

# **AN EXAMINATION OF PASTORS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT**

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This study is designed to have you do almost an exhaustive inductive study of Pastors in the New Testament. To get the most out of the investment of your time it is strongly recommended that you begin reading through the New Testament so you will become familiar with the background that you will be examining.

During our Lord's ministry He spoke prophetically regarding the Church He was going to build. No where in the Old Testament do you find mention of the Church. Beginning in Genesis 12 God began dealing with mankind through the person of Abraham and his descendent Isaac. Up to this time God had dealt with mankind as a whole. If you are familiar with the Old Testament this will be review for you but it is important to our study because this is the history into which our Savior came. When God brought Abraham's descendents out of captivity in Egypt He chose a man named Moses to do the job. We read about this in the book of Exodus. When Moses lead Abraham's descendents out of Egypt into the Sinai Peninsula they were called "the children of Israel." Abraham had a son who was promised to him in his old age which would be born of his wife Sarah. Isaac fathered twins, Esau and Jacob. Jacob's name was changed years later by God to Israel. Israel fathered twelve sons and one daughter. His eleventh son was named Joseph. Joseph was his favorite, and his brothers were jealous of him. When they got the chance they sold Joseph into slavery and faked evidence that made his father believe he had been destroyed by a wild beast. As the story unfolds in Genesis there was a drought in the lands around the western part of the Mediterranean Sea and Joseph had risen from slavery to being the first in command under Pharaoh in Egypt. Joseph had interpreted a dream that Pharaoh had which God had given to Pharaoh to warn him about this drought which was to come. Under the leadership of Joseph Egypt began to store up food. When the drought hit Egypt was the only place to go to buy food. Joseph's brothers were sent by their father, Israel, to Egypt to buy food. After some intrigue between Joseph and his brothers, Joseph's father was invited to come to Egypt and live. This he did and four hundred years later, as slaves, they came out of Egypt headed for the promised land that God had promised to Abraham and his descendents through his son Isaac. At Mount Sinai God gave Moses the Ten Commandments and welded, in less than a year, these slaves into a nation. That nation became known as the Nation of Israel.

Israel was known as God's people from that time on. It was to the nation of Israel that God had given to Israel the Old Testament, the priests and a high priest, the various sacrifices for sin, a Tabernacle, which was a portable place for worship, and was finally exchanged for a Temple built in Jerusalem. Originally they were a nation whose ruler was God and administrated through the prophets which God chose. They went from a theocracy to a monarchy.

If a person wanted to worship the true and living God in Old Testament times he had to become a "Jew." A person who was not born of Jewish parents and who wanted to become a worshiper of the true and living God in Old Testament time he had three things he had to do. He had to bring a sacrifice, he had to be circumcised and he had to immerse himself in water before the elders.

This was the world into which our Lord Jesus Christ, the God/man, was born, of the virgin Mary. Jesus was born under the Old Testament Law, lived under the Old Testament law and died under the Old Testament Law to redeem us from the Law and to begin what He called His Church. Actually the word translated church in our English Bibles comes from the Scottish word Kirk. The Greek word is "ἐκκλησία" (EKKLASIA) which literally translated means "assembly." Therefore, Jesus prophesied (foretold) that He was going to establish His Assembly, or His Church in the future. He mentions this prophetically twice in His earthly ministry. (Matthew 16:13-18; Matthew 18:15-20 in which He speaks of Church discipline).

At the close of our Lord's earthly ministry, in the upper room observing the Passover, just prior to being arrested, following His betrayal by Judas to the guards of the High Priest Jesus tells His disciples that when He leaves them He will send them another Comforter who will remain with them forever. His promise to them was as follows: "If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither see Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for he dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:15-17

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit only came upon prophets, priest, kings, builders of the temple and Balaam's jackass. The "rank in file" believer in the Old Testament never had the Holy Spirit as a permanent possession. Therefore, Jesus' promise was something totally new for the Apostles to think about. We recognize in Acts 1, which took place 40 days following the Passover that the disciples, about 120 of them were talking with Jesus and it says that they had not yet received "the Promise." They had to wait ten more days until the Feast of Pentecost for Jesus' promise to be fulfilled. We read about its fulfillment in Acts 2, when Christ's Church (Assembly) began. This was something completely new, it was not foretold in the Old Testament but was something hidden in the mind of God until Jesus revealed it, Ephesians 3:8-12 (which is all one sentence in the Greek, and is also translated this way in the K.J.V. and N.K.J.V.).

