



Rooted

The Beliefs
That Shape Our Faith
and Our Church



A production of First Christian Church of New Salem
February 12, 2026

What We Believe - Lesson 1

Nine Essentials of an Evangelical Church

NOTES:

There are basically three (3) types of churches

- _____ - uses both Bible and tradition as Authority
- _____ - uses both Bible and human reason as authority
- _____ - uses Bible as basis of authority

Scriptures to remember:

Hebrews 11:6

Acts 4:12

Proverbs 14:12

Here are the nine (9) essentials of an evangelical church

I. The Infallibility of the Scriptures

- A. We accept the miracles as _____ accounts of historical events

- B. To reject any portion of Scripture as unreliable is like changing an inch on a ruler. If _____ is changed, the entire system of measuring is altered.

NOTES:**Scriptures to remember:**

- ✓ Proverbs 19:21
- ✓ Matthew 28:18-20
- ✓ Acts 2:41-47
- ✓ Ephesians 4:15
- ✓ Acts 11:30
- ✓ Acts 14:23
- ✓ Acts 20:28-29
- ✓ Psalm 23
- ✓ 1 Timothy 3
- ✓ Ephesians 4:11 - 12
- ✓ Acts 6
- ✓ Hebrews 3:13
- ✓ Hebrews 10:25
- ✓ Malachi 3:10
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 8 & 9
- ✓ Romans 12:6-8
- ✓ James 5:13
- ✓ Hebrews 13:17
- ✓ 1 Peter 2:12
- ✓ 1 Corinthians 10:31
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:20

C. Now this does not mean that every translation over the years has been perfect... or that every interpretation of mankind is flawless... but the Bible, in its original manuscripts, is from God. It accurately communicated His will to humanity.

D. If you can believe _____ 1:1, you won't have any trouble with the rest of the Bible.

If God is omnipotent (all powerful), if He can create this whole universe out of nothing by merely speaking it into existence, then there is no miracle in the whole Bible that He can't perform.

Scriptures to remember:

- ✓ 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- ✓ 2 Peter 1:21
- ✓ Genesis 1:1
- ✓ Matthew 12:40

NOTES:

II. The Absolute Deity of Christ

A. By this we mean that *Jesus is* _____ *in the*

Scriptures to remember:

Colossians 2:9

John 1:1 & 14

John 14:7

Romans 9:5

Philippians 2:5

Matthew 28:19

Luke 3:22

2 Corinthians 13:14

NOTES:

1. **Attend Church Services** _____.

2. **Stay** _____ **About Church Activities.**

3. **Support the Church** _____.

4. **Greet Visitors** _____.

5. **Minister Sympathetically To Those Who**

_____.

6. _____ **In The Areas Where You Are**

_____.

7. _____ **Daily For The Strength Of The Church.**

8. _____ **To Be A** _____ **Evangelist For Christ And The Church.**

9. _____ **the Church Leadership of the Needs of Yourself and of Others.**

10. **Be** _____ **of and** _____ **with the Church Leadership.**

11. **Live** _____ **with New Testament Principles.**

Ministers of the church:**Deacons:****Where is your place in the local church? How do you fit in?**

It is a place where we meet the needs of others. We will never grow more rapidly than when we get our mind off ourselves and onto others. Let's take a look at a list of things that we can do to serve others.

III. The Virgin Birth of Jesus

- A. Without the virgin birth, we have an immoral Mary – a human Jesus – and a defective Bible. With the virgin birth, we have Immanuel – God with us – our Savior. Jesus is God. He was conceived in a miraculous way.

Scriptures to remember:

Isaiah 7:14

Luke 1:30-35

Genesis 1:1

IV. The Historical Creation of Man

- A. Man did not accidentally evolve from lower forms of life
- B. God created man as a unique, spiritual being
- C. The main difference between evolution and creation is that evolution teaches that man is getting better and better, while creation says that we were created perfect and are getting worse.

Scriptures to remember:

Genesis 2:7

V. The Sinful Nature of Man

A. Some churches teach the total depravity of man. They suggest man is separated from God by a sinful nature at birth.

They will teach you that when you are born, you are a sinner and, therefore, at birth, the baby ought to be baptized to forgive his sin in case he dies.

B. Although man does have a sinful nature, we believe he is separated from God when he reaches the age of understanding and chooses to disobey.

The Bible says that sin is _____ to law.

C. Man is not basically _____. He is basically _____.

Scriptures to remember:

Romans 7:18

Jeremiah 17:9

Romans 3:10 & 23

Elders:

A fourfold responsibility of the elder:

**1. One is the shepherd... _____
his sheep.**

2. _____ the sheep

3. _____ the sheep

4. _____ the sheep.

