



# BIBLICAL ELDERSHIP RESOURCES

Passing the Baton of Leadership from One Generation to the Next

## Key Doctrines and Verses

*Every Elder Needs to Know*

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## *Introduction*

Upon his departure from Ephesus, Paul could say to the Ephesian elders that he had taught them the whole counsel of God, and that they were fully equipped to do the work of teaching and protecting the church:

*I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, . . . for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God. [Acts 20:20, 27].*

To qualify as an elder, a candidate for the eldership must also know “the whole counsel of God” as taught in Holy Scripture. One of the most important qualifications for a biblical elder is stated in Titus 1:9. An elder candidate

*. . . must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it. (Titus 1:9)*

In other words, an elder candidate must know and hold firmly to orthodox, apostolic doctrine (“the trustworthy word as taught”). The two reasons given for this qualification are: 1) so that the elder can “give instruction in sound doctrine,” and 2) be able to “rebuke those who contradict” sound doctrine. An elder must be able to explain and defend the gospel, instruct people in sound doctrine, counsel people by means of Scripture, and answer fundamental questions regarding the Christian faith. So it is imperative for an elder to know the Bible.

Before an elder or deacon is eligible to serve, he must be examined by the church and its leaders as to his fitness for either of these offices. As Paul says in 1 Tim. 3:10:

*Let them also [like the elders] be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. (1 Tim. 3:10)*

We should never assume that we know what a person believes about various doctrines or lifestyle issues. The existing elders need to ask, question, and assess a candidate for eldership (1 Tim. 5:24–25). Some of the worst mistakes made in churches come from appointing elders who are actually in doctrinal disagreement with the church or lack basic Bible knowledge.

But how would those who examine a candidate for eldership *know* if the candidate holds to the apostolic gospel and is capable of teaching and protecting the church from false doctrine, if there are not some kinds of standard doctrinal questions asked for assessing the candidates’ proficiency in Scripture and doctrine?

This guide provides the local church and its leaders with a tool to assess an elder candidate’s knowledge of relevant Scriptures and Bible doctrine. This guide is not exhaustive, and it is not meant to be. But it will provide a starting place for testing basic skills in handling Scripture and doctrine. You are welcome to add to this guide additional Scriptures you and your church feel elders must know in order to qualify and do the job effectively.

Another use for this guide is as a tool for the elder candidate in preparation for the doctrinal examination by the elders. We also recommend using the book *Decide for Yourself: A Theological Workbook* by Gordon Lewis. We recommend this book because it presents the texts of Scripture a candidate should know for each major doctrinal category. It presents these in a way that no other book does. One does not have to use the entire book. Sections can be selected by the elders for special attention in the candidate’s preparation.

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**Note:** All verses are taken from either the NASB or ESV Bibles.

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**NOTE:** For memorizing these verses, see page 14 for using the Bible Memory app.

## God the Father

### Described as

Eternal Ps. 104:31

Great Ps. 138:5

Glorious Eph. 1:12

Revealed in Christ John 1:14

**Additional Verses:** Deut. 32:6; Isa. 9:6; Mal. 2:10; Matt. 6:4, 9; 7:21; Mark 8:38; Luke 11:2; John 8:18, 10:30, 16:23, 20:17; Eph. 4:6

### Scriptural Basis of the Biblical Trinity

Gen. 1:26 “Then God said, “Let Us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

Gen. 3:22 “the Lord God said, ‘... the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil.’”

Matt. 28:19 “in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** Isa. 11:2, 61:1; Matt. 3:16, 17; Rom. 8:9; 2 Cor. 13:14; Eph. 4:4–6; 1 Peter 1:2; Jude 20, 21; 1 John 4:2, 3; 1 John 5:6–12

## The Lord Jesus Christ

### The Things Concerning Himself

Ps. 2:7 “As the Son of God”

Luke 24:25–27; 44 “everything written about Me in the Law of Moses”

John 5:39 “search the Scriptures ... it is they who bear witness about Me.”

### The Human Nature of Jesus

Matt. 1:25 “until she had given birth to a son. And he called His name Jesus.”

Matt. 4:2 “and He (Jesus) was hungry”

John 19:30 “When Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, ‘It is finished,’ and He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 21:18; John 4:7; Mark 4:38; Rom. 1:3–4, 8:3; Gal. 4:4; Phil. 2:7; 1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:14–18

### The Divine Nature of Jesus

John 1:1, 14, 18 “In the beginning was the Word ... the Word was with God ... the Word was God.”

Col. 1:15–19 “He is the image of the invisible God ... by Him all things were created”

2 Peter 1:1 “our God and Savior Jesus Christ”

**Additional Verses:** John 10:31–36, Rom. 9:5; Phil. 2:6; Titus 2:13; Heb. 1:3

### Jesus Christ’s Preexistence and Eternality

Ex. 3:14 “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’”

John 8:58 “Jesus said to them ... before Abraham was, I AM.”

Heb. 13:8 “Jesus ... the same yesterday and today and forever.”

