

Until When?

Lesson 1

Until when there will be conflicts and discord in the family, between parents and children, husbands, and wives? For how long will we live under the fear of separation, illnesses, and death? As we contemplate the terrible world, in which we live, we must remember that it wasn't always like this... "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth..., and it was very good." (Genesis 1:1, 31)

Why did these things change? According to the Bible, a being called Lucifer rebelled against God and he was cast out of heaven. (Ezekiel 28:14-15; Isaiah 14:12-14; Revelation 12:7-9) The story of sin and suffering in this world started when at the Garden of Eden, our first parents were deceived by the serpent, and they violated God's law. (Genesis 3) Every human being is born in sin, and all of us are sinners (Romans 3:23) condemned to die. Fortunately, our Creator had a plan to put an end to our suffering, by offering to everyone eternal life through Jesus Christ our Savior. (Romans 6:23)

(1) What precious promise did Christ offer us? (John 14:3)

(2) When Jesus went to heaven, what did the angels affirm? (Acts 1:9-11)

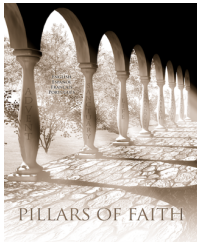
(3) When Christ returns, how many shall see Him? (Revelation 1:7)

(4) When is the exact day of His coming? (Matthew 24:36, 42)

(5) What is the purpose of Christ's second coming? (Revelation 22:12)

(6) How many groups will there be on that day, and what will be their reward? (Matthew 25:31-34, 41)

At the end, what group would you like to be a part of?



Lesson 2

What is Jesus Doing Now?

If God is love, why does he allow suffering?

Where God was when this tragedy occurred, said the mother of a teenager who died in a car accident when he was hit by a drunken driver. In the same way we can ask the question, “Where was God when His Son was dying on the cross?”

Why did Jesus Christ come to this world? At His birth, he united families of heaven and earth. He brought divinity to earth so He could bring humanity with Him when He returns to heaven. (Isaiah 9:6)

(1) What type of example did Jesus Christ leave during his life on earth? (John 15:10)

(2) If Jesus lived a perfect life, why did He have to die? (Romans 5:1, 10)

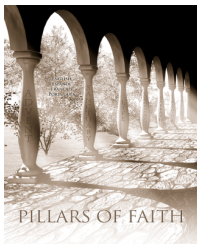
(3) Why doesn't our faith in Jesus Christ end on the cross? (1 Corinthians 15:12-14, 20-22)

(4) What is Jesus doing now? (Hebrews 4:14-16)

(5) For what kind of sin can we receive forgiveness? (1 John 1:9)

Jesus Christ, in His double function of sacrifice and High Priest, intercedes in our behalf in the Celestial Sanctuary. Christ's work as the High Priest is coming to an end. The years for testing humanity are coming to an end. No one knows the moment when God's voice will proclaim: "IT IS FINISHED!"

Are you ready for this day?



Beyond Death

Lesson 3

T.V. programs present stories and cases of people's experiences after death. Movies and books have explored this theme. The question is what really happens when a person dies? Where do they go? What is there after death? At creation, God made man out of dust and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul (Genesis 2:7).

(1) What did God say would happen to man if he sinned? (Genesis 2:17)

Death is the consequence of sin (Romans 6:23), and the Bible assures us that all those souls that sin will indeed die (Ezekiel 18:20), and when sin came into the world, death passed unto all man (Romans 5:12). God is the only one who is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17; 6:16).

The Bible presents death as a sleep, (John 11:11-14) and when a person dies, the breath of life returns to God (Ecclesiastes 12:7).

(2) What is the state of a person who is dead? (Ecclesiastes 9:6-10)

It happens to all people, righteous and wicked; even to the animals (Ecclesiastes 3:19-21).

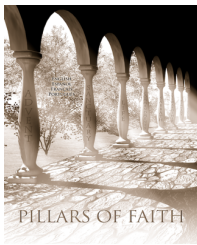
(3) What did Jesus say about the state of the dead? (John 5:28, 29)

(4) When will the righteous be resurrected? (1 Thessalonians 4:15-18)

(5) When will the wicked be resurrected? (Revelation 20:5)

After this, God's judgment will destroy the wicked and will purify the earth (2 Peter 3:7-13). This earth will be restored, and it will be the eternal home for the righteous (Revelation 21:1-4). The great controversy will be ended, and sin will be no more! The Universe will be forever free from the power of evil (Revelation 22:3). No more death, no more suffering, no more pain, no more sin.

Would you like to live in a place like this?



Lesson 4

Divine Laws for Living

The Holy Scriptures, Old and New Testament are the written words of God, the revelation of Gods will. (2 Timothy 3:16, 17). The scriptures reveal and teach that three eternal and equal persons are united in only one God.