NOTES:

What We Believe - Lesson 6

What the Church Ought to Be

The church needs to be driven by God's _____, not human ideas.

The purpose of the church, as stated by Jesus Christ, is very simple. We make disciples of as many people as possible and, once they are baptized, then we _____ them to observe "what I have commanded you" so they will grow strong.

Our Mission Statement:

RAISE THE BODY TO REACH THE BROKEN

How should the church be organized?

1. A _____ church.
2. The _____ structure, where the church is governed by appointed bishops above the local congregation.
3. The third style of church structure is the _____ form.

VI. The Substitutionary Death of Jesus

- A. God reached down and gathered up all the iniquity (**SIN!**) of the world and heaped them upon the shoulders of Jesus Christ. And Jesus became guilty of my greed – my lies, my lusts, and my temper. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

Scriptures to remember:

Isaiah 53:6

Matthew 27:46

1 Peter 3:18

2 Corinthians 5:21

NOTES:

VII. The Bodily Resurrection of Christ

A. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, what hope do we have?

B. Some suggest that Jesus rose in spirit only or just His teachings live on.

The Bible teaches that Jesus arose
_____ from the tomb!

C. Jesus came bodily out of that tomb.

That's the focal point of our faith. That's the source of our hope. He did it. He said *we can do it too* through His power.

Scriptures to remember:

1 Corinthians 15:1-8

John 14:19

John 11:25

Luke 24:38-39

NOTES:

NOTES:

Scriptures to remember:

- ✓ **Acts 20:7**
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 15:1**
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 11:18-30**
- ✓ **John 6:53**
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 10:16**
- ✓ **Mark 16:16**
- ✓ **Acts 2:37-38**
- ✓ **John 3:23**
- ✓ **Romans 6:3-5**
- ✓ **Acts 18:26**
- ✓ **Hebrews 2:3**
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 13:8**
- ✓ **Titus 3:3-7**
- ✓ **Ephesians 2:8-9**
- ✓ **1 Peter 3:21**
- ✓ **2 Kings 5**

Let's look at five principles about baptism before we close.

First: the act of baptism does not save us – Jesus Christ saves us.

Second: baptism is a demonstration of our acceptance of Christ as savior and Lord

Third: baptism is the point in time when we have the assurance of God's forgiveness.

Fourth: baptism should usually be performed as soon as possible after one surrenders to Jesus Christ.

Fifth: baptism should be a source of unity – not division – among Christians.

VIII. The Literal Return of Jesus to Earth as He Promised

- A. Jesus said in John 14:3, “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”
- B. Jesus Christ is going to come back to earth some day.
- C. People used to insist on being buried in the cemetery facing the east, because they believed that Jesus was going to come in the eastern sky and they wanted to come out facing Jesus.

Today, people worry about a water-tight crypt and a sealed casket.

Scriptures to remember:

John 14:3

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

1 Corinthians 15:51

2 Peter 3:3-11

NOTES:

IX. The Resurrection and Assignment of All People to Heaven or to Hell

A. We are sometimes criticized for too rigid a stand.

People often wish that the Bible did not say anything about Hell.

B. The Bible says that there will be a place of punishment for those who disobey God.

The Bible uses three (3) words to describe hell:

- _____ meaning *separation*
- _____ signifying *pain*
- _____ implying *loneliness* or *alienation*

Jesus believed in hell. He taught it as a reality. He used the most descriptive language to try to persuade people to avoid it.

C. The question is often asked: “How could a loving God send anyone to hell?”

Hell was not created for people. It was created as a place of punishment for Satan and his angels.

People need to know that if they choose to reject God, God respects their freedom of choice so much that He lets them go.

2. Now let's look at some distinctives we hold in reference to baptism.

a. First, baptism is only for those who are old enough to believe.

1. There is no example in the Bible of an infant or somebody being baptized against their will.

2. Baptism in the Bible was for those who were capable of being taught and for those who were capable of repenting of their sin. Doing it of their own free will:

b. The second distinctive is that baptism should be by immersion.

c. Baptism is for the remission of sins and the receiving of the Holy Spirit.

What We Believe - Lesson 5

What the Bible Teaches about Ordinances

1. There are three distinctives that we hold in reference to communion.

First: we believe in an *open* communion.

Second: We observe the Lord's Supper every week

Third: we believe that the Lord's Supper is a *participation in his body*.

D. The great news of the gospel is that the Christian does not have to worry about hell after death. We have been promised eternal life in heaven.