**Additional Verses:** John 6:38, 17:24; Col. 1:17; 1 John 1:1–2; Rev. 1:8

### The Virgin Birth of the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth

Isa. 7:14 “the virgin shall conceive and bear a son”

Matt. 1:18–23 “She will bear a son, and you shall His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”

Luke 1:26–35 “The Holy Spirit will come upon you (Mary) ... therefore the child to be born will called holy—the Son of God.”

**Additional Verses:** Isa. 9:6; Mic. 5:2; Rom. 9:5; 1 Tim. 3:16

## **The Sinlessness of Jesus Christ**

2 Cor. 5:21 “He made Him (Jesus) to be sin who knew no sin”

Eph. 2:13–18 “by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace . . . and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross”

Heb. 4:15 “tempted as we are, yet without sin”

**Additional Verses:** Heb. 7:26, 9:14; 1 John 3:5

## **The Bodily Resurrection of Jesus Christ**

Matt. 28:1–6 “He has risen”

Luke 24:28–35 “He took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened”

1 Cor. 15:1–58 “if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain”

**Additional Verses:** Luke 24:36–43; Acts 2:29–33; Rom. 1:4, 4:25, 10:9–10, 1 Peter 1:3

## **The Three Offices of Jesus Christ**

Heb. 1:1–2 “God has spoken to us by His Son”

Heb. 4:14–16 “we have a great high priest . . . Jesus, the Son of God”

Heb. 1:8 “of the Son He says, ‘Your throne, O God, is forever and ever.’”

**Additional Verses:** Heb. 3:1, 7:11; Num. 24:17; Eze. 37:24; Dan. 2:44

## **The Holy Spirit**

### **The Promise of the Holy Spirit**

Matt. 3:11 “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit”

John 14:16–17 “[the Father] will you give another Helper”

Gal. 3:14 “that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith”

**Additional Verses:** John 7:37–39, 15:26, 16:7–15; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4–5

### **The Divine Person of the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Trinity**

Acts 13:2–4 “the Holy Spirit said . . . I called them”

Rom. 8:26–27 “the Spirit intercedes for the saints”

2 Cor. 3:17, 18 “the Lord is the Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** John 14:17; 1 Cor. 2:10–11; Heb. 9:14; 1 Tim. 4:1

### **The Holy Spirit and the Conversion of an Unbeliever / Sinner**

John 3:1–8 “born of the Spirit”

Acts 2:37–38 “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”

2 Cor. 3:1–6 “The letter kills but the Holy Spirit gives life.”

**Additional Verses:** John 16:8; Rom. 8:2; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 3:7–11; Gal. 3:2, 4:6, 7; Eph. 1:13–14, 4:30, 2:18

### **The Indwelling Holy Spirit in Each Believer**

Joel 2:28–29 “I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh” (Acts 2:17–21)

1 Cor. 2:12 “we have received . . . the Spirit who is from God”

Gal. 4:6 “God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts”

**Additional Verses:** John 14:16–17; Acts 2:38, 5:32; Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 3:16, 6:16, 19, 12:13;

Eph. 2:22; 1 Thess. 4:8; 2 Tim. 1:14; Titus 3:5–6; 1 John 3:24, 4:13

## **The Activities of the Holy Spirit**

John 15:26 “He will bear witness about Me (Jesus the Christ)”

Rom. 8:26–27 “the Spirit intercedes for the saints”

Eph. 1:13–14; 4:30 “sealed with the promised Holy Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** John 6:63, 14:26, 16:14; Acts 1:8, 9:31; Rom. 5:5, 8:2, 5, 10–16, 26–27;

1 Cor. 2:10–24, 12:4–11; 2 Cor. 2:22, 5:5 Gal. 5:22–23; Phil. 1:9; 1 Peter 1:12; Eph. 1:13–14

## **The Believer’s Responsibility to God the Holy Spirit**

### **Set One’s Mind on the Spirit**

Rom. 8:5–6 “those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit”

### **Walk in the Spirit**

Gal. 5:16–21 “Walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh”

Gal. 5:22–23 “The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace . . .”

Gal. 5:24–26 “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk [keep in step with] by the Spirit”

### **Pray in the Spirit**

Rom. 8:26–27 “the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words”

Eph. 2:18 “access in one Spirit to the Father”

Eph. 6:18 “praying at all times in the Spirit”

### **Be Filled with the Spirit**

Eph. 5:18–21 “be filled with the Spirit”

### **Do Not Grieve or Quench the Spirit**

Eph. 4:30 “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God”

1 Thess. 5:19 “Do not quench the Spirit”

## **Spiritual Gifts**

Rom. 12:3–8 “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them”

1 Cor. 12:1–11, 18 “There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit”

1 Peter 4:10–11 “As each received a gift, use it to serve one another”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Cor. 12:12–31; Eph. 4:7–16; Heb. 2:4

## **Third Person of the Trinity**

John 14:26 “the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My Name [Jesus]”

