

A COURSE FOR BUILDING QUALITY MEMBERS

CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE

CDC

2



CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT COURSE (CDC2)

A Course For Building Quality Members

(PROGRAM DURATION 20 WEEKS)



(Teacher's Copy)

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We are grateful for the past efforts led of the former National Directors of Christian Education Rev. Sophia Vanderpuye, late Rev. Vincent Lawani, and the immediate past Director, Rev. Yinka Ojumu and his team of Messrs Adeyeye Michael, Olugbuyiro Joseph and Mrs. Mercy O. Ojumu in compiling the previous manual we have been using. God blessed you all richly.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

THIS WE BELIEVE (The Articles of Faith for the Foursquare Church)

The outlines/lesson notes in this manual were born in the classroom. This manual is a product of years of consistent efforts put together in the process of teaching the Bible doctrines as stipulated in the Foursquare Declaration of Faith for membership/acceptance class. No doubt, the manual made use of various references of which our adult Sunday school curriculum (Doctrines of the Bible) was major. The manual is analytical in design and handy in use. It is therefore released for effective membership class teaching, quick understanding of the lessons and for fuller information on Bible doctrine and good membership. The Twenty-two tenets of Faith are presented in twenty-two lessons. The regular lesson presentation format is employed. Thus each lesson has the Central Truth, Study Texts, Memory verse(s), Lesson Outline, Introduction and Conclusion. Added to this format are Principles and Review Questions, This teacher's copy of THIS WE BELIEVE contains a twenty-third lesson titled "**Condition for Membership.**" This lesson contains the characteristics that the membership candidates are expected to imbibe, both before and after being accepted as members. The lessons give concise titles and sub-titles arrangement. The statement of our belief for each lesson is fully presented. The "**principle**" expresses the salient points of the lessons and the "**Review Questions**" serve to measure how much is learnt. The "**Personal Questions**" look inward and the "**Challenge Questions**" demand that further studies be undertaken. Though the lesson presentation in this manual has been made simple, this does not mean that you would not go through proper lesson preparation procedure. You would need to pray for God's leading and do your human part to be a teacher with distinction. Do not forget to make your lesson notes, since you are not permitted to teach from the manual, but from the Bible with your lesson note tucked neatly into it. You also need to attend the Workers' preview. You will need to read every Bible reference from your Bible as space do not permit us to quote every passage in the manual. As you handle this manual, strive to make the full proof of your calling as a teacher and as a follower of Christ. . May God bless you, and keep you, and make His presence and power real in your life and ministry. Amen. Yours in His glorious service,

K.O. Ayanbanjo
National Director of Christian Education



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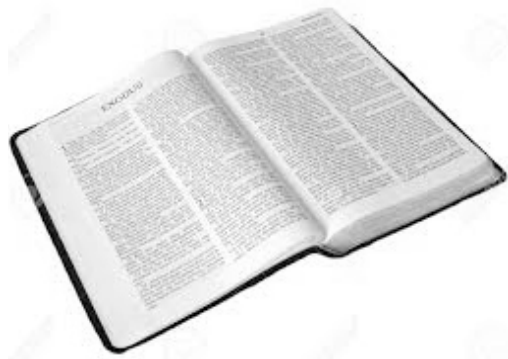
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LESSON ONE

THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

Our Belief

We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of the living God, immutable, steadfast, unchangeable, as its author, the Lord Jehovah; that it was written by holy men of old as they were moved upon and inspired by the Holy Spirit, that it is a lighted lamp to guide the feet of a lost world from the depths of sin and sorrow to the heights of righteousness and glory, an unclouded mirror that reveals the face of a crucified Saviour; a plumb line to make straight the life of each individual and community; a sharp two edged sword to convict of sin and evil doing; a strong cord of love and tenderness to draw the penitent to Jesus Christ; a balm of Gilead, inbreathed by the Holy Spirit, that can heal and quicken each drooping heart; the only true ground of Christian fellowship and unity; the loving call of an infinitely loving God; the solemn warning, the distant thunder of the storm of wrath and retribution that shall overtake the unheeding; a signpost that points to Heaven; a danger signal that warns from Hell; , the divine, supreme, and eternal tribunal by whose standards all men, nations, creeds, and motives shall be tried.



