

LESSON TWO

Authority and the Church

REVIEW LESSON ONE

1. How should we view the Old Testament covenant?
 2. What does God think of our worship if we use the traditions of men? (Mark 7:6-9)
 3. What must a person do in order to be saved?
- I. In our second lesson we want to begin by reading two Old Testament examples that teach us about God's authority.
- A. Leviticus 10:1-3 Nadab and Abihu
 - B. II Samuel 6:3-7 Uzzah

Questions:

1. What did all three of these men think they were doing when God struck them dead?
 2. What warning does the example of Nadab and Abihu teach us concerning our worship to god?
 3. What does the example of Uzzah teach us about sincerity and good intentions?
 4. What do these examples teach us about God's strictness?
- C. Let us continue to apply these principles in the rest of the lesson.
- II. We now want to study more about the importance of the church as Jesus established it.
- A. Read Matthew 16:18

Questions:

1. Who is going to build the church?
 2. Who owns the church?
 3. How many churches did Jesus say he was going to build?
- B. To further understand this principle, turn and read Ephesians 4:4-6

Questions:

1. What are the things that Paul says there are only one of?
 2. Which of these things do most people disagree that there is only one?
 3. From this text, what makes their disagreement illogical?
- C. It is important now to understand what the body is. Turn and read Ephesians 1:22-23.

Questions:

1. What does this passage say the body is?
2. How many bodies did Ephesians 4:4 say there are?

Then, how many churches does the Bible say there are?

D. Now that we have seen that Jesus only established one church and one way of worshipping Him, the natural question is: Which church is it? Read Ephesians 5:23-24 to find the answer.

Questions:

1. This passage shows the relationship with Christ and the church as a husband-wife relationship and a head-body relationship. Does your body always obey everything that your head commands? Then what will the true body of Christ, the church, do when Christ gives it commands?
2. Suppose a body of people refuse to obey what Christ directs them. Are they really the body of Christ?
3. Based on the principle that the body of Christ will always obey its head, Christ, how can you know that a body of people are really part of the one church that Christ established.

III. Let us now learn how our salvation relates to the one church that Christ established. Look at the first chart for this lesson.

A. Ephesians 5:23 also says, "Christ is the savior of the body". Further, in Acts 20:28 Paul said that Christ purchased the church with His own blood.

Questions:

1. If Christ purchased the church, and He is only going to save that body, then what must we do if we want Christ to save us?
2. What would be the condition of a person who was not in the body, the church?

B. Read 1 Corinthians 12:13. This tells us how to get into the body.

Questions:

1. What does this passage tell us people do to get into the body?
2. Does this agree with what Acts 2:38 says that baptism is for?

C. Read Romans 6:3

Questions:

1. What two things does this passage say we are baptized into?
2. From the two passages we have just read (1 Corinthians 12:13 and Romans 6:3), what three things are we baptized into?
3. Some say a person can be saved before they are baptized. If that were true, what would this person be

saved without? Is it possible to be saved before being baptized or without being baptized?

IV. Now notice on the first chart some of the ways people have thought up to get into the body

- A. Some churches vote a person in or out of the church, what does Acts 2:47 say about this?
- B. Some believe in sprinkling in order to enter the church. What does Acts 8:38-39 say about this?
- C. Some teach confirmation for children who were baptized as infants. The Bible teaches neither confirmation nor infant baptism. How would Revelation 22:18-19 apply to this?

D. Many teach that all a person must do is believe or accept Jesus in their heart. Read James 2:14-26

Questions:

1. From verses 15-16, what does it profit to tell a person you will help them in their need, and then not help them?
2. From verse 18, how do we show our faith?
3. From verse 19, is a person who only believes and does not obey any different than the demons?
4. From verses 21-23, Abraham was justified (saved) when he obeyed God by offering his son on the alter as God commanded. Therefore, the works that James is talking about is works of obedience, not things that we would think up to do for God. We are obviously not saved by our own works, but by works God has commanded us, therefore God's works.
5. From verse 24, is it possible for us to be saved by only believing in Christ and not doing the works God has commanded us?