Eph. 4:4–6 “one Spirit . . . one Lord . . . one God”

Jude 20–21 “praying in the Holy Spirit . . . keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 28:19; 1 Cor. 2:11, 12:4–6; 2 Cor. 13:4; 1 Peter 1:2

## **The Spirit-Inspired Scriptures**

John 10:34–35 “the word of God came . . . and Scripture cannot be broken”

2 Peter 1:19–21 “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit”

2 Tim. 3:15–17 “All Scripture is breathed out by God”

**Additional Verses:** Acts 4:25; Eph. 6:17; 2 Peter 3:15–16

## **The Power of the Holy Spirit for Service/ Ministry**

Mark 13:9–11 “do not be anxious beforehand what you are to say, but say whatever is given you in that hour, for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 1:8 “The Spirit will empower Christ’s disciples to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth”

2 Tim. 1:14 “The church guards the good deposit of the gospel by the Holy Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** Luke 24:44–49; Acts 2:4, 13:4–12; Rom. 7:4–6

## **The Holy Spirit and the Sanctification of Believers**

2 Cor. 3:18 “And we all . . . beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another”

Gal. 5:22–23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Jude 20 “But you . . . building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 8:11, 15, 16, 26, 15:13; Gal. 3:3, 5:16–21, 25; Eph. 1:17–18, 3:16, 4:30, 5:18–21

## **Gospel**

### **“First Doctrine” (The Basis of the Elder’s Primary Understanding & Education)**

2 Tim. 2:15 “to present yourself to God as one approved . . . rightly handling the word of truth.”

Titus 1:9 “He must hold first the trustworthy word as taught, to instruction in sound doctrine . . . to rebuke . . . who contradict it.”

Acts 20:27 “for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”

**Additional Verses:** Luke 24:44–47; Acts 20:28–31, Rom. 1:16, 1 Cor. 15:3, 4; 1 Tim. 1:8–10

### **Sinful Humanity**

Gen. 6:5 “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of heart was only evil continually.”

Ps. 51:5 “I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.”

Matt. 15:19 “For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality . . .”

**Additional Verses:** Ps. 58:3, Isa. 53:2, 64:6; John 8:34; Rom. 1:18, 3:20, 3:23, 5:10, 8:7; Eph. 2:1–3; Col. 1:21–22; 1 Tim. 1:8–10

### **Divine Wrath Against Sin**

Gen. 2:16–17 “for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

John 3:36 “whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.”

Heb. 9:27 “just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment”

**Additional Verses:** Ps. 90:7–9; Rom. 1:18, 5:9, 6:23; Gal. 3:10; Eph. 2:3, 5:6; Col. 3:5–6; 1 Thess. 1:10; 2 Thess. 1:5–12; Rev. 6:16, 19:11–21, 20:11–15

### **The Penal Substitutionary Death of Jesus Christ**

Isa. 53:3–6, 10–11 “He was pierced for our transgressions . . . it was the will of the Lord to crush Him”

Mark 10:45 “to give his life a ransom for many”

John 1:29 “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 26:28; John 10:11; 17–18; Rom. 5:8, 5:10, 6:6; 1 Cor. 11:23–26, 15:3, 4; 2 Cor. 5:21; Gal. 1:4, 2:20, 3:13; Eph. 5:2, 25; Heb. 2:14; 9:14, 26, 28; 10:10–14; 1 Peter 1:18–21, 2:24, 3:18

### **The Event of the Cross**

Mark 15:24–32 “And they crucified Him (Jesus) and divided His garments among them, casting lots . . .”

1 Cor. 1:17–25 “the cross of Christ . . . the word of the cross . . . we preach Christ crucified”

Gal. 3:1 “Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Cor. 13:4; Gal. 5:1, 6:12, 14; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20; 1 Peter 2:24; Heb. 12:2

## **The Blood of the Lamb Slain**

Lev. 17:11 “for it is the blood that makes atonement by the life”

Isa. 53:7 “like a lamb that is led to the slaughter”

1 Cor. 5:7 “Christ, our Passover lamb has been sacrificed”

**Additional Verses:** John 1:29, 36; Acts 20:28; Rev. 5:6–14, 21:23

## **Propitiation**

Rom. 3:25 “God put forward as a propitiation by His blood”

Heb. 2:17 “to make propitiation for the sins of the people”

1 John 2:2 “He is the propitiation for our sins.”

**Additional Verses:** 1 John 4:9–10

## **Imputation**

### **Adam, the First Man and his sin to the Human Race**

Rom. 5:12–19 “many died through one man’s trespass . . . because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through one man”

1 Cor. 15:21–22 “as in Adam all die”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Cor. 15:44–49

### **Our Own Sins to Christ Jesus**

Lev. 16:1–34 “Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, and confess to all the iniquities of the people . . . he shall put them (the sins of the people) on the head of the goat and send it away into the wilderness”

Heb. 9:24–26 “He has appeared once for all at the end of the age to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself”

