



Lesson 1

Introduction Class Design/Goals

Dear Student and Fellow-Worker in the Lord,

Welcome to the “Strengthening our Roots” class. This class has been specifically designed with you in mind. This is not a horticultural class but a class based on the concept discussed by the Psalmist in the very first Psalm. God intends for us to be “firmly planted by the streams of water” so that we will not be moved by the fickle thinking of our times. Whether you are a new Christian, a “veteran” who is interested in “boning up” and learning more, or merely a curious student of the Bible, you are very important to our work at this place. It is important that each and every member of this congregation be grounded deeply in the Word of God and in the basic concepts of Christian living. As you probably realize, the primary difference between “religious” people of the world and a Christian is that with a “religious person” in the world, religion is merely a part or segment of his life. For the Christian, however, religion IS his life. Christianity is the context into which his entire life fits. Every aspect of his life is defined by his Christian approach to it. As Paul instructed in Romans 12.1, we are called to be a “living sacrifice” for the Lord’s sake. I believe every aspect of a Christian’s life must be placed in the context of what he understands the Bible to teach. And so with this lofty goal in mind, I think it is important that you understand the basic objectives of this class. God did not write the Bible just to inform us about what He has done or how He thinks. He wrote the Bible to change our lives! Everything he told us is for a reason.

These class objectives have that concept in mind:

1) II Peter 1.3-4—To believe that the scripture is all-sufficient in its ability to govern every aspect of our lives. When questions are asked they will be answered from the Word of God, the Bible. Yes, there is a place for conjecture or judgment, but we will strive to always identify it as such. You should expect to hear Bible answers to Bible questions. We should hold each other’s feet to the fire when it comes to drawing conclusions about what God wants us to think or do.

How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffer!
But his delight is in the law of the Lord,
And in His Law he meditates day and night,
And he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season,
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers.
The wicked are not so,
But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.
Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
Nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous,
For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,
But the way of the wicked will perish.

2) Hebrews 10.23-27—To encourage each other because of a mutual deep love. Your regular and consistent attendance to this class is important to you and to your classmates. You will begin to see how much we rely on each other and how much closer you will grow to those who attend this class if you are regular in

your attendance. Satan will try to keep you away. He knows how much good can be accomplished by your being present. Don’t give in to the temptation to stay home. If at all possible, don’t miss a single class period. You will be helping others as they will be able to help you.

3) I Sam. 16.6-7—To see the world through God’s eyes and not our own. With God, we are either wise or foolish, we either believe or disbelieve, we are either with Him or against Him. It is really just that black and white. We should notice such contrasts as they present themselves in this class so the choices between good and evil will become clearer. Again, if Satan can fog an issue he has nearly won the battle. If he wins enough battles on enough different fronts in our lives, he will win the war.

4) Hebrews 5.11-14—To lay foundations upon which you can build an indestructible faith. When you plant a garden, you till the soil, plant the seed, tend to the removal of weeds, and eventually enjoy the fruits of your labor. If we are continually plowing up the ground, our faith will never have an opportunity to grow.

5) John 13.12-17—To value becoming a servant over being served. Did you ever wonder who washed Jesus’ feet? No one did but everyone should have! Let’s allow this class to help us get out of ourselves and serve others. ☺ Send a “Get Well” card to a member who has been ill. It will make them and you feel better!

let’s try to:
1) **Be on time**
2) **Bring a Bible**
3) **Pray for class**

OBJECTIVES

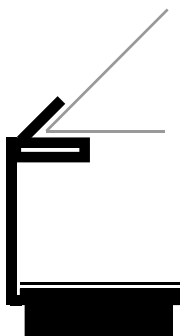
1) **II Peter 1.3-4**
ALL-SUFFICIENCY

2) **Hebrews 10.23-27**
PROVOKE TO LOVE

3) **Matthew 12.30**
SPIRITUAL EYES

4) **Hebrews 5.11-14**
PLACE ANCHORS

5) **John 13.12-17**
TO BE A SERVANT



Start a Prayer Log today for prayers made and answered.