Since Jesus fulfilled the promise He made concerning "the Promise" of John 14:15-17, in Acts 2 God has temporarily set aside the nation of Israel and is working through the Church to accomplish His purposes in the world. In contrast to Israel which has geographical boundaries, etc. the Church knows no such restrictions. With this as our backdrop let us go on now to examine Pastors in the New Testament.

## **Apostolic Example of Appointing Pastor/Elders.**

1. At the close of Barnabas and Paul's first missionary journey what did they do? Acts 14:23 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How many elders were appointed in every church? Acts 14:23 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who did the appointing of elders? Acts 14:23 \_\_\_\_\_
4. In Titus 1:5 what were the two reasons Paul left Titus behind on Crete? \_\_\_\_\_

Turn to Acts 13:1. There we read about Barnabas and Saul (later named Paul) were at their home Church at Antioch. Were they sent out by one person or a plurality of men? \_\_\_\_\_

In the Nelson Study Bible, N.K.J.V. has a helpful note on page 1843 concerning "13:1 Prophets functioned in the early church as proclaimers of God's revelation. Teachers explained the meaning of the revelation and helped the people apply it to their lives. In the early church the prophets were the preachers—the ones who communicated revelation directly from the Spirit of God. Evangelists, pastors, and teachers (see Eph. 4:11) took what was taught or declared and made it applicable for the daily nurture of people's lives."

We must remember at this time there was no New Testament so what the Apostles and Prophets proclaimed at any given point would agree with what God would use men (Apostles or ones close to them) to write down under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit and was to be contained in our New Testament. 2 Timothy 3:16,17; 2 Peter 1:20,21

5. When Paul and Barnabas returned from their first missionary journey where did they go? Acts 14:26 \_\_\_\_\_
6. What did they do when they got there? Acts 14:27 \_\_\_\_\_
7. How long did they stay at there? Acts 14:28 \_\_\_\_\_

There are a number of things that we can learn from what we have examined from the Scripture. Write out at least four things and explain the significance of each thing. Are these things that your church follows? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Biblical Qualifications for those Serving as Pastor/Elders.**

8. Examine 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and write out the qualifications for one who seeks to become a pastor/elder.

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THERE ARE MORE LINES THAN YOU NEED

9. Examine Titus 1:7-9 and write out the qualifications given to Titus to use for seeking to biblically qualify men to serve as pastor/elders.

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THERE ARE MORE LINES THAN YOU NEED

10. Examine 1 Peter 5:1-4 and write out the biblical qualifications given by Peter to those who were already serving as pastor/elders.

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THERE ARE MORE LINES THAN YOU NEED

11. Peter was an Apostle but what does he call himself? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What is there to cause us to believe from what Peter says that the qualifications for him serving as an elder was the same as their qualifications? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Peter was not only an elder but also an Apostle. What was that qualification that Peter mentioned that he had to have to serve as an Apostle that the others who served as an elder didn't have to have? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What do those who serve faithfully as an elder have to look forward to that other men who do not serve in the office of an elder will not receive when our Chief Shepherd appears? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Evaluate your elders by name. In your evaluation be sure to keep in mind that your elders are not perfect and have not arrived spiritually to the point that they cannot grow more in any given area. However, they must have grown to the point that they are examples to the rest of the followers of Jesus to be able to follow. Therefore, your evaluation should be completely honest as you examine them through "biblical glasses." \_\_\_\_\_
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As you know our goal for every male believer at Sunrise is that they would be biblically qualified to serve as a pastor/elder whether they ever assume the responsibility or not.

16. Gentlemen, CHRISTian gentlemen, young, middle age, older, are you getting the help from your elders to qualify you biblically to hold down the responsibility of a pastor/elder? \_\_\_\_\_ Your pastor/elders are desirous to serve you. Do you want to become as biblically mature as you can be? \_\_\_\_\_ Think over your answers and then approach one of us so we can have the privilege of serving you.