1 Peter 2:24 “He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree”

**Additional Verses:** Isa. 53:6, 10–11; 2 Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:28

### **Christ’s Righteousness to Believers**

Isa. 61:10 “He has clothed me with garments of salvation; He has covered me with the robe of righteousness”

Zech. 3:1–5 “Behold, I have taken away your iniquity away from you, and I will clothe you with pure vestments”

Rom. 3:21–22 “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe”

**Additional Verses:** Isa. 53:11; Rom. 1:17, 4:3–8, 5:12–19; 1 Cor. 1:30; 2 Cor. 5:14–15, 5:21; Phil. 3:9; 1 Peter 2:24

## **Justification**

Rom. 3:24–25 “justified by His grace as a gift”

1 Cor. 9:21 “under the law of Christ”

Titus 3:7 “being justified by this grace”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 4:5; 5:1, 9; 8:33–34; 10:4, 10; Gal. 2:16–17, 21; 3:8, 24

## **Forgiveness**

Ps. 103:2–3 “Bless the Lord . . . who forgives all your iniquity . . . as far as the east is from the west, so far does He remove our transgressions from us”

Mark 2:3–12 “Who can forgive sins but God alone”

Acts 10:43 “everyone who believes in Him receives forgiveness of sins through His Name”

**Additional Verses:** Lev. 17:11; Matt. 26:28; Luke 24:36–39; Acts 26:18; Rom. 4:7–8; Eph. 1:7; Heb. 9:22

## **Union with Christ (equals to, “in Christ”)**

John 6:56 “abides in Me, and I in him”

2 Cor. 5:17 “if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.”

Col. 1:27 “the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you”

**Additional Verses:** John 15:4–7, 17:20–23, 26; Rom. 3:24, 6:5, 9, 10–11, 5:12–6:11, 6:23, 8:10; 1 Cor. 15:21–22, 45–49; 2 Cor. 13:5; Eph. 1:3–5; 2:4–7; 2:10, 3:17; Gal. 2:20, 3:27–28; Col. 3:1–3; 1 John 4:13

## **Salvation**

Acts 4:12 “there is salvation in no one else”

Eph. 1:13 “the gospel of your salvation”

Titus 2:11 “For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people”

**Additional Verses:** Acts 13:47, 16:17; Rom. 1:16; 1 Thess. 5:19; 2 Tim. 2:10, 3:15; Heb. 2:3, 5:9; 1 Peter 1:10, 2:2; Rev. 7:10

## **Regeneration: Born Again**

Jer. 31:33; 32:38–40 “I will put My law within them, and I will write it on their hearts”

John 3:1–15 “born of the Spirit . . . born again”

2 Thess. 2:13 “God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through the sanctification by the Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** Ezek. 36:24–32; Acts 16:14; 1 Cor. 6:11; 2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 2:5; Col. 2:11–14; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:3, 22–23; 1 John 5:1

## **Grace**

Acts 15:11 “we will be saved through the grace of Lord Jesus”

Rom. 4:16 “That is why it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace”

Eph. 2:4–10 “by grace you have been saved through faith”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 3:24, 5:15–17, 11:6; Gal. 2:21; Eph. 1:6–7; 2 Tim. 1:9; Titus 2:11, 3:7; Heb. 2:9

## **Faith**

John 3:16 “whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”

Rom. 1:17 “the righteous shall live by faith”

Phil. 3:19 “the righteousness from God that depends on faith”

**Additional Verses:** John 1:12; John 20:31; Acts 15:9, 26:18; Rom. 3:26, 4:3, 5, 9, 13, 9:30, 10:4, 9–10; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8–9, 3:17; Heb. 11:1; James 2:14–16

## **Repentance**

Acts 2:37–38 “Repent and be baptized every one of you . . . for the forgiveness of your sins”

2 Cor. 7:9–11 “for godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation”

2 Peter 3:9 “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”

**Additional Verses:** Luke 24:46–49; Acts 5:31, 17:30, 20:21, 26:20; Rom. 2:4; 2 Tim 2:24–26; Heb. 6:1

## **Redemption**

Isa. 44:22 “Return to Me, for I have redeemed you”

Mark 10:45 “to give His life a ransom for many”

Eph. 1:7 “we have redemption through His blood”

**Additional Verses:** John 3:16–21; Rom. 3:24, 8:23; 1 Cor. 1:30, 6:20; Gal. 2:20, 3:13, 4:5; Eph. 4:30; Col. 1:14; Titus 2:14; Heb. 9:12, 15; 1 Peter 1:18–19; Rev. 5:9

## **Reconciliation**

Acts 3:19 “so that your sins may be blotted out”

2 Cor. 5:18–21 “in Christ God was reconciling to the world to Himself”

Col. 1:20–22 “you . . . he has now reconciled in His body of flesh by His death”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 5:10–11, 12:1–2; 1 Cor. 12:14–21; Eph. 2:16; Col. 3:13

## **Adoption**

Rom. 8:23 “we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies”