E. The great hope of the Christian is that:

Because Jesus Christ died on the cross

Because Jesus Christ rose from the dead

When we die, we go to be with the Lord in heaven

When we face death, when we stand over someone on their death bed or at their grave, we can say with confidence:

We believe

That God _____ this world

That man _____

That Jesus came born of a virgin

That Jesus came to die for our sins

That Jesus _____ from the dead

And that through Him, we have eternal life

That we are going to escape condemnation in hell

And that we are going to _____ forever with God

See that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. And this is what he promised us – even eternal life.

1 John 2:24-25

Scriptures to remember:**John 5:28****Revelation 20:10 & 15****John 14:1-3****Revelation 21:1-4****NOTES:****NOTES:****Scriptures to remember:**

- ✓ **Matthew 16:13-19**
- ✓ **1 Corinthians 3:11**
- ✓ **Colossians 1:18**
- ✓ **1 Peter 2:6**
- ✓ **Acts 2:14**
- ✓ **Acts 2:37-41**
- ✓ **1 John 1:9**
- ✓ **Acts 7:59**
- ✓ **2 Corinthians 5:6-8**
- ✓ **Hebrews 10:19-23**
- ✓ **1 Timothy 2:5**
- ✓ **1 Peter 2:9**
- ✓ **1 Timothy 4:1-3**
- ✓ **Romans 1:17**
- ✓ **John 17:15-21**
- ✓ **Ephesians 5:18**
- ✓ **Ephesians 4:15-16**

Some great slogans that came out of that time:

“We are Christians only, but not the only Christians.”

“Where the Bible speaks, we speak – where the Bible is silent, we are silent.”

“In doctrine, unity. In opinion, liberty, but in all things, love.”

“No book but the Bible. No creed but Christ. No name but the divine Name.”

Jesus said, **“if I be lifted up, I’ll draw all to me.”** He makes us one when we come to him together. We don’t join another denomination or sign on to a creed, but just give allegiance to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord.

We are all sinful and imperfect. When we exalt Jesus Christ and use the gifts that he has given us, we – with his help – bring the church together. The world will say “behold how they love one another.”

Ephesians 4:15-16

“Speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

What We Believe - Lesson 2

What is Christianity All About?

What would you say to somebody if you were telling them the story of Jesus and His love and you knew they were hearing it for the last time?

This lesson attempts to answer the question that must be answered: **What must we do to be _____ ?**

I. We begin with the fact of God

The Bible does not try to _____ that there is a God. The Bible just assumes that if we are thinking, rational people, we will believe in God.

The psalmist said in Psalm 14:1 – **“The fool says in his heart, there is no God.”**

If there is a _____, there has to be a _____. The psalmist said, **“The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”** (Psalm 19:1)

God created in His kingdom unique beings when He created a _____ and a _____.

Adam and Eve was the first human _____.
 God created them as unique beings in that they could
 _____ right from wrong – free will.

II. There is a _____ being named Satan.

Now he is called by a lot of different names in the Bible.
 He is called the:

_____ of darkness

Prince of this world

Beelzebub

The _____

The devil

But he is a _____ opponent of God

In the Scriptures, Satan's angels are called _____.

The Bible teaches that there is an actual supernatural
 being called the _____.

NOTES:

And although these movements each had the same purpose, which was reforming the church, they were diverse in beliefs.

When Jesus prayed for the church, he prayed that two things would happen to the church: (1) that the church would *stand for* _____ and (2) that the church would *be* _____.

About 1800, Godly pioneers in American became concerned about the ***spiritual impotence*** of the church and how it was bogged down. One of these people who became concerned was a man named:

a. Thomas Campbell.

“the Old Light Anti-Burgher Seceder Presbyterian Church”

b. Barton W. Stone

About 1500 AD, godly men began to call upon the church to _____ and _____.

a. Martin Luther

b. John Calvin

c. In _____, there was the beginning of the Church of _____.

d. John Wesley.

NOTES:

Paul warns us about the battle that we are involved in:

“Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes. For our struggle is not against the flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.” (Ephesians 6:11-12)

Our real battle is a supernatural battle against the _____. Against spiritual forces in heavenly realms.

Satan is very _____ in our world.

Our struggle is not against _____ and _____. There is a supernatural battle going on between the prince of this world and the prince of peace. Between _____ and _____.

That’s how the devil comes to us, too. He creates _____ – plants a seed.

God cast them out of the garden for their _____.

The kingdom of Satan is called *the* _____.

