



SUGAR LAND BIBLE CHURCH
"BRINGING THE BIBLE TO LIFE FOR 37 YEARS
1982- 2019



THE CORNERSTONE

JANUARY 2019

HAPPY ★ NEW ★ YEAR

Ladies Bible Study

A New Study in James

Teacher: Betty Cooke

**Practical Righteousness:
How to Live Out Your Faith.**

Our new study will begin on **January 8th**

Morning Class begins at **9:00 am**

Evening Class begins at **7:00 pm.**

We will cover such topics as:
trials, temptations, wisdom, money,
patience, the tongue, and prayer.

Sign-up sheets are on the table in the foyer.

We look forward to seeing you in January!

Missions for the Month

This is an excerpt from the DM2 website highlighting their mission. For more information about their ministry, please visit www.DM2USA.org

Myanmar Workshop October 1-4

Pastors, evangelists and missionaries joined together for this four-day leadership workshop taught from the book of 1st Timothy. Pastor Go Mun Thang hosted us. Craig Northcott and I taught through chapter three of 1 Timothy about our conduct in God's household, the household of faith.

Despite a rough start that included lost luggage, canceled flights, delayed flights, recovered luggage, new flights, broken phones, frustrations, waiting, and no internet or ability to communicate, the workshop turned out to be a great success. The attendees were so overjoyed with the verse by verse teaching they demanded we teach an extra day, right until our plane departed. And so we did.



www.DM2USA.org

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DM Multiplied Inc.

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Beaumont, TX 77726-7758

USA

Myanmar workshop



FEEDBACK FOR LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to both Pastor Brad and Craig for this valuable leadership workshop. Through this workshop, I came to understand the roles of pastors and deacons in the local church. I will apply all this knowledge in my church. Hopefully the church will grow up in knowing the Word of God and be protected from false teaching. If possible, I would like to have a complete copy of the student manual, because I want to teach in my church.

I am blessed for getting the opportunity to attend this workshop. I now understand how to conduct the local church and how to use the Word of God effectively. Could you kindly give me the complete student manual, because I would like to use it for Bible Study in my church?

The workshop was good, but too short to complete the book. I hope next time we have a longer period of time to hear the Word of God from you. Thank you very much.

Knowing how to lead the church is my greatest benefit in this workshop. My church is few in number and weak spiritually. I have prayed so many times to know how lead my church. Now the Lord has answered my prayer through this workshop.

More on Reverse

**Andy Woods—Pastor**

Twenty-Four Church and Israel Distinctions (Part 6)

One of the most rudimentary distinctions that the child of God needs to learn to rightly divide God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15) is the basic distinction between Israel and the Church. A common mistake in Bible interpretation is to take God's promises that are aimed at national Israel and instead to indiscriminately apply them to the Church and consequently the Church Age believer. There are, at a bare minimum, at least *twenty-four* differences between the Church and Israel.

The purpose of this series is to highlight these basic differences. In prior installments, we saw the following distinctions: while Israel is the wife of Jehovah, the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. In this installment, we examine yet another distinction.

Distinction Number 7: Their Beginning

Israel's Birthday

When did the nation of Israel come into existence? As explained in prior installments, Israel became a nation in Genesis 12 through the calling of Abram, who later was renamed Abraham.

The Church's Birthday

Conversely, when did the Church begin? The Church began in Acts 2. How can we come to this conclusion? There are at least *six* reasons as to why we can know that the Church began in Acts 2. *Five* of six reasons have been presented thus far. *First*, Christ referred to the Church in the future tense during His earthly ministry as recorded in Matthew 16:18. Thus, the Church could not exist in Old Testament times or even concurrently, contemporaneously, or simultaneously with the life of Christ. *Second*, Paul referred to the Church as a mystery (Eph. 3:3-6), or something previously hidden but now revealed. Thus, the Church did not exist in the Old Testament era. *Third*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church only after His Ascension (Eph. 1:20-22). *Fourth*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since spiritual gifts, which are necessary for a Church to properly function, only came into existence after Christ's Ascension (Eph. 4:7-8). *Fifth*, many verses tell us that the Church was in existence prior to the conversion of Paul (Acts 5:11; 8:1, 3; Gal. 1:13; 1 Cor. 15:9; Rom. 16:7; Philip. 3:6). In this installment, we will examine a *sixth* and final reason that the Church started in Acts 2.

