREE	
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TOTAL THIS ORDER			[_____]

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Phone in Ireland: **021-4871234**

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THE FIRST PRINCIPLES

Hebrews 5:12

*A Practical Bible Study
and Discipleship Course
For New Christians*

Discipleship Notebook

Let all things be done decently and in order.

1 Corinthians 15:40

Name: _____

FIRST PRINCIPLES

Doctrinal Statement to be Accepted by the Director

A. The Word of God. The only thing in this universe that is perfect (Ps 19:7), pure (Ps 19:8; 119:140), without error (Ps 12:6,7), and capable of directing men to God (Jn 20:31) is the written word of God, the Holy Bible - the collection of sixty-six books, from Genesis to Revelation, as preserved for English speaking people in the King James Authorized Version (KJV of 1611), and duplicated in other languages by translations that match both the faithfulness of the King James Bible, as well as its fruit (Matt 7:16).

B. God. We believe that the Scriptures present its Author as the One, and only One living (Josh 3:10), true, and eternal God (Isa 45:21; Deut 6:4). We believe that even though the God of the Bible is completely outside of this physical universe (Jonah 1:9), as well as outside of time (Deut 33:27), He has been, is, and will be completely involved in human history (Heb 1:1-3) in order to bring to pass His plan for the ages (Eph 1:9,10). We believe that God is inherently one person, and yet three individual Persons (2 Cor 13:14; 1 John 5:7), and that they are both separate and individual from each other, and yet indivisible as the Godhead (Rom 1:20).

C. God The Father. We believe the first Person of the Godhead is God the Father, and that as the Father of all creation (Isa 45:25,26), He is interested in revealing Himself to His creation (Jn 17:1-3).

D. God The Son We believe God revealed Himself to His creation in not only His written word, but also about 2,000 years ago through His living Word (Jn 1:1-3), His Son, Jesus Christ the Lord (Heb 1:1,2). We believe that Jesus Christ is God in flesh and bones (Jn 14:9), and was as a human, but without a sinful nature (Luke 1:35; 1 Pet 1:19; 3:18) by virtue of His virgin birth (Matt 1:18-25) as described in the Scriptures, and that He is now in heaven as our High Priest (Heb 7:25,26) interceding for sinners. We believe that He is the Messiah of the Old Testament, and that His only purpose in coming to this planet as a man was to save sinners (Luke 19:10), and give them "life, and that more abundant" (Jn 10:10).

E. God The Holy Spirit. We believe the third Person of the Godhead is the Person of the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3,4). We believe that God the Holy Spirit is every Christian's Teacher and Guide in life (Jn 14:26), and that His role is that first of a Convictor of sin (Jn 16:8-11), then that of Comforter (Jn 14:16), and Intercessor when a Christian prays (Rom 8:26,27). The Holy Spirit provides gifts to born again Christians for the distinct purpose of winning people to Jesus Christ, and the edification of the local church (1 Cor 13:27-31; Eph 4:11,12).

F. Creation. We believe that the Scriptures plainly teach a literal six day creation of this present universe as written in the account in Genesis 1:1-28, and that the account is completely, and scientifically correct.

G. Man. We believe that man was created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-28) as described in the accounts in Genesis, and that that image was marred (Col 3:9,10) by wilful disobedience (Gen 3:6; Rom 5:19) when the head of the human race, Adam (Rom 5:12), voluntarily transgressed God's clear commandment, therefore marring the image of subsequent generations until the virgin birth of a Second Adam that would make a way to have the image restored (1 Cor 15:45-49). By "image", we are referring to man's tri-part being: a body, a soul, and a spirit, and that these three parts match God's Trinity of Persons (1 Thes 5:23). By "marred" we mean that the spirit of man at birth is "dead" (Eph 2:1), and in need of regeneration by the new birth; that man's flesh is corrupt and cannot serve God (Rom 8:5-8); and that man's soul is tied to his sin until it is freed from the flesh by spiritual circumcision (Col 2:11-13). By human race, we mean all humans born in every corner of this planet from the time of Adam through to the end of time (Rom 3:23; 5:12,18). By "wilful disobedience" we mean that Adam knew exactly what he was doing when he disobeyed a direct order from God (1 Tim 2:14). The Soul of Man is eternal, and immortal because it alone is what was made in the image of God in Genesis 1:26,27, and 2:7. It is called the "*hidden man*" or the "*inner man*" (1 Pet 3:4; Rom 7:20-23; 2 Cor 4:16-18) and is associated with the heart, will and emotions - not the body and the flesh.

