

Welcome to:

21 Lesson Class

The material in this course is critical if the foundation upon which you live is to be clear, solid, sound and firm.

I recall making a visit to a family of a congregation. They were a "pillar" family and a blessing to the congregation. The head of the household served as an Elder and the mother served wherever she could. The purpose of my visit was to talk about their son's refusal to worship. It happened that the young man was at home by himself and so we started to talk. During the course of discussion this college-aged son brought out a copy of the Bhagavad-Gita, one of a multitude of Hindu sacred books. He still wanted to claim Jesus as his Lord; he still called himself a Christian, but he wanted me to know that "God has many ways to heaven."

This kind of thinking has been multiplied countless times in America both before and since that 1979 encounter. In the past few years many surveys have been commissioned within the Christian Community for the purpose of learning just what it is that the Christian knows about Scripture, about God, and about, as the Hebrew writer says, "elementary" doctrine. The results of those surveys indicate that a majority of Christians believe that they are saved by their own works, that God helps those who help themselves, that there is a basic quality of goodness born into each person, and that it is possible to have "suffered hell on earth." The surveys continue to reveal that many Christians believe there are many ways to heaven and that Jesus is but one way.

The studies also uncovered the source of such ideas. While a large majority of people believe there is a god, while most people understand that there is indeed a spirit-world and that this spirit-world transcends the laws of nature, when asked where these ideas and beliefs were developed, most people said the movies which they watched and the music to which they listened were the main sources of their theology. It began with The Exorcist in the early 1970's and continued with recent movies. This is true of the music industry as well including Bette Midler's song which says that "God is watching from a distance," the authoritative source of theology is the movie and recording industry, neither of which is particularly sanctified nor interested in the Truth of the Gospel and its source, Scripture.

That is why 21 Lesson is so important. While the numbers of people who take this class is small when compared to 300 million people in this country, all of you who pursue Truth with a heart open to God's leading are extraordinarily significant. These lessons will not solve the country's problems. The principles behind these lessons will address the problems you face each and every day.

The effort of this class is toward opening up God's Word and discovering why this particular book can be trusted as the basis for a system of living which God has promised He will bless. By looking up passages in Scripture, the student of this class will not only become familiar and comfortable with God's Word but the student will also discover a foundation upon which tough decisions can be made; God pleasing attitudes toward family, friends and even enemies can be developed; and, most importantly, the student will have the opportunity to know the One who loves to the point of taking each person's place in Hell that anyone who would believe and confess this would live forever.

May God richly bless your participation in studying the Word in these lessons. May the principles be applied to your daily walk with the Lord.

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