**Biblical Task of Pastors/Elders Ephesians 4:11,12**

17. In Ephesians 6:19,20 we have an indication where Paul was when he wrote Ephesians. If Paul wrote Ephesians when Luke closed the book of Acts (Acts 28:16) where was he? \_\_\_\_\_

18. Approximately when was the book of Ephesians written? \_\_\_\_\_

19. Let us turn to an examination of Ephesians 4:11-16

Often times commentators say the offices in 4:11 are called spiritual gifts. There are men who have spiritual gifts who serve in these offices rather than men who are supposed to have the "spiritual gift" of an Apostle, or Prophet, or Evangelist, or Pastor-teacher. A simple explanation will verify this. Your teacher in this class has been told by his fellow believers that he has the "spiritual gift" of teaching. Let us say (may it never happen) that I would do something that would disqualify me from being able to serve this local assembly and they would have to biblically remove me from serving as one of your pastors. The responsibility of serving as pastor could be taken from me; however, my "spiritual gift" of teaching could not be taken away from me by the local church. Each believer receives a spiritual gift when he is put into the Body of Christ. (saved) (1 Corinthians 12:13f)

a. What were the qualifications of those who served as Apostles had to meet in order to serve in this Office? Acts 1:21,22 \_\_\_\_\_

b. Often the question arises that the Apostle Paul did not meet all of this qualification that Peter expressed. Paul addresses this question in 1 Corinthians 15:6-12. What was his explanation to those who would question his biblical qualifications for serving in the office of an Apostle? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

c. This is a THINK question, give at least two biblically based reasons why we do not have Apostles today.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

EXTRA SPACE WAS PROVIDED FOR THOSE WHO WRITE BIG

- d. What was the task of one who served in the office of a New Testament Prophet? \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_
- e. Another THINK question. Why is there no need for this office to be filled in our day? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- f. Another THINK question. There are those who are called Evangelists today. How are they fulfilling this office with believers in the local church? (reread this question and think about each part before you write out your answer) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- g. Does this local church have a biblical office called an Evangelist? \_\_\_\_\_ If your answer was “no” write out why you think we don’t. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- h. Do you think we should have someone serving in the office of an Evangelist? \_\_\_\_\_

Paul just prior to his death wrote to his “son in the faith,” Timothy. In encouraging him as he oversaw the church in Ephesus he told him in 2 Timothy 4:5, “But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

- i. Another THINK before you answer question: What was Timothy’s ministry to the church in Ephesus? To answer this question you should take the time to look up the word Timothy and examine it in its context each time. To do this will require quite a bit of research. Below I have given you every place Timothy’s name is mentioned in our New Testament. Remember as you examine these passages to be sure to remember the “we” passages. By this I mean if Timothy was with Paul when he wrote a letter then the “we” passages refer not only to Paul but to Timothy as well. The “we” passages are not included in the list.

Romans 16:21

Timothy, my fellow worker, and Lucius, Jason, and Sosipater, my countrymen, greet you.

1 Corinthians 4:17

For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you

- of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.
- 1 Corinthians 16:10** And if Timothy comes, see that he may be with you without fear; for he does the work of the Lord, as I also *do*.
- 2 Corinthians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy *our* brother, To the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in all Achaia:
- 2 Corinthians 1:19** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes.
- Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
- Philippians 2:19** But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.
- Colossians 1:1** Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
- 1 Thessalonians 1:11** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 1 Thessalonians 3:2** and sent Timothy, our brother and minister of God, and our fellow laborer in the gospel of Christ, to establish you and encourage you concerning your faith,
- 1 Thessalonians 3:6** But now that Timothy has come to us from you, and brought us good news of your faith and love, and that you always have good remembrance of us, greatly desiring to see us, as we also *to see* you—
- 2 Thessalonians 1:1** Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
- 1 Timothy 1:2** To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.
- 1 Timothy 1:18** This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare,
- 1 Timothy 6:20** O Timothy! Guard what was committed to your trust, avoiding the profane *and* idle babblings and contradictions of what is falsely called knowledge—
- 2 Timothy 1:2** To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- Philemon 1** Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy *our* brother, To Philemon our beloved *friend* and fellow laborer,