H. Hell. We believe in a literal, physical place called hell that Jesus Christ referred to more often than He did heaven. We believe that this place is a place of darkness (Matt 8:12), of unquenchable fire (Matt 3:11-12), of excruciating pain and torment (Luke 16:23-26), of continual death, and yet never being allowed to die (2 Thes 1:7-9). We believe that hell was not created for humans, but rather for the devil and his angels (Matt 25:41), and therefore that humans will only go to hell because they deliberately choose to reject the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Rom 2:8,9) which was the only acceptable payment to God for their forgiveness from sin. We believe that the judgement of hellfire is forever (Rev 20:14), and that there is no annihilation of the soul - Those who do not get saved will join the devil (their father, John 8:44) in the "*lake of fire*" and will be tormented with him forever and ever (Matt 25:46; Rev 14:10; Luke 16:22,23).

I. Heaven. We believe that God has a reward (Matt 5:11,12) for those who are His people (Heb 12:22,23), and that that reward is composed of an eternity with Jesus Christ in a place called the New Jerusalem, more commonly known as "heaven" (Rev 21:2-27).

J. Salvation. We believe that all men, women, and children are sinners (Rom 5:12), and that all humans who are old enough to know the difference between right and wrong (Jonah 3:11), are accountable to God for every sin that they commit and must atone for every one of them somehow (Rom 6:23). We believe that man's sins do not make him or her a sinner, but that he sins BECAUSE he is a sinner (Rom 5:19). Man's sinful state separates him from the holy God that created him (Rom 8:7,8), and will keep him out of heaven unless he acts to change his destiny (Luke 13:2,3). We believe that God ordained that man's sins could not be paid for in any other way than through the sacrifice of an innocent lamb (Ex 12:5). From Adam's fall all through the Old Testament, regular, bloody animal sacrifices were required to approach God (Heb 9:6-13). These sacrifices of the Old Testament enabled man to meet with God at a blood-sprinkled Mercy seat (Exod 25:21,22), but required a priestly order to continually maintain the sacrificial system. This system involved sinful humans and was flawed in that it was limited to man's imperfections (Heb 9:6-9). Then, "in the fullness of time" Jesus came, as "the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sins of the world" (Jn 1:29). We believe that Jesus Christ is THE ONLY way to get forgiveness of sins, and to go to heaven when a person dies (Jn 14:6). We believe that Jesus Christ paid for ALL the sins of the past (by redeeming them through His blood [Eph 1:7]), and future, by making a perfect, and eternal "once-for-all" sacrifice on the cross (Heb 10:12). We believe that a man is saved by faith alone (Eph 2:8,9) in the finished and completed work of Jesus Christ on the cross (Col 1:20,22), and that His blood cleanses a soul from the penalty of sin by having paid for each and every sin committed by the human race. We believe that salvation consists of three parts: 1) recognizing that every individual is responsible for their sins, to a Holy and Just God, 2) that Jesus took the responsibility for those sins on the cross, even though He wasn't at fault, and 3) that by accepting Jesus Christ's offer to take my place in judgment for my sins, I am allowed to go free (as Barabbas was allowed in Matthew 27)!

