



**Cornerstones
of Truth**

Cornerstones of Truth

A STUDY OF BIBLE DOCTRINE

by **Floyd C. Woodworth, Jr.**
with **David D. Duncan**

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

*Developed in Cooperation With
the Global University Staff*

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First Edition 1986
Second Edition 1995
Third Edition 1997

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S3131E-90
PN 03.00.06
ISBN 978-0-7617-0726-4

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THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *Cornerstones of Truth* is Course 3 in Unit 1. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

COURSE INTRODUCTION

What is a Study of Doctrine?

What did Mahatma Gandhi, the father of modern India, believe to be the ills of the twentieth century? Why did Benito Juarez choose to separate the church from the state in the country of Mexico?

In order to find out what these and other great men taught about any subject, we would ordinarily have to read through all their works. In the case of Gandhi, this would require reading 80 books! Just think how much easier it would be for us if we could find one book that classified everything he taught by topics.

We encounter this same problem in trying to study the many subjects covered in the Bible. As you probably have discovered, the teachings in the Scriptures are not presented according to topics. For example, the book of Genesis does not give us a complete explanation of the Godhead, nor does any other one book.

A most important way to study the Bible, therefore, is to go through it to find all the teachings related to a certain topic. This helps us to see quickly the whole idea, as well as to organize the details in a logical way. It is a practical method for orienting our thinking and getting our life into line with biblical principles.

A technical name for this kind of Bible study is *systematic theology*. In this course we will follow such a plan as we search the Scriptures to see what they teach about the universe, its ruler, the subjects, and the structure God has chosen for their development. We will also discover what the Bible says about the future.

A systematic examination of what the Bible says about important issues will help us to know what we can expect from God and what He expects from us. As a result, we will grow spiritually.

Course Description

Cornerstones of Truth: A Study of Bible Doctrine is an introductory systematic study of basic Bible doctrines. Major topics include the nature of God, the acts of God, the activities and limitations of angels, the Creation, the fall of man, God's redemptive plan, the origin of Scriptures, the church, and God's ultimate plan for mankind. The course is a practical, basic study of biblical teaching and its application in the life of the believer. The great themes of the Bible are explored and supported by many Scripture references.

Course Objectives

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. List the divine and personal attributes of the members of the Godhead.
2. Describe the creation of man, the fall of man, and the solution God provided to restore man's fellowship with Him.
3. State what we can know about good and evil angels and their activities.
4. Explain the purposes and activities of the church and God's plan for its eternal future.
5. Determine to be guided in all areas of your life by a standard of faith and conduct based on biblical truth.

Textbooks

You will use *Cornerstones of Truth* by Floyd C. Woodworth, Jr., and David D. Duncan as both the textbook and study guide for this course. The Bible is the only other textbook required. Scripture quotations are from the *New International Version (NIV)*, 1978 edition, unless otherwise noted.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The

time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student report.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types

and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

1 The Bible has a total of

- a) 100 books.
- b) 66 books.
- c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

1 The Bible has a total of a

- a) 100 books.
- b) 66 books.
- c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

2 Which statements below are TRUE?

- a The Bible has a total of 120 books.
- b The Bible is a message for believers today.
- c All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
- d The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices, as you see above.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| ... ¹ | a Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ... ² | b Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ... ² | c Marched around Jericho | |
| ... ¹ | d Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study this Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

Unit Student Reports

At the end of the book you will find the Unit Student Report and Answer Sheets. Follow the directions included in the course and in the unit student reports. You should complete and send your answer sheets to your instructor for his correction and suggestions regarding your work. If you are not studying with an ICI office you will still benefit by answering the questions in the Student Report.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit student reports by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award.

Authors of the Course

Floyd C. Woodworth, Jr., has been an ordained minister since 1951. Currently he is the editor of educational materials for the Christian Training Network and professor in the Latin American Advanced School of Theology. Mr. Woodworth served in Cuba until 1963. In 1964, he became director of the Central Bible School in Colombia, South America. In 1973, he transferred to Mexico, where he was involved in the development of Christian education materials through the Program of Advanced Christian Education, now known as the Christian Training Network.

Mr. Woodworth attended Central Bible College in Springfield, Missouri, and Bethany Peniel College in Bethany, Oklahoma, where he earned the A.B. degree. He received the M.A. degree in Spanish-American literature from the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. He writes from a rich and varied experience as a Bible school teacher, pastor, and evangelist. His teaching on a cross-cultural basis lends a special character and insight to his writing.

David Duncan has been a missionary since 1968. He served as teacher and principal of Calvary Bible Institute, Majuro, Marshall Islands, for eight years, has taught at Continental Bible College in Brussels, Belgium, and served as manager of manuscript preparation at ICI University from 1980 through 1983. He holds both a B.A. and an M.A. degree from California State University-Fullerton. He has also completed course requirements for the doctor of ministry degree at the California Graduate School of Theology.

Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit

student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *Cornerstones of Truth*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

Unit 1

The Sovereign God