The Holy Spirit's Baptizing Work Began in Acts 2

Sixth, the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit began in Acts 2. One must put at least three verses together to understand that this unique work that began in Acts 2. Let us start with First Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." What does this word "baptize" mean? People typically think it means water baptism. Although it does carry this meaning sometimes (Acts 8:36), the context of First Corinthians 12:13 does not pertain to water baptism. The Greek verb is *baptizō*, which simply means identification. Water baptism merely celebrates what has already happened in terms spiritual baptism. At the point of personal faith in Jesus Christ the Holy Spirit takes the lost sinner, who is now saved, and baptizes them, or identifies

them, with Christ's new man, or a new body, called the Church. This is something that the Holy Spirit alone does. He instantaneously incorporates new believers into this spiritual body. If we can determine when this new work began, we can ascertain when God inaugurated the body of Christ, or the Church.

When did the baptism of the Holy Spirit of believers into the body of Christ begin? When exactly did the Holy Spirit initiate this unique work? Note what Jesus said in Acts 1:5 just before He left the earth through His Ascension: "for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." When He said, "you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit," the apostles probably did not know exactly what He was speaking of. Paul would later come along in First Corinthians 12:13 and explain this new spiritual reality. Please note that it was Jesus that made this statement in Acts 1, which was during the forty-day interval in between His resurrection and Ascension. Here, He is basically predicting that in a few days from now the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ would begin. Thus, at some point after Acts 1:5 this unique baptizing work of the Holy Spirit started.

In Acts 10, the first Gentile, a man named Cornelius, got saved. At that very early point in Church History everybody was shocked that a Gentile got saved. When Peter got back to Jerusalem, the early Church's Jewish leadership asked themselves if a Gentile truly got saved? This meeting is recorded in Acts 11, which represents the first Jerusalem Council. Some teach that the first Jerusalem Council is in Acts 15, but that chapter represents the *second* Jerusalem Council. Here, in this first Jerusalem Council in Acts 11, the believing Jews were trying to determine if a Gentile, in the age of the Church, could get saved? The believing Jews in the second Jerusalem Council in Acts 15 were trying to figure out what to do with all the Gentiles who were getting saved on Paul's First Missionary Journey into Southern Galatia (Acts 13-14). The issue in Acts 15 was do we bring them under the Mosaic Law and make them proselytes, as has happened for the last 1,500 years, or not? But in Acts 11 these believing Jews were discussing another matter entirely, namely, whether a Gentile could even get saved at all. The Apostle Peter had just gone to Caesarea and shared the gospel with Cornelius, and lo and behold Cornelius, a believing Gentile, got saved in Acts 10. These believing Jews, comprising the early Church's leadership, had not yet caught up with what God was doing during this unique transitional time.

In Acts 11 Peter recounted the events of Cornelius' salvation. In front of the Jewish leadership in Jerusalem he made this very interesting statement in Acts 11:15: "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning." Peter's point was simply this: what happened with Cornelius in Acts 10 had already happened to us Jews in the beginning. Therefore, if we can determine when the Holy Spirit started to fall upon men early on, beginning with the believing Jews, we can discern when the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit, and consequently the body of Christ, began.

Acts 11:16 is exhibit A. Peter said: "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'" Here in Acts 11 Peter is remembering what Jesus said back in Acts 1:5. Recall that Jesus specifically said that the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit was going to begin "not many days from now." Peter said that this man Cornelius and his entourage were baptized by the Holy Spirit just like we were from the beginning. Therefore, the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit had to take place sometime before Acts 10.