K. The Security of the Believer. We believe that a born again believer is completely secure in Christ (John 10:27-29; 1 Pet 1:23), and that there is absolutely no way whatsoever that that person can affect their relationship with God the Father (2 Tim 2:13; 1 John 5:13; Heb 12:5-11; Eph 1:4,5) because their salvation is based upon what Jesus Christ did (1 Pet 3:18; Jude 24), and not what they did. We believe that a Christian can affect his or her "fellowship" with God by disobeying clear Biblical commandments and not confessing them and forsaking them as sin (1 John 1:8,9).

L. Satan. We believe that the Scriptures plainly reveal a spiritual being whose sole desire is to deceive mankind (Rev 12:9; 19:20; 20:3,8), and turn them away from the simple plan of salvation, and force them to live in the darkness of their sins, until they join the devil in his eternal judgment (Matt 25:41).

M. The Church. We believe Jesus Christ commanded every born again Christian to assemble together in local, physical, visible places (Matt 18:20; Heb 10:25) for the purpose of worship, preaching, gathering of tithes and offerings, sending out missionaries (Acts 13), evangelizing (Matt 28:19,20), baptizing new converts, and edification. We believe that all Christians are part of Jesus Christ's "body" (Rom 12:5; Col 1:18), which is also called "the church", but that that "body" has not assembled yet, but will, in heaven (Heb 12:22,23). We believe that the Lord Jesus Christ gave Christian churches *three* fundamental ordinances (commandments of our Saviour, just to believers): **Believer's Baptism** (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:36-38), for public identification with His death, burial, and resurrection; **the Lord's Supper** (1Cor 11:20-34), for remembrance of what our salvation cost Him; and **the task of loving one another** (John 13:34; 1 John 3:23).

N. Baptism. We believe baptism is the act of obedience to the command by Jesus Christ (Matt 28:19,20; Acts 2:41,42) to fully submerge a believer into water, in order to identify the believer with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection (Rom 6:3,4), and to testify to the world that that believer is a new creature because of salvation. Generally speaking, Believer's Baptism, by context, means to go into and then come out of water (Matt 3:16; Mark 1:9,10; Acts 8:38,39), as in complete immersion, and by definition is the only thing that can picture a burial, whereas all other definitions (i.e., sprinkling, dipping, etc.) cannot picture this. We believe that baptism associates the believer with the doctrine of the church administrating it (1 Cor 10:1-4), and therefore is the method ordained by Jesus Christ to keep the church pure from false teacher who may want to enter the church as ravenous wolves, not sparing the flock (Acts 20:28,29).

O. The Lord's Supper. We believe the Lord's Supper is a serious reminder that the local church, as a body of believers regularly partakes of in order to remind its members of the cost of their salvation, as well as for spiritual cleansing, that the church may keep itself pure from carnality (1 Cor 11:28-30). **The Lord's Supper is simply a memorial** – a time to remember what Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. (1 Cor 11:24,25). It is not either a continuation of the crucifixion, or a repeat of the sacrifice of the cross. Only saved individuals, Scripturally baptized as a profession of their faith in Christ, and living in a godly, Christian manner as members of a local church, have a right to, or can properly partake of the Communion of the Lord's Supper in our Church. This means

baptism is a prerequisite to the memorial supper and the local church can judge the qualifications of those who enjoy its privileges.

P. Membership. We believe that a local church is to be composed of only born again believers (1 Cor 12:13), that have chosen not only to obey Jesus Christ's command of baptism (Acts 2:41), but also, have decided to join together with an organized body of believers for the expressed purpose of soul-winning and discipleship based upon the doctrines of the word of God (Acts 2:42).

