



Lesson 1

HOW TO USE THIS BIBLE COURSE

Reading : Psalm 19

The Christadelphian Bible Postal Course is designed to help you understand the Bible, which is the Word of God. The Bible, sometimes called "the Scriptures", is the **only** book which reliably tells us about God and about His plans for the earth and the people on it. It promises a blessing for everyone who reads it with a sincere desire to understand it.

You will need your own Bible

It is a privilege to possess a copy of the Word of God. To follow this Course you will need to have your own copy of the whole Bible (not just the New Testament).

If you do not already have one you can buy a copy quite cheaply at a branch of the Bible Society. There is one in almost every country. But if that is impossible for you, please tell your tutor immediately. He or she may be able to assist you in getting a second-hand one.

This Postal Course consists of 40 weekly papers. If your tutor (that is, the person sending the lessons to you) lives a long way from you it is probable that you will receive several lessons and a Question Sheet all together once a month.

Your tutor is:

Your Reference Number is _____

Please use this number on **all** correspondence, answer papers etc.

Please send all your answers (and any questions) back to your tutor. It would help if you wrote only to your tutor, even though you may see other addresses on our literature.

The Bible quotations which you will find in this Course are taken from the English Authorised Version of the Bible. There are also very good modern versions like the Revised Standard Version (RSV) and the New International Version (NIV), but they may not be available in some countries. (You may find that the text of Bibles available in your country is slightly different.) But whichever of these versions you use it will not alter the meaning nor affect your study of the Bible.

This Bible Course is **free**. The only cost to you will be your airmail letter, or e-mail, to your tutor, once a month. Our aim is to help **you** to enjoy reading the Scriptures, and we want **you** to discover the wonderful message of salvation through Jesus Christ. We **do not** provide certificates or testimonials for taking the Course, but at the end of the 40 lessons we would like to assist you to continue your Bible study.

Bible References

When a reference from the Bible is given it will be written like this:

Genesis 1 - this means the Book of Genesis, chapter 1;

or Genesis 1:1-7 - this means the Book of Genesis, chapter 1, verses 1 to 7 inclusive.

How to study the lessons

Make a practice of doing one lesson each week. We suggest that you ensure that you understand one paper before going on to the next. You may find it helpful to read each lesson **three times**. The first time, to get a general idea of what it is about; the second time,

turning up the quotations in your own Bible and making a note on a piece of paper of any difficulties or questions; and the third time reading it right through again together with the recommended reading which you will find at the beginning of each paper. Then, at the end of each lesson you will find some other useful verses to look up in your Bible, and one Scripture which we strongly urge you to **learn by heart**. You will find that these verses will remain in your memory and will be a help to you throughout your life.

With your first papers we also include a BIBLE READING PLANNER. This provides a method of reading one chapter of the Bible **every day**. If you are willing to do this you will quickly become familiar with different parts of the Bible.

(You might like to keep your Bible Reading Planner inside your Bible, for daily use.) Then there is another aid which we hope you will wish to have. After your tutor has received your answers to Question Paper No. 1, he will send you a free copy of a little book called your BIBLE READING NOTEBOOK. This contains short comments on the daily readings. It is also a useful reference book about the Bible and it has many little maps and diagrams to help you in your study.

Please note – recent editions of the Bible Reading Planner are incorporated in the Bible Reading Notebook.

Answering the Questions

We ask you to send your answers **every month** to your tutor. You should answer the questions in your own words. Do not just copy what the lessons have said. Try to say what **you** believe to be the truth. If you disagree with anything in the lessons, or have any questions, please say so. This is very important. Remember, we can help **you** much more if we know what you think. If for any reason you are not able to send the answers, then just send a note to say you are still interested and wish to continue to receive the papers.

Time well spent

Of course, studying these papers will take up some of your time - perhaps 15 minutes each day for your Bible reading and about an hour each week for studying the lesson. You will also need time to answer the question papers. But you will find that the Scriptures are so interesting that you will want to spend more and more time with them.

Read your Bible prayerfully

Begin each session of Bible reading or study with a prayer to God, asking for His help in your understanding. Here is a prayer from the Book of Psalms:

"Open Thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law" (Psalm 119:18)

If we ask Him, God will open our eyes and help us to understand His book, the Bible.

If we do not hear from you

We are sure that you will understand that there are many people around the world who wish to receive this Bible course. If we do not hear from you (for example by you sending in your completed question papers), we will assume that you no longer wish to receive the course. We will then stop sending the lessons.

If you have any difficulties in replying or sending complete question papers please contact your tutor and explain. We will then be pleased to continue to send you the course - we just need to know that the lessons are being received and are being used to assist you in your study of God's Word.

The Complete Bible Course

The following is a list of the titles of each of the 40 lessons of the course:

1. How to use this Bible Course
2. Who are the Christadelphians?

3. The Bible Our Guide
4. The Gospel

Question Paper no. 1

5. God and Creation
6. God so Loved the World
7. The Return of Jesus to the Earth
8. Signs of the Coming of Jesus

Question Paper no. 2

9. Thy Kingdom Come
10. God's View of History
11. The Kingdom of God - Peace on Earth

Question Paper no. 3

12. God's Promises to Abraham
13. The Jews in History - Part I
14. The Jews in History - Part II
15. God's Promises to David

Question Paper no. 4

16. The Father and the Son
17. The Life of Jesus
18. The Death of Jesus
19. The Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus Christ

Question Paper no. 5

20. God's Holy Spirit
21. Holy Spirit Gifts
22. Sin and its Consequences - Part I
23. Sin and its Consequences - Part II

Question Paper no. 6

24. By Grace are ye Saved
25. The Resurrection of the Dead
26. The Judgement
27. Everlasting Life

Question Paper no. 7

28. Angels
29. Devils (demons) and Satan
30. The Devil and Sin
31. Baptism

Question Paper no. 8

32. Christian Marriage
33. Problems in Marriage
34. Our Duty to the State
35. Prayer
36. Walking in Newness of Life

Question Paper no. 9

37. Daily Bible Reading
38. Fellowship with those of the Same Faith
39. A Summary of Bib/e Doctrines
40. The Next Step

Final Question Paper