The baptizing ministry of the Holy Spirit began sometime after Acts 1 and prior to Acts 10, and even prior to Acts 5 as we have previously discussed in the prior installment since the Church was already in existence in Acts 5. If you study the chapters in between Acts 1 and Acts 10, the *only* time that the Holy Spirit was poured out in an unprecedented way is in Acts 2. Unfortunately, Luke in Acts 2 does not explicitly come out and say, "the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit is starting now!" Jesus had already indicated that it was going to start soon (Acts 1:5). In Acts 11:15-16, Peter stated that it had already started some time prior to Acts 10. If you go right through these chapters between Acts 1 and Acts 10, the only place where the Holy Spirit is doing anything of this magnitude is in Acts 2.

Acts 2:1-4 says, "When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of

them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.” Here, we see the Holy Spirit taking people who have exercised faith in Christ and identify them for the very first time into a new body called the body of Christ, or the Church. Thus, what happened in Acts 2 is exactly as Jesus said would happen in Acts 1:5: “not many days from now,” He was announcing the coming of the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit. This is what Peter said, in Acts 11, happened to Cornelius just as it happened to us Jews at the beginning. Therefore, when you go through the chapters in the Book of Acts (Acts 1–10) the only place where the birthday of the Church fits is where the Holy Spirit is recorded as doing something of colossal proportion, and that is in Acts 2. While it is Paul who would come along later and fully explain these changes, Paul’s ministry did not initiate the changes. Paul’s task was to explain these changes and not initiate the changes. Rather, God initiated them beginning in Acts 2.

CONCLUSION

All this to say, when did the Church begin? The birthday of the Church is in Acts chapter 2. How do we know this? *First*, Christ referred to the Church in the future tense during His earthly ministry as recorded in Matthew 16:18. Thus, the Church could not exist in Old Testament times or even concurrently with the life of Christ. *Second*, Paul referred to the Church as a mystery (Eph. 3:3-6), or something previously hidden but now revealed. Thus, the Church did not exist in the Old Testament era. *Third*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since Christ became the head of the Church only after His ascension (Eph. 1:20-22). *Fourth*, the Church did not exist prior to Acts 1 since spiritual gifts, which are necessary for a Church to function, only came into existence after Christ’s Ascension. *Fifth*, many verses tell us that the Church was in existence prior to Paul’s conversion (Acts 5:11; 8:1, 3; Gal. 1:13; 1 Cor. 15:9; Rom. 16:7; Philip. 3:6). *Sixth*, the baptizing work of the Holy Spirit, which Paul explains in 1 Corinthians 12:13, started sometime after Acts 1 but prior to Acts 10, and the only place in between these chapters that the Holy Spirit is doing anything of such an epic proportion is in Acts 2. Thus, another very significant difference between Israel and the Church is that the two entities have different birthdays. While Israel started in Genesis 12, the Church began in Acts 2.

What have we seen thus far in our series? Israel is different than the Church in the sense that Israel is the wife of Jehovah and the Church is the bride of Christ. Furthermore, Israel birthed Christ whereas Christ birthed the Church. In addition, Christ will return for the Church in the Rapture while Christ will return for Israel at the end of the Tribulation period. Furthermore, while Jesus is the King of Israel, He is the groom and head of the Church. While eighty percent of the Bible relates to Israel, a mere twenty percent of it relates to the Church. Also, while Israel was a party to the Biblical covenants, the Church is a mere third-party beneficiary to them. Finally, while Israel began in Gen. 12, the Church began in Acts 2. These major distinctions constitute the first *seven* of the *twenty-four* differences between Israel and the Church that will be highlighted in this series.

(To Be Continued...)



Video Archive—We archive all our Live-streamed services. To enjoy all your favorite teachings, just go to this link: www.slbc.org/media/sermon-archives/...and be sure to tell your friends too!

“WHO’s Who at SLBC”

by Ashlynn Morris

The Youth Ministry



The youth ministry is another one of SLBC’s wonderful ministries, headed up by youth pastor, **Gabe Morris**. The youth group enjoys serving the community and the church in various capacities. Every spring break the youth participate in a service project,



such as volunteering at East Fort Bend Human Needs helping to sort and distribute food. Other places where you will see the youth lending a helping hand are during VBS, at the annual Ladies Friendship Luncheon, and in the children’s ministry year-round.