Gal. 4:4–7 “so that we might receive the adoption”

1 Peter 1:4 “to an inheritance that is imperishable”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 8:14–17; Gal. 3:26, 29; Eph. 1:5

## **Election and Free Will**

Rom. 9:6–11 “in order that God’s purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of Him who calls”

2 Peter 1:10 “be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election”

2 Peter 3:9 “not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 23:37; John 3:16; 1 Tim. 2:3–4; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1; 1 John 4:14

## **Glorification**

Ps. 16:11 “fullness of joy . . . pleasure evermore”

1 Cor. 15:49 “we shall also bear the image of man of heaven”

1 John 3:2 “we shall be like Him”

**Additional Verses:** Job 19:25–26; Rom. 8:11, 17–25, 29; 1 Cor. 15:42–44, 51–57; Eph. 5:27;

Phil. 3:20–21; 1 Thess. 4:16–17; Jude 24; Rev. 21:1–5

# **Walking Worthy of the Gospel**

## **The Believer’s Source of Power for Living the Christian Life**

Rom. 8:12–13 “we are debtors, not to the flesh . . . but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body”

1 Thess. 5:23–24 “may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely . . . He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it”

Titus 2:11–14 “For the grace of God has appeared...training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live . . . godly lives in the present age”

**Additional Verses:** Phil 1:6, 2:12–13; Col. 1:29

## **The Believer’s Lofty New Status in Christ**

Rom. 6:11 “you also must consider yourselves to death to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus”

Rom. 8:14–17 “all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”

Gal. 4:7 “you are no longer a slave, but a son . . . then an heir through God”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 1:7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 1:3, 2:19–22; 1 Peter 2:4–10; 1 John 3:1; Rev. 1:6

## **Victory over the Reign and Rule of Sin**

Rom. 6:6–7 “our old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin”

Col. 3:1–10 “For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.”

1 John 1:7–9 “if we walk in the light...have fellowship with one another . . . the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 6:11–12, 17–18, 22; 7:14–15, 18–20, 24; 8:2; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 John 2:1–2

## **God's Call to Holiness for the Believer**

1 Peter 1:14–19 “You shall be holy, for I am holy”

2 Cor. 6:14–7:1 “Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers . . . let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit, bringing holiness to completion in the fear of God”

1 Thess. 5:23 “. . . may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Peter 2:11–12; Rom. 6:13; Eph. 4:17–32, 5:3–14; Phil. 2:15–16; Col. 3:5–11

## **Conformity to Christlikeness**

Rom. 8:29 “predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”

Gal. 4:19 “until Christ is formed in you”

1 Cor. 11:1 “Be imitators of me, even as I am of Christ”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Cor. 3:18; Col. 1:28; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 2:16

## **Avoid Worldliness**

Rom. 12:1–2 “Do not be conformed to the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”

James 4:4–10 “friendship with the world is enmity with God”

1 John 2:15–17 “Do not love the world”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1; Eph. 4:17–32, 5:3–14; 1 Peter 1:14–19

## **Undivided Devotion to Christ**

1 Cor. 7:35 “to secure your undivided devotion to the Lord”

2 Cor. 5:14–15 “For the love of Christ controls us . . . that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for Him who for their sake died and was raised”

1 Peter 4:1–3 “as to live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 6:16–22, 12:1–2; 1 Cor. 6:19–20; 2 Cor. 5:14–15

## **A Fruit-Bearing Life of Good Works**

John 15:4–6, 8 “Whoever abides in Me . . . bears much fruit”

Rom. 7:4, 6 “we may bear fruit for God”

Titus 2:14 “a people . . . zealous for good works”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 13:23; Mark 4:20; Rom. 6:22; Phil. 1:9–11; Col. 1:10; Titus 3:8, 14

## **Satan, the Devil, the Ancient Serpent**

John 8:44 “he is a liar and the father of lies”

2 Cor. 11:13–15 “Satan disguises himself as an angel of light”

1 Peter 5:8 “Your adversary . . . like a roaring lion”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Cor. 4:4; John 14:30, 17:15; Rev. 12:7–12

## **Spiritual Warfare of the Believer**

2 Cor. 2:11 “not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs”

Eph. 6:10–20 “stand against the schemes of the devil”

James 4:7 “Resist the devil”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Peter 1:14, 2:11–12; 1 John 5:19

## **The Believer's Suffering for Christ**

2 Tim. 1:8 “share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God”

2 Tim. 3:12 “all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”

1 Peter 4:12–16 “do be surprised at the fiery trial when it comes upon you to test you”

**Additional Verses:** John 15:18–21; James 1:4–7

## Prayer

Luke 18:1 “ought always to pray”

Acts 6:4 “we will devote ourselves to prayer”

Phil. 4:6-7 “but in everything by prayer”

**Additional Verses:** Rom. 12:12; 2 Cor. 1:8-11; Eph. 6:18-20; Phil. 1:19; Col. 4:1-4; 1 Thess. 5:17;  
Heb. 4:16; James 5:13-18; 1 John 3:22, 5:14