These three persons were united at creation (Genesis 1:1, 2, 26), in the plan to save man, sending the Messiah (Matthew 3:13-17) and caring for His people (2 Corinthians 13:13).

Even though the bible is the word of God, it was written by chosen men “inspired by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21). There is also a portion that God Himself wrote, the Ten Commandments (Exodus 31:18).

Read Exodus 20:1-17.

(1) How many people should keep God’s law? (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

(2) What are some functions of the Law? (Romans 3:20)

Faith in the sacrifice of Jesus as the only way to receive salvation does not invalidate the Law (Romans 3:31). Jesus Himself said that He didn’t come to abolish or to set aside the Law (Matthew 5:17), but to fulfill in his life of perfect obedience to the commandments of God (John 15:10).

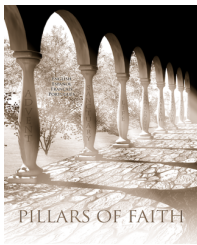
(3) In what way did God summarize the significance of the observance of the Law? (Matthew 22:37-40)

The Decalogue consist of two parts: the first four commandments tell us of our responsibility to the creator, and the last six tell of our responsibility to others. Therefore, the summary of the Law is the love to God and to man.

(4) In what ways can we demonstrate our love to Jesus? (John 14:15)

Through the Holy Spirit we are born again, and He writes God’s Law in our hearts. This is how we receive the power to live a holy life (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Would you like to experience this new life?



The True Rest

Lesson 5

Is it necessary to have a day of rest each week? What day should be chosen? Does this have something to do with the physical restoration or does it have any spiritual significance?

The weekly day of rest has its origins in a sinless world. It is a special God given gift that enables humans to experiment here on earth the reality of heaven.

(1) What are the three acts of God in establishing the Sabbath? (Genesis 2:1-3)

(2) What is the fourth commandment in God's law? (Exodus 20:8-11)

(3) According to the New Testament, what was the day Jesus used to go to the synagogue? (Luke 4:16)

(4) After His death, what commandment was observed in a special way by His followers? (Luke 23:54-56)

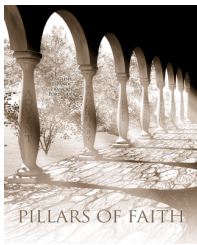
On his evangelistic trips, the apostle Paul attended the synagogues on the Sabbath and preached of Christ (Acts 13:14; 17:1, 2; 18:4), not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles also (Acts 13:42, 44).

(5) Where there wasn't a synagogue, on what day did the apostle look for an adequate place to worship? (Acts 16:13)

(6) What special day will be observed by the redeemed for worship in the New Earth? (Isaiah 66:22, 23)

The Sabbath must be kept by all those who want to be a part of God's people embracing His covenant (Isaiah 56:2, 6). This day is a sign of liberation from sin and an entering into the true rest of God, which separates the redeemed from the rest of the world. (Hebrew 4:9-10) The Lord of the Sabbath (Mark 2:28) invites all to follow His example. Those that respond to His call, enjoy the Sabbath as a day of happiness and spiritual feasting. This is the pre-enjoyment of what we will encounter in heaven.

Would you like to enter this true rest?



How to Live Wisely

Lesson 6

The Bible affirms that “The earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.” (Psalms 24:1). Everything belongs to God. He is the real owner of everything that exists in the Universe. We also belong to God, because He created and redeemed us by paying an expensive price for each one of us (1 Corinthians 6:12, 20).

(1) If everything belongs to God, what does He expect from us? (1 Corinthians 4:1, 2)

The Christian understands he is responsible for everything that God entrusts to him: Life, body, time, talents, abilities, material possessions, service to others and being willing to share how God has graciously blessed them.

(2) Why should I take care of my body? (1 Corinthians 3:16, 17)

(3) In what ways must I improve my abilities? (Colossians 3:23, 24)

(4) What does the bible call those that waste their time? (Ephesians 5:16, 17)

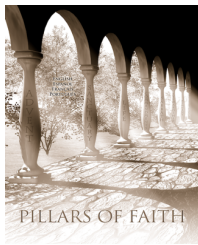
(5) In what ways does God prove my faithfulness with my possessions? (Malachi 3:8, 10)

Far from abolishing tithing, the New Testament confirms its validity. Jesus approved of tithing and condemned those who violated its spirit (Matthew 23:23) As Abraham paid his tithe to Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God (Genesis 14:20), so the New Testament believers give tithe to Christ, our High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5:9-10; 7:11-32).

(6) What principle should we have in giving offering? (Deuteronomy 16:17)

Christians serve as managers over God’s possessions, and view life as a divine opportunity “To learn to be faithful steward, thereby qualifying for the higher stewardship of eternal things in the future life.”