The Bible uses the word *world* in three different ways:

1. **God’s** _____
2. **The** _____ **of the world**
3. **The evil system of this world**

When man _____, he was cast out of the garden – _____ from eternal life – put into the kingdom of the world; the kingdom of Satan – and he began to _____.

NOTES:

III. Two kinds of people in the world

There are two kinds of people in the world. What the Bible calls in the book of 1 Corinthians: the _____ man and the _____ man.

Romans 3:9 – **“What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin.”**

Before we go any further, we need to understand that Paul says _____ are under sin.

God did not give the ten commandments to make people _____.

God gave the ten commandments so that we would look at them and realize the truth: *I'm a _____.*
I need a Savior.

Let's look at some examples of how the church drifted away from the message of the Bible. Men began to follow creeds, written by other men, rather than following the message of God.

The Nicene _____ in 325 AD.

A creed is simply a succinct (brief, concise) statement of _____.

The problem with creeds is they are written by _____.

The doctrine of _____ introduced about 593 AD by the Roman Church.

The doctrine of the Papacy _____ AD.

In 1015 the church of the dark ages began to insist that the priest could not marry.

_____ AD, the Council of Ravenna declared that sprinkling for baptism would be an acceptable substitute.

The selling of indulgences.

What We Believe - Lesson 4

Understanding Our Heritage

There is value in studying heritage and history. Once we come to know our backgrounds and our history, we will have a better appreciation of what we are trying to accomplish for the future.

1. The church was established in _____ AD.

The purpose of the early church was simple: to _____ the lost and _____ (encourage and build up) the saved.

a. **First:** the Holy Spirit inspired the _____ who were there to correct any doctrinal error.

b. **Second:** _____ helped the church stay on track

About 300 AD, the Roman emperor _____ made Christianity the official religion of the Roman empire.

1. **You shall have no other gods before me**
2. **You shall not make for yourself an idol**
3. **You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God**
4. **Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy**
5. **Honor your father and mother**
6. **You shall not murder**
7. **You shall not commit adultery**
8. **You shall not steal**
9. **You shall not give false testimony**
10. **You shall not covet**

Under the old law, you could go to heaven **if you obeyed _____ of God's laws.**

We can each say, "I'm better than Adolph Hitler and Charles Manson and Joseph Stalin," but, when we look at God's law, the "**straight _____ of the law**", we see how crooked we really are.

Some people say, "I don't think God would ever condemn anyone to hell. We are condemned already. God, in a rescue effort, is offering salvation. If we don't accept that, we have condemned ourselves.

Consider God's dilemma. Man was alienated and God wanted to reach out to him, but the law said if you sin, you'll die. So God _____ the gap in Jesus Christ.

Notice that Jesus was the only one who could bridge the gap because He was both spirit and flesh. He was holy, but He was also a man. That's the _____ of the incarnation.

NOTES:

But Jesus was _____ than a man. He was God in the flesh.

But Jesus did more than just come down and _____ God. Jesus came to the world not to be just a good teacher, not just to represent God, but He came to the world to die. He was _____ to die. He became an atonement for our sins.

Sin means _____ !

Jesus was perfect – sinless, but His blood was shed. The Bible tells us that He was led like a sheep to the slaughter. A crown of thorns pierced His brow and the blood flowed. They viciously whipped His back and the blood flowed. They pounded nails in His hands and feet. When He died, they thrust a spear into His side and the blood flowed mingled with water.

On the cross, Jesus' blood was shed as He paid the ultimate price to **forgive** your sins and my sins. God's love was revealed. God's justice was satisfied.

NOTES:

It is not the book that we worship – it's the Christ of the book. Let's close this session with this poem:

***Last eve I paused beside the blacksmith's door
and heard the anvil ring the vespers chimes.***

***Then looking in I saw upon the floor
old hammers worn with beating years of time.***

***'How many anvils have you had,' said I,
'to wear and battle all those hammers so?'***

'Just one,' said he

and then with twinkling eye,

'the anvil wears the hammers out you know.'

***And so I thought the anvil of God's word
for ages skeptic blows have beat upon,
yet though the noise of falling blows was heard
the anvil is unharmed and the hammer is gone.***

Scriptures to remember:

- ✓ Colossians 2:13
- ✓ 2 Timothy 3:16
- ✓ 2 Peter 1:20-21
- ✓ Revelation 22:18-19
- ✓ Luke 24:27
- ✓ Matthew 5:18
- ✓ Ecclesiastes 8:7
- ✓ Psalm 22
- ✓ Isaiah 55:10
- ✓ Hebrews 4:12
- ✓ Mark 10:46
- ✓ Luke 18:35
- ✓ Matthew 27:5
- ✓ Acts 1:18

There are three words we need to understand if we are going to understand Christianity.