## The Church

### One Church, One Body

John 10:16 “So there will be one flock, one shepherd”

1 Cor. 12:12-13 “in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body”

Eph. 4:1-6 “There is one body and one Spirit”

**Additional Verses:** John 17:11, 20, 22-23; Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 10:17; Gal. 3:28; Eph. 2:15-16;  
Col. 3:15

### Having One Head (Sole Authority & Leader) of the Church

Matt. 16:18 “And I (Jesus) tell you . . . I will build my church”

Eph. 1:20-23 “gave Him as head over all things to the church, which is His body”

Eph. 4:15-16 “grown up . . . into Him who is the head, into Christ”

**Additional Verses:** Eph. 5:22-23; Col. 1:18, 2:19

### The More Excellent Way of Love

Matt. 22:35-40 “‘This is the great and first commandment’”

John 15:12-13 “‘Greater love has no one than this’”

1 John 3:16 “By this we know love, that he laid down His life for us”

**Additional Verses:** John 13:34, 35, 14:15, 21, 23; 1 Cor. 8:1, 12:31-13:13, 16:14; Col. 3:14;  
1 John 3:16

### Every-Member Ministry in the Body of Christ

Rom. 12:5 “we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another”

Gal. 6:2 “bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ”

1 Thess. 5:11 “encourage one another and build one another up”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Cor. 12:24-26; Eph. 4:7-16, 4:25; 1 Peter 4:10-11

### Men and Women’s Roles in the Home and the Church

Gen. 2:18-25 “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make a helper fit for him . . .”

1 Cor. 11:3 “the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God”

Eph. 5:21-23 “For the husband is head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Cor. 14:33-40; Gal. 3:28; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Tim. 2:8-15; Titus 2:3-5;  
1 Peter 3:1-7

### The Teaching Ministry of the Church

Matt. 28:19-20 “teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you”

Eph. 4:11 “He (Jesus Himself) . . . gave shepherds and teachers”

2 Tim. 2:2 “entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”

**Additional Verses:** Acts 2:42, 5:42, 6:4, 20:27; 1 Cor. 12:28; Gal. 6:6; 1 Tim. 4:11, 5:17-18;  
2 Tim. 2:24-26, 4:1-5; Titus 1:9

## **Baptism**

Matt. 28:19–20 “make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Acts 2:41 “those who received his word were baptized”

Rom. 6:3–6 “buried therefore with Him by baptism”

**Additional Verses:** Mark 1:4–10; John 1:26–34; Acts 8:36–38, 9:18, 16:30–34; Col. 2:12–13

## **The Lord’s Supper and Worship**

Luke 22:14–20 “This cup is poured out for you is the new covenant in My blood”

Acts 20:7 “On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread”

1 Cor. 11:24–26 “This is My body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 26:26–29; Mark 14:22–25; Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 10:16, 21, 11:23

## **Evangelism**

Matt. 28:19–20 “make disciples of all nations”

Mark 16:15 “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation”

Luke 24:47 “and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations”

**Additional Verses:** John 20:30–31; Acts 1:8; Eph. 6:19–20; Col. 4:5–6; 1 Peter 3:15

## **Giving to Others**

Acts 11:27–29 “everyone according to his ability to send relief”

2 Cor. 8:3 “for they gave according to their means . . .”

1 Tim. 6:17–19 “to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Cor. 8:11–12, 9:6–9

## **Church Discipline**

Matt. 18:15 “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone”

1 Cor. 5:6 “Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?”

2 Thess. 3:14–15 “Do not regard him as an enemy, but warn him as a brother”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 18:15–17; 1 Cor. 5:6; 11, 13; 2 Cor. 2:7–8, 13:1–3; Titus 3:10–11

# **The End Time Events**

## **The Second Coming of Christ**

Matt. 16:27 “For the Son of Man is going to come with His angels in the glory of His Father, and then He will repay each person according to what he has done”

Acts 1:11 “(He) will come in the same way as you saw Him go into heaven”

1 Thess. 5:1–11 “the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night”

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 24:29–31, 25:31–46; Mark 8:38; Luke 21:27–28; 1 Cor. 15:22–23; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13–17; 2 Thess. 2:8; 2 Tim. 2:7–8; Titus 2:13; Heb. 9:28; 1 John 3:2; Rev. 1:7, 19:11–16

## **The Resurrection from the Dead**

Job 19:25–26 “in my flesh I shall see God”

Dan. 12:1–2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake”

Luke 20:34–36 “being sons of the resurrection”

**Additional Verses:** Isa. 26:19; Luke 14:12–14; John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15; Rom. 8:23; 1 Cor. 15:42–57; Phil. 3:20–21; Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13–18; 1 John 3:2–3; Rev. 20:1–6

## **The Judgment Seat of Christ, the Bema Seat**

Rom. 14:10–12 “we will all stand before the judgment seat of God”

1 Cor. 4:5 “Therefore do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes...”

1 John 2:28 “and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Cor. 3:12–15; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:8;

## **Destruction of Satan and the Lake of Fire (Hell)**

Matt. 10:28 “fear Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell”

2 Peter 2:4 “cast them into hell . . . kept until the judgment”

Rev. 20:11–15 “This is the second death, the lake of fire”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Thess. 1:9–10; Rev. 14:10–11, 20:10

## **Great White Throne Judgment**

Rev. 20:11–15 “Then I saw a great white throne and Him who was seated on it . . . the dead were judged by what was written in the books”

Heb. 9:27, 28 “And just as it is appointed for man to die once then comes the judgment . . .”