Are you making wise and unselfish use of life?



Lesson 7

Why Are There So Many Religions?

Do all religions lead you to God? Where is the truth, when all religions say they are right? The invisible church is made of all those who truly believe in Christ. However, in these last days, a remnant has been called.

(1) What are the characteristics of this remnant? (Revelation 14:12)

During His most noted speech He warned the apostles of the coming of wrong teachings (Matthew 24:4, 24). The three angels' message of Revelation 14:6-12 shows the mission and proclamation of the remnant that should bring complete and final restoration of the truth of the Gospel.

(2) Besides faith and obedience what is another characteristic of the remnant? What does it represent? (Revelation 12:17; 19:10)

(3) To help the remnant, what provision did Jesus give? (Ephesians 4:8-13)

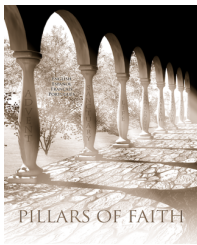
(4) How are the Spiritual gifts given? (1 Corinthians 12:11)

God gives to all the members of His Church, spiritual gifts that each member must use in loving ministry for the good of the church and all humanity. One of the gifts of the Spirit is Prophecy. This gift is a characteristic of the remnant church and was especially manifested through Ellen G. White. As a messenger of the Lord, her writings are a continual fount of authority and truth that give us comfort, orientation, instruction and correction to the church.

(5) What counsel is given to us by the Scripture? (2 Chronicles 20:20)

In the end of time the "Testimony of Jesus" would manifest itself through the "Spirit of Prophecy". This represents a challenge to all, in the sense of not accepting the attitude of indifference or disbelief, but to "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21).

Are you willing to accept God's direction for your life?



God's will for Christian Behavior

Lesson 8

The narrative of Creation reports the origin of human beings, and marriage as the foundation of society. Everyone can find a special place in the church, where they can be loved, even if they do not have a family.

(1) What kind of behavior should Christians demonstrate? (Romans 12:1, 2)

(2) In addition to the church, what else is called "temple of the Holy Spirit"? (1 Corinthians 6:19)

God's law that includes the laws of health, is not arbitrary, but was given by our Creator to enable us to enjoy a better life.

(3) What was man's original diet? (Genesis 1:29)

God permitted meat as food only after the flood (Genesis 9:3-5), but He gave some restrictions (Leviticus 11:4-10).

Regular exercise is the simple formula to maintain mental and physical health (Genesis 2:15). Light is essential for life (Genesis 1:3) as the water and fresh air are necessary for the well-functioning of the organism.

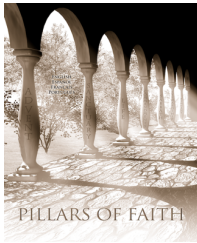
A temperance-controlled life, free of drugs preserves health. Even many kinds of popular beverages that contain caffeine and alcohol cause harmful effects to our health. Tobacco is another poison of slow effect; it brings prejudice to physical, mental, and spiritual health.

(4) What invitation does Jesus give us? (Mark 6:31)

Rest is very important for the health of our body and mind. God emphasized the necessity of rest giving us the weekly Sabbath (Exodus 20:10).

(5) How should the followers of Jesus live? (1 John 2:6)

Would you like to live more like Jesus?



God's Special Invitation

Lesson 9

What is the Christian church? How should it be organized and administered? The church is a community of believers that accept the call of Jesus Christ and receive Him as their own personal Savior and Lord. Christ is the leader of the church and guides in the worship, companionship, and service.

(1) In Ephesians 1:22, 23, what does the Bible say about the church?

The metaphor of the body explains the union of the church and the functional position of each member in relationship to everything. The church is the body of Christ, He is the "head of the body" (Eph 5:23).

(2) What is the work of the church? (Matthew 28:18-20)

(3) What affirmed Jesus about His flock? (John 10:16)

(4) Even with many different members, what aspect did Jesus focus upon about His church? (Jo. 17:23)

(5) What steps must we follow to receive salvation? (Mark 16:15, 16)

(6) What does baptism signify? (Romans 6:3-5)

Baptism should not have had significance as a symbol of the passion of Christ if the apostolic Church had practiced another form of baptism other than that of immersion. Baptism represents death to sin – the putting away of the old lifestyle and living a new life by the power of Christ.

(7) What ordinances did Jesus leave to renew our connection with Him and our brothers? (John 13:10, 15 and Matthew 26:26-29).

Two big ordinances assist the Christian faith - Baptism and the Lords Supper. The first is the front door to the church; the last favors those who are members and through their participation they witness of their acceptance of Christ as their personal Savior.

Would you like to have the assurance of salvation?