_____ means *deserved punishment*.

Mercy means *exemption from punishment*.

_____ means *favor when punishment is deserved*.

God _____ all three of these attributes at the cross.

God grades on whether *you are* _____ or *you are a* _____.

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God – not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

The hardest people to persuade that they need to put their faith in Jesus Christ are _____, _____ people.

When we understand that we’ve sinned, that we need Jesus Christ, that only by His grace are we saved, then we have a _____ to make.

How do we come to Jesus Christ?

We must have _____.

We must _____.

We are to _____ Him publicly.

We are to be _____ into Him.

What happened to us when we were baptized? We died to this world. We left this world behind and we became a new creature in Christ. We arose to walk in a new life.

The word “_____” is the word ecclesia in the Greek meaning called out from the world.

Every _____ that we have ever committed has already been paid for in full at the cross.

NOTES:

1. There is historical verification.

2. And then there is archeological verification.

All kinds of archeological discoveries are verifying the Bible. Archaeologists are discovering that the rocks are crying out, giving testimony to the Lord.

Some books for more in-depth study:

Dr. Henry Morris, *The Genesis Record*

Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*

C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Lee Strobel, *The Case for Christ*

Psalm _____ is a prediction of the crucifixion.

It said that his enemies would cast lots for
his garments.

They would spit on him.

Not a bone of his body would be broken.

He would be placed in a borrowed tomb.

And that he would be raised from the dead.

_____ of those predictions came true in
Jesus Christ.

2. The Bible accomplishes its purpose -- lives are changed.

The purpose of the bible is to lead people to _____
_____. The purpose is to bring them
knowledge of Jesus and to change lives.

It is amazing how the Bible gets right into your heart. It changes you. Sometimes it disturbs you. Sometimes it comforts you. As you read the Bible, you find answers for your life in these pages. It accomplishes its purpose. The Bible is a living book.

3. The Bible is accurate and without error.

NOTES:

Scriptures to remember:

- ✓ Genesis 1:1
- ✓ Psalm 14:1
- ✓ Psalm 19:1
- ✓ Romans 1:20
- ✓ Genesis 3:24
- ✓ Genesis 2:17
- ✓ Luke 10:18
- ✓ Revelation 12:9
- ✓ Ephesians 6:11-12
- ✓ Genesis 3:6
- ✓ 1 John 2:15-17
- ✓ Romans 3:9-12, 19-26
- ✓ Romans 3:23
- ✓ John 3:16-18
- ✓ Matthew 19:14
- ✓ Matthew 8:27
- ✓ Hebrews 9:22
- ✓ John 1:29
- ✓ Ephesians 2:8-10
- ✓ Romans 10:9-10
- ✓ Romans 6:1-4
- ✓ 2 Corinthians 5:17
- ✓ 1 John 1:8-10

What We Believe - Lesson 3

How Reliable is the Bible?

How do we know that the Bible is true? What if the Bible is just a compilation of legends? What if it is full of misinformation? Are we to accept it by blind faith?

In this lesson, we want to look at some reasons why we, as Christians, can have confidence in the Word of God.

A. Facts about the Scripture

The Bible is a library of 66 books written by approximately 40 different authors over a period of 1,500 years.

The Bible is divided into 2 main sections: the _____ Testament and _____ Testament.

To understand the Bible, we need to know there is an _____ covenant and a _____ covenant.

_____ established the old covenant. Only those who were completely _____ to the whole law would earn eternal life.

B. The Bible claims to be the inspired word of God.

How much of Scripture is God breathed?

_____ Scripture is God-breathed.

What does God-breathed mean? I believe it means that each man who wrote Scripture had his own style. He used his own skill and his own memory when he thought about writing, but he **was guided by the Holy Spirit** into all truth so that he wrote accurately. I don't believe God was guiding his hand like a robot guiding every letter.

How Do We Know That The Bible Is Accurate?

1. Its prophecies are fulfilled

This is the test of the book's _____. The Bible shows that it is reliable in that its prophecies are fulfilled.

Consider the many predictions in the Old Testament about a coming Messiah. Many of them were very specific. Some of them seemed contradictory.

That he would be born in Bethlehem, but he would be a Nazarene.

That of his kingdom there would be no end, but he would be led like a sheep to a slaughter.

That He would be born of the line of David

That he would be born of a virgin.

That He would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver.

That he would be crucified between thieves.