## **Destruction of the Present Heaven and Earth**

Heb. 12:26–27 “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens”

2 Peter 3:9–13 “the heavens will pass away with a roar, and . . . will be burned up and dissolved”

Rev. 21:1 “the first heavens and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more”

## **The Victorious Conclusion: All Things New**

Isa. 65:17; 66:22 “I create new heavens and a new earth”

Rom. 8:21 “the creation itself will be set from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of children of God”

Heb. 12:28 “a kingdom that cannot be shaken”

**Additional Verses:** 2 Peter 3:13; Rev. 21:1–7, 9–27, 22:1–5

## **The Intermediate State After Death for Believers and Unbelievers**

Luke 16:28 “lest they also come into this place of torment”

Luke 23:43 “today you will be with me in Paradise”

2 Cor. 5:1–10 “we would rather be away from the body and home with the Lord”

**Additional Verses:** Acts 7:59; Phil. 1:20–24; Heb. 12:22–24; 2 Peter 2:4; Rev. 6:9–11

## **The Believer’s Response to the End Times**

1 Cor. 15:54–58 “be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord”

1 Thess. 4:17–18 “encourage one another with these words”

2 Peter 3:14 “be diligent to be found by Him without spot or blemish, and at peace”

**Additional Verses:** 1 Peter 4:13; 2 Pet 3:4–13; 1 John 3:1–3; Jude 21; Rev. 22:20

# **Eldership**

## **The Biblical Teaching on Eldership**

1 Tim. 3:2 “must be above reproach, the husband of one wife (an elder in the church is to be a man)”

Acts 14:23 “And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed”

1 Tim. 3:1–7 “Qualifications for Elders”

1 Peter 5:1–5 “Exhortation to Elders”

**Additional Verses:** Acts 20:17–38; Phil. 1:1; 1 Thess. 5:12–13; 1 Tim. 4:14; 1 Tim. 5:17–25;

Titus 1:5–9; Heb. 13:17; James 5:14–15; 3 John 9–10

## **Biblical Characteristics of an Elder**

### **As to God and His Word, the Scriptures**

1 Tim. 3:6 “Not a recent convert”  
Titus 1:8 “devout/ holy”  
Titus 1:9 “Holds firm to the trustworthy word”

### **As to Himself**

1 Tim. 3:1 “Aspires to the office of overseer”  
1 Peter 5:2 “Not under compulsion”  
1 Tim. 3:2 “Prudent; self-controlled, rather than self-indulgent”  
Titus 1:7 “Not quick tempered, in control of his feeling”

**Additional Verses:** Titus 1:6

### **As to His Family**

1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6 “Husband of one wife,” not distracted by other women  
1 Tim. 3:4 “Manages his own household well”  
Col. 3:18; 1 Tim. 3:5 [implied that his wife loves, respects and follows his leadership]  
**Additional Verses:** 1 Tim. 3:4–5; Titus 1:6 [His children are believers, submissive, not rebellious]

### **As to Others**

1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:8 “Hospitable”  
1 Tim. 3:2 “Apt/ able to teach”  
1 Tim. 3:3 “Gentle with people”  
Titus 1:7 “Not arrogant, self-willed”  
**Additional Verses:** Acts 20:28; Titus 1:7, 8; 1 Tim. 3:3, 7; 2 Tim. 2:24–26, 1 Peter 5:3

### **As to Things**

1 Tim. 3:3; 6:10 “Free from the love of money”  
Titus 1:7 “No involved in dishonest business practices, not addicted to wine or other chemical”  
Rom. 14:13–21 “[implied to not cause weaker Christians to stumble]”  
**Additional Verses:** Ps. 15:2, 1 Tim. 3:2

## **The Whole Counsel of God**

In areas such as end time events or eschatology, churches differ widely in their doctrinal interpretation and perspectives. Each local church needs to clarify its own position on key doctrines of faith and then test any elder candidates accordingly.