Q. Separation. We believe that the Christian's body is the temple of the Holy Ghost (1 Cor 6:19,20), that God owns the body of the Christian, and that God judges the Christian according to how he or she treats God property! God commands Christians to be different from the world (2 Cor 6:17; 1 John 2:15-17), and to not only be "peculiar" (1 Pet 2:9) but to be so "peculiar" that they are "foolish" in the eyes of the world (1 Cor 1:18). We believe that the Bible teaches that Christians are not to marry non-Christians (1 Cor 6:14), and that they should not look like them, talk like them, or even live like them in areas of promiscuous and immoral dress, or vulgarity of conversation (1 Tim 2:9; 4:12; 1 Pet 3:1-9). The area of a Christian's music and entertainment must be very conservative and sober (Col 3:16,17; Eph 5:8-11). We also believe that Christians have different levels of maturity (we are not all the same), and ought to be given time to grow and mature (1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18).

R. Missions. A world-wide program of missionary evangelism in accordance with the New Testament principles, methods, and doctrine. Baptists have always known that the whole world is lost, and in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we have always endeavoured to proclaim that Gospel locally, and throughout the world at all costs. The mission of the local New Testament Church involves winning souls, baptizing them, training them into a Biblical culture, and reproducing themselves in their local area (Jerusalem), then in their Judea, and then in their Samaria, and in the uttermost parts of the earth as well (foreign missionaries) (Matt 28:19,20; Acts 1:8).

S. Giving. God's people are commanded to bring their tithes (1/10th of their gross income) into the storehouse (Mal 3:6-10) on a regular basis, on the first day of the week (Sunday; 1 Cor 16:1,2) when the local church meets. The tithes are for the payment of the expenses and maintenance of the Church, and its activities. Extra giving in addition to the tithe is used to support missionaries, and for various other evangelism.

T. The Second Coming. We believe the only hope for this world as a whole is the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. We believe that there will be only a downward trend in human depravity (2 Tim 3:1-9), that will only be broken by the intervention of the physical return of Jesus Christ to rule and reign on this planet (Rev 19:11-16). We believe the next event on God's calendar is the "catching away" of Christians who are alive at the Rapture (1 Thes 4:13-18; 1 Cor 15:51,52; 2 Tim 4:8; Rev 22:12,20). After the Rapture, Satan will reveal his anti-christ, and a one-world government will be set up during a seven year period of time called the *Tribulation*. At the end of the Tribulation, Jesus Christ will return to this earth, and defeat the anti-christ's army, regenerate the earth to be like it was in the garden of Eden (Isa 11:1-9), and bind Satan for 1000 years. After a 1000 year reign, Jesus Christ will loose Satan for a short time just before casting him into the lake of fire forever (Rev 20:10). At that time, this present heaven and earth will pass away, and God will create a new heaven and earth for His people for all eternity (Rev 21:1).

U. Godly Works. We believe in righteous living and godly works not as a means of salvation in any sense, but as its proper evidence and fruit in the life of a Christian; and therefore as Christ would do, we do everything with the goal of presenting the Gospel to a lost world for their salvation; therefore we endeavour to love the unlovely, care for and meet the needs of the poor, and reach-out with compassion on all who would seek, or who need the mercy of God Almighty, through Jesus Christ the Lord (Ephesians 2:10; Romans 12:1,2; Matthew 11:5; Mark 14:7; Luke 4:18; 7:22; 2 Corinthians 9:9).

V. The Ministry Of Spiritual Gifts. We believe that God is sovereign in the bestowment of all his gifts; and that the gifts of evangelists, pastors, and teachers are sufficient for the growth and maturity of the Christian saints today; that the working of sign miracles gradually ceased as the New Testament Scriptures were completed and their authority became established; that the gift of tongues was never the required outward demonstration of either baptism or the filling of the Spirit of God; that God does hear and answer the prayer of faith in accord with His own will, for the sick and afflicted (John 15:7; 1 Cor 12:4-11; 13:8-10; 2 Cor 12:12; Ephesians 4:7-16; James 5:14-16; 1 John 5:14,15).

I, _____, have read, and agree with the above Doctrinal Statement, on this date, _____. Signed: _____

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