Conclusion of word study: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Now we come to the last of the four offices in Ephesians 4:11, which is translated in our NKJV, “and *some* pastors and teachers.” There are two things which we need to consider with this statement. The Greek construction here is very interesting. On page 147 of A MANUYAL GRAMMAR of the GREEK NEW TESTAMENT by Dana and Mantey it says: “(1) *With Nouns Connected by καί*. The following rule by Grandville Sharp of a century back still proves to be true: ‘When the copulative καί connects two nouns of the same case, if the article ὁ or any of its cases precedes the first of the said nouns or participles, and is not repeated before the second noun or participle, the latter always relates to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun or participle; i.e., it denotes a farther description of the first-named person.’” I realize this will require a further explanation from your teacher. Dana and Mantey go on to give an illustration of how this works:

“ τοῦ κυρίου καὶ σωτῆρος Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ,  
*Of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.* 2 Peter 2:20  
The article here indicates that Jesus is both Lord and Savior.”

In Ephesians 4:11<sup>b</sup> it reads:

τοὺς δὲ ποιμένας καὶ διδασκάλους,  
*some shepherds and teachers*

Following the Grandville Sharp rule here the first plural noun having the article “τοῦς” and the second, not having the article relates to the same person that is expressed or described by the first noun or participle; i.e., it denotes a farther description of the first-named person. What this all means is that the last office mentioned is “shepherd-teacher,” i.e. it is shepherds who are teachers.

Therefore, in Ephesians 4:11 you have four offices, which are all plural nouns. Therefore, presently Sunrise has three men who have been biblically set apart to serve in the office of “shepherd-teachers as examples for the rest of the local church to follow even as the Apostle Paul told the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.”

- j. What is the two fold responsibility of those who hold these offices in regard to believers in a local church? Ephesians 4:12 \_\_\_\_\_
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One might ask since we do not have anyone serving in the offices of apostles and prophets, how do they mature the saints today? Every time a shepherd-teacher or evangelist stands up to edify the saints they use the Word of God which was given to us by those who served in the offices of Apostles and Prophets. At the time Paul spoke most of the New Testament was not written yet by men who had been chosen by God the Holy Spirit for doing this job. (2 Peter 1:20,21, 2 Timothy 3:16)

- k. One side note, Paul says that the saints are to be matured so they can do the work of the ministry. To what ministry is every believer called as a way of life? Matthew 28:19,20 \_\_\_\_\_
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- l. Assuming you are a follower of Christ, how are you doing on your ministry? \_\_\_\_\_  
Give some illustration(s) of how you are fulfilling the ministry to which you have been called. \_\_\_\_\_
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m. How long are serving in the offices of Evangelist and Shepherd-teacher to continue? Ephesians 4:13-16 \_\_\_\_\_

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n. Again, what is the objective to be accomplished by those who are biblically qualified to serve in these offices of Evangelist and Shepherd-teacher? Ephesians 4:13,14 \_\_\_\_\_

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o. The Lord does not intend us to “be children.” What are the characteristics of spiritual children? Ephesians 4:14 \_\_\_\_\_

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p. What will speaking “the truth in love” accomplish? Ephesians 4:15 \_\_\_\_\_

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q. What will happen when the whole body is joined and knit together by what every joint supplies? Ephesians 4:16 \_\_\_\_\_

r. What will not happen if every member of a local church is not maturing and is continuing to be a child? Ephesians 4:16<sup>b</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

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Write out the things that you have learned from this study so far that you had not known before. \_\_\_\_\_

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Now that you are aware of these things what will you have to do in order to help the rest of the local church to become more mature and edified? \_\_\_\_\_

**Biblical Responsibility of Sheep to their Shepherd-teachers ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:12,13**