### **Creation and the Curse**

#### **God is the Creator**

Gen. 1:1–3 “In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth”  
Gen. 1:26–28; 2:7–8; 15–25 “God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness’”

#### **The Institution of the First Marriage**

Gen. 2:18–25 “It is not good that man should be alone . . . the rib . . . the Lord God had taken from the man He made into a woman and brought her to the man”

#### **The First Act of Sin, Bringing the Fall to All Mankind**

The Test – Gen. 2:7–8; 15–17 “of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat . . . or you shall surely die.”  
The Serpent [the devil incarnated] – Gen. 3:1–5 “You will not surely die”  
The Separation – Gen. 3:6–13 “The man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God”  
The Curse and the Punishments – Gen. 3:14–24 “In pain you shall bring forth children . . . cursed is the ground because of you . . . to dust you shall return”

### **The Promised Seed / Redeemer**

Gen. 3:15 “He shall bruise your head”

### **The Flood, Noah’s Ark, the Creation of Nations**

#### **Wickedness of all of mankind (men and women)**

Gen. 6:5–8, 11–14, 17 “The Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great”

#### **The Ark is Built**

Gen. 7:15–24 “And the Lord shut him (Noah) in”

#### **The Noahic Covenant**

Gen. 8:18–9:19 “The waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh”

#### **Tower of Babel and the confounding of languages**

Gen. 11

### **Key Covenants and Promises in the Old Testament**

#### **The Abrahamic Covenant & Act of Circumcision**

What God Will Do – Gen. 12:1–9 “. . . in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”

Abraham Declared Righteous by Faith – Gen. 15:1–6 “. . . he believed the Lord, and the Lord counted it to Abram as righteousness”

Covenant Ratified – Gen. 15:7–21 “On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram”

Circumcision Given by God as a Physical Sign (or Rite) – Gen. 17:1–4, Gen. 17:7 “So shall my covenant be in your flesh an everlasting covenant”

#### **The Mosaic Covenant: The Law of Moses**

God Speaks to the Nation through Moses – Ex. 19:8 “All that the Lord has spoken we will do”

The Ten Commandments Given – Ex. 20:1–21 “[the people] said to Moses, ‘You shall speak to us . . . do not let God speak to us, lest we die’”

Mosaic Covenant Ratified by the Blood of Animals – Ex. 24:1–18 “Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words . . .”

Conditional Covenant Included Both Blessings and Curses – Ex. 34:6–7 “a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness . . . who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children”

#### **The Davidic Covenant: The King and His Everlasting Throne – 2 Sam. 7:1–29**

The Throne of David Established Forever – 2 Sam. 7:16 “Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before Me. Your throne shall be established forever” (Ps. 89:3–4)

Jesus Christ the Messiah, the Son of God is the ultimate fulfillment of this promise to David

**Additional Verses:** Matt. 1:1; Acts 2:30–36; 13:34–37; Rev. 3:7

#### **The New Covenant: A Changed Heart – Jer. 31:31–34**

New Covenant is Not Like the Mosaic Covenant

Jer. 31:31 “This is the covenant . . . I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

Eze. 36:26–27 “I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.”

Isaiah’s Vision of the Absolute Holiness of God

Isa. 6:1–7 “Holy, Holy, holy is the Lord of hosts”

Promised Messiah in the Old Testament Prophets

Ps. 22:1–22 “My God, my God, why have you forsaken Me?”

Isa. 53:1–12 “He was wounded for our transgressions”

Dan. 7:14 “His dominion is an everlasting dominion”

Mic. 5:2 “But you, O Bethlehem . . .”

John 12:41 “Isaiah said these things because he saw His glory and spoke of Him”

## **Biblical Responses to Contemporary Social Issues**

Abortion – Job 31:15; Ps. 22:10; Ps. 139:13–14; Ex. 20:13; Isa. 49:5

Christian Use of Alcohol and Drugs – Eph. 5:18; 1 Cor. 6:9–10; 1 Tim. 3:8

Same-Sex Marriage – 1 Cor. 6:9–11, 7:2–16; 1 Tim. 1:9–10; Matt. 19:4–6; Mark 10:5–7;  
Rom. 1:26–27

Marriage, Divorce and Remarriage – Matt. 5:32; 19:9; 1 Cor. 7:12–13;

Social Justice – Isa. 1:17; Jer. 22:3; Eze. 18; Matt. 19:21; Rom. 12:15–18

Parenting – Eph. 6:2; 1 Tim. 3:5; Prov. 19:18

Domestic Violence and Abuse – Col. 3:19; 1 Peter 3:7; Prov. 18:21

## **Bible Memory App**

All the verses above have been added to a Bible app called “Bible Memory,” which you can access from your computer or your mobile device to help you memorize and internalize verses pertinent to the major doctrines of Scripture.

To begin, go to this link: <https://biblememory.com/group/view/24e8ba351b/>

Commit to learn at least one verse a day. Start with a topic and work your way through.

- The verses are categorized by the topics covered in this booklet. Some of the verses may be repeated under multiple topics. Review them before moving on to the next one.
- You will find the app easy to use and you will quickly become familiar with its different features.
- The app has a default setting to review the bible verses that you have already learned. These will appear as a reminder either as an email or as a notification depending on the setting you choose.

May this habit of memorizing God’s Word help you as you strive to remain a faithful leader at your local church.