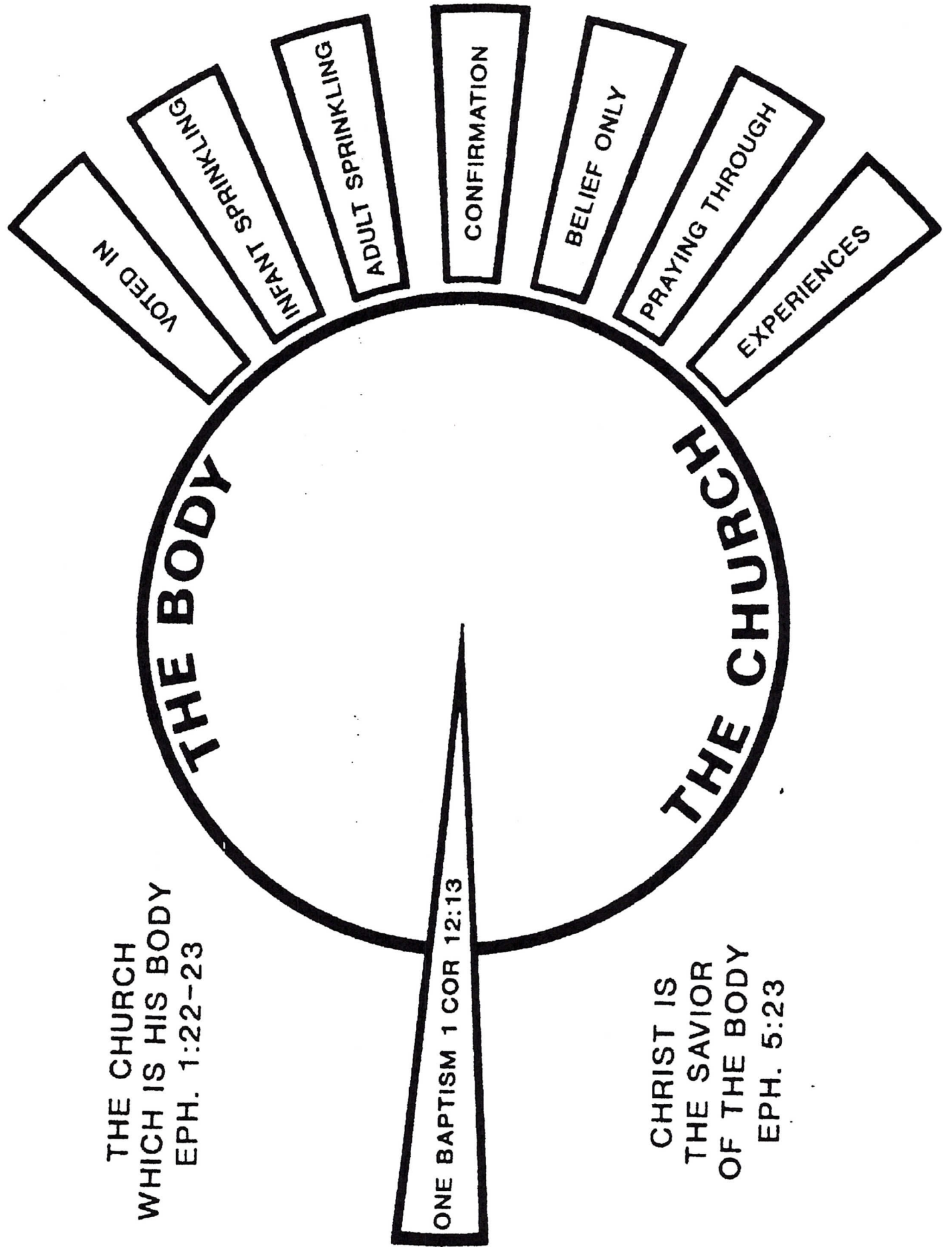
E. Some teach that the way into the body of Christ is by simply praying and asking God to save them. What does John 9:31 say about this?

F. Others teach that salvation comes from some emotional experience. The apostle Paul actually saw the Lord before he was saved which is more of an "experience" than most anyone claims today, and yet what does Acts 22:16 say Paul had to do to be saved?

V. Now look at the second chart for this lesson to see what the ONE BAPTISM that Jesus commanded consists of.

- A. It is for the forgiveness of sins, Acts 2:38. Therefore, what is the condition of a person who believed he was saved before he was baptized?
- B. It is by immersion in water, Romans 6:4. Is there any passage you know of that teaches any other means of baptism?

THE CHURCH
WHICH IS HIS BODY
EPH. 1:22-23



CHRIST IS
THE SAVIOR
OF THE BODY
EPH. 5:23

FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS
ACTS 2:38

BY IMMERSION IN WATER
ROM. 6:3-4

UPON BELIEF IN CHRIST'S WORD
ACTS 8:35-39

INTO CHRIST'S CHURCH
1 COR. 12:13 EPH. 1:22-23

TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT ACTS 2:38

IS ANOTHER BAPTISM VALID?
ACTS 19:1-5

THE ONE BAPTISM
TAUGHT IN THE BIBLE
EPH. 4:4-6

HOLY BIBLE