20. What were the Thessalonian CHRISTians told to do to those who labor among them? 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
21. What did Paul say was the Thessalonians relationship to these men? 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
22. What was the task of those Thessalonian overseers to the Thessalonian CHRISTians? 5:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
23. How were the Thessalonian CHRISTians to treat those who were their overseers? 5:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
24. Here is one of those THINK questions. Were the Thessalonian overseers responsible for the Corinthian CHRISTians? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
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25. What relationship did the Corinthian CHRISTians have with the Thessalonian CHRISTians? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
26. What did the writer of Hebrews tell the Hebrew CHRISTians to do? Hebrews 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
27. What had these leaders done to the Hebrew CHRISTians? 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
28. Why were the Hebrew CHRISTians exhorted to follow their faith? 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
29. What were the Hebrew CHRISTians exhorted to do in Hebrews 13:17? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
30. What was the first responsibility these overseers were to perform for those over whom they had the oversight? 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
31. To Whom are the overseers responsible for those they oversee? 13:17 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
32. Is an overseer responsible to give an account for anyone who is not a part of his flock? \_\_\_\_\_  
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33. From what we have learned answer the following questions:

- a. Should every CHRISTian have an overseer? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Does a CHRISTian who is not a member of a local church have an overseer? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Can a person be just as good a CHRISTian without having an overseer as he can by having an overseer? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Some have said to me, "I can be just as good CHRISTian staying home and reading my Bible and praying as I can by being a member of a church." How would you answer a person biblically who would make such a statement? \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Are you attending a church regularly? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a member of a local church? \_\_\_\_\_ If not do you have a biblical reason for not being under the biblical responsibility of an overseer? \_\_\_\_\_  
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Let us ask a few questions that may help put the subject of local church membership in a biblical perspective.

- 34. If being a member of a local church is not important to God then why did He establish biblical qualifications for men who could serve in the office of pastor/elders? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. If being a member of a local church is not important to God then why did He have the N.T. writers spell out what their responsibility was to those under their responsibility? \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- 36. Can a CHRISTian who is not under the responsibility of a pastor/elder be disciplined by a local church in accordance with Jesus' instruction in Matthew 18:15-20? \_\_\_\_\_

From our examination of the Scriptures do you believe it was our Lord's intent that every follower of Jesus Christ be a member of a local church? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Explain your reasoning. \_\_\_\_\_  
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**Biblical Examination of Every Believer's Calling to Ministry ~ Matthew 28:19,20**

37. To whom did our Lord give what is called The Great Commission? Matthew 28:19,20

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Many in our day would say the Apostles but is this true? The Great Commission is said in different ways by our Lord in Luke 24:46,47; Mark 16:15 and Acts 1:8. Is this assumption correct? \_\_\_\_ Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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Many in our day would say that it is those who serve as missionaries and pastors that are called to carry out The Great Commission. Is this biblically correct? \_\_\_\_ Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_

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The Great Commission as recorded in Matthew 28:19,20 is in basically two parts, what are they? (1.) \_\_\_\_\_ (2.) \_\_\_\_\_

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According to Matthew 28:19,20 who is to be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_  
Whose responsibility is it to baptize (immerse) another believer? \_\_\_\_\_

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Why should a believer be immersed (baptized) in water according to The Great Commission? \_\_\_\_\_

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To your knowledge is there any place in the Bible where infants are immersed in water? \_\_\_\_\_  
Explain your answer using Scripture. \_\_\_\_\_

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When were you immersed (baptized) in water? \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any biblical justification that only those who serve as pastor/elders or missionaries can baptize (immerse) a person who is a follower of Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

Biblically who is to disciple the person that has been led to repentance? \_\_\_\_\_ Was this done in your experience? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever disciplined someone? \_\_\_\_\_ If your answer was "no" then please answer this question, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What special training does a person have to have in order to be called to carry out The Great Commission? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Assuming you are a follower of Jesus Christ how do you go about carrying out The Great Commission? \_

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It was the Apostle Paul that said of him and Timothy, "Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily." Colossians 1:28,29 You see the message which Paul and Timothy proclaimed was a way of life. Are you persuaded that this should be the way of life that CHRISTians are suppose to live today? \_\_\_\_\_ If you answered yes, explained how you are doing? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

If you answered no, explain why you answered this way. \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

Conclusion: Is there one thing that you had not considered before doing this lesson that now stands out to you as being very important, if so write it out? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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If this new knowledge requires you to make some kind of decision , write out what this decision is. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If all of this information was review for you, please write down at least the name of one person you are sharing this with in obedience to The Great Commission. \_\_\_\_\_

If you believe you need help in this area please contact your teacher or one of the other pastor/elders after this class to set up an appointment with them to discuss this with you.