Lesson Outline

I. Facts about the Holy Scripture

II. Witness to the authority of the Holy Scripture

- The Witness of Archaeology
- The Witness of science
- The Witness of the Prophecies

- The witness of Christ
- The witness of Experiences

III. The purpose of the Bible

IV. Symbols of the Word of God

- A Sword
- A Hammer
- A Seed
- A Food
- A Fire
- A Light/Lamp
- A Mirror

V. Characteristics of the Word of God

- Unchanging
- Pure
- Eternal
- Cleanses
- Sanctifies
- Dynamic

VI. Significance of the Word of God

VII. The seven points to remember in reading the Bible

- Read lovingly
- Read respectfully
- Read prayerfully
- Read meditatively
- Read systematically
- Read resolutely, decisively, obediently
- Read daily

Central Truth: The Holy Scripture is the Word of God, which reveals the mind of God to His people.

Texts: Psalms 119:59, 89, 105; Isaiah 8:20; Matt. 24:35; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; Eph. 6:17; I Thess. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:21-17; 2 Pet. 1:19-21; Jude

Memory Verses: II Timothy 3:16-17 *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

INTRODUCTION

There are several books written across the globe on various field of studies - Philosophy, Science, art, commercial etc. but the greatest book ever written is THE BIBLE. This is because the theme and purpose of the Bible never changes; it is relevant to all ages and situations; and it reveals God to man.

The Bible is translated to several languages for easy understanding of its purpose. The Holy Scriptures from the opening chapter to the last word explains the relationship of the Holy God to the sinful man with the central theme of salvation of man

I. FACTS ABOUT THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

1. The Holy Bible is the mind of God revealed to man. (II Peter 1:20, 21)
2. Though the Holy Bible has about 40 writers, it has only one author, God. (II Tim. 3:16)
3. The Holy Scripture has two main divisions;
 - i. Old Testament (OT)
 - ii. New Testament (NT)
4. The original languages used in writing were Hebrew for the Old Testament, and Greek for the New Testament.
5. The Holy Scripture consists of 66 books: 39 in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament with a total of 1,189 chapters (929 in the Old Testament and 260 in the New Testament)
6. The longest chapter is Psalms 119, while the shortest chapter is Psalms 117. Longest verse is Esther 8:9, while the shortest verse is John 11:35

7. The central theme is the salvation of man.

8. The entire scripture is "LOGOS" while the word that addresses a specific life's need is "RHEMA"

II. THE WITNESS TO THE AUTHORITY OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

a. **The Witness of Archaeology:** The recent discoveries of the archaeologists in respect to the biblical histories confirm the truthfulness and authority of the Bible. For instance, the Ark of Noah at Mount Ararat by certain Russian Aviators. Temptation Seal, at the British Museum, "Adam and Eve" seal at University of Pennsylvania. The Dead Sea Scroll discovered in 1947.

b. **The Witness of science:** After several researches, the scientific discoveries uphold the biblical fact that the earth is spherical and not flat (Isaiah 40:22).

c. **The Witness of the Prophecies:** The fact that most of the prophecies of the Old Testament have been fulfilled, even to the very details given should cause men to be confident that the prophecies yet remaining to be fulfilled will come to pass with the same degree of surety. (Matthew 5:18) For example;

i. The prophecies about Christ's birth (Isaiah 7:14 cf. Luke 1:26, 30, 31; Micah 5:2 cf. Luke 2:4, 5, 7).

ii. The prophecies about Christ's mission (Isaiah 61:1, 2 cf. Luke 4:18, 19).

iii. The prophecies about Christ's suffering and death (Isaiah 53:1-12 cf. John 12:38-41; Rom 10:16; Matt 8:17; 27:57-60; 1 Peter 2:22-25; Luke 22:37) were all fulfilled.

iv. The prophecies of the end of time found in Matthew 24, which is coming to pass now-a-days.

d. **The witness of Christ:** Jesus Christ consistently made references to the Scriptures (Old Testament) in His teachings as divinely inspired and authoritative (John 10:35; Matt. 5:18; Luke 21:22; 24:44).

e. **The witness of Experiences:** The testimonies of those who believe and act on the promises contained in the Holy Scriptures confirm its