The youth group’s fearless leader, Gabe Morris, and his wife Fabi have five children, two of which are in the youth group. Pastor Gabe enjoys art, anything with martial arts, and studying God’s Word. His love for God’s Word has never left him, since he was saved as a teen in Hawaii, where he was born and raised. He and his family have been coming to SLBC for over 6 years. His favorite part of ministry is being able to serve God’s people. His favorite Bible passage is Ephesians 2:8-10. His favorite attributes of God are His love, His grace, and His forgiveness. “His grace because, every time I feel unworthy of it, it continues to flow. His love because regardless of how I feel or what I do, His love is constant. His forgiveness because I need it.” Pastor Morris (my dad) is an amazing teacher, leader, and friend. I am sure he would love to meet you if you haven’t met already.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 6, 2019—Communion Sunday and Fellowship Lunch

January 8, 2019—Ladies' Bible Studies Resume

January 9, 2019—Wednesday Night Activities Resume

Supper at 6:00 pm

Children's Memory Verse and Bible Study

Youth Bible Study—7:00 pm

Adult Prayer and Bible Study—6:45pm-7:00 pm

January 20, 2019—Nursing Home Ministry—2:00 pm

January 25, 2019—Family Potluck and Game Night—6:00 pm

Scripture for the Month!



Joel 2:28-32

"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on *My* menservants and on *My* maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. "And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. And it shall come to pass *that* whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, As the Lord has said, Among the remnant whom the Lord calls."

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS:

- **October 28- November 11**
Kiev and Baryshivka, Ukraine
Galatians and Colossians
- **November 9-11**
Tullahoma, TN
The book of John youth workshop
- **December 6-16**
Bolivia
Bible Study Methods
- **January 1-6**
Harlingen, TX
Revelation 1-11 youth workshop

Craig Northcott teaching



Brad Rigby with children

I am so sad we could not finish the entire book. As a deacon in my local church, I am blessed to have learned the role of a deacon. Now I will practice it in my church so that my church will grow up both biblically and spiritually. Hopefully next time we will have more deacons in the workshop, so that they also will know the role of deacons and support their pastor for the betterment of their local church.

I am very much encouraged and blessed. Seeing your enthusiastic teaching motivates me to teach the Word of God like you.

Your teaching is like good food. The more we eat, the sweeter it is. I am very much thankful to you.

I am very discouraged because we could not finish all the lessons. I wish next time we will have a perfect time with you again. I am blessed through this seminar. I will encourage my church members and deacons with the teachings of Paul to Timothy.

A short period of time has brought a great beneficial lesson for my ministry. As a pastor, I am blessed and my church is too. We will have a Bible study using this manual in my church.

I will practice what I heard from this workshop. It's an encouraging and powerful message to me.

I pray the Lord will reward and multiple His church through your teaching ministry. False teachings are raised-up today. Knowingly or unknowingly, we have allowed some of those teachings into the church because of lacking sound biblical teaching like yours. I am very much encouraged and thankful to you.

You taught the book of 1st Timothy so clearly. It was interesting and inspired me to teach the Word of God like Paul did to Timothy. I would have wished for a longer period of teaching time. I would like a complete copy of the student manual.

PRAYER REQUESTS AND PRAISE:

- Praise God for safe travels and wonderful workshops in Liberia and Zambia. What a joy to see Liberian and Zambian believers grow in grace and faithfully pass on the truths they learn to others.
- Praise God that the chemo has shrunk Aydon's tumor, that the tumor is below the growth plate, and for an experienced surgeon! We appreciate your prayers for successful surgery in the next few weeks and for a smooth recovery.
- Pray for all the workshops and Bible studies continually taught around the world by faithful believers at college campuses and in coffee shops in America, and in countries like Canada, Bolivia, Mexico, Brazil, Ukraine, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Zambia.

"Finally, brethren, pray for us that the word of the Lord will spread rapidly and be glorified, just as it did also with you; and that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men; for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one." 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3