

Sunday Seminars

Tips for learning what the Bible has to say.

G. Edwin Lint

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The author of Sunday Seminars, G. Edwin Lint,

1. Ten Basic Rules for Bible Study

2 Timothy 2:15

1. Accept the Divine Inspiration of Scripture (2 Tim. 3:16)

God has had his hand on each phase of the delivery of His word into your hand:

Original composition

Hand-copying for hundreds of years

Translation into your language

Printing

2. Ask For the Guidance of the Holy Spirit As You Study

The most intelligent and highly-educated people in the world can find the scriptures to be foolishness without the help of the Holy Spirit.

3. Choose a Version for Personal Study Which You Can Understand

The New International Version is the most popular modern-language translation.

The Living Bible by Dr. Kenneth N. Taylor is the most popular modern-language paraphrase.

The King James Version sounds the best when used in public worship and ceremonies. (Personal opinion.)

If you do use the King James Version for personal study, learn the meanings of the more frequently-used archaic terms.

4. Memorize the Biblical Outline of the Plan Of Salvation

A] In the beginning God created human beings for fellowship and worship. Gen. 1:27.

B] Adam and Eve broke their relationship with God through disobedience and the penalty was death. Gen. 2:17; 3:6-8.

C] God had mercy and for hundreds of years He was willing to accept the death of an animal as the penalty for sin. Lev. 4:4.

D] Then God sent His only Son, Jesus Christ, as the supreme sacrifice for our sin. John 1:29.

E] Now the only way back to the fellowship with God for which we were originally created is to personally accept the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. John 14:6.

5. Learn the Chronological Sequence of the Bible's Story Line

Bible dates are taken from I, Frank R. Klassen, Regal Publishers, Nashville, 1975.

Dates up to the birth of Christ are BC

April 1, 3975	Adam is created as the first human being.
2319	Noah survives the flood in the ark
April 15, 1892	Abraham enters the Promised Land of Canaan as the father of God's chosen people.
1677	Jacob (later known as Israel) and his 12 sons migrate to Egypt to escape a famine and be with Joseph.
April 15, 1462	Moses leads the exodus out of Egypt.
1422	Joshua leads the children of Israel back to the promised land of Canaan after an absence of 255 years.
1061	Saul becomes the first king of Israel.
945	The kingdom is divided after Solomon's death. Judah with 2 tribes is known as the Southern Kingdom. Israel with 10 tribes is known as the Northern Kingdom.
721	Israel is destroyed and scattered by Assyria.
586	Babylon completes the captivity of Judah.
458	The wall of Jerusalem is rebuilt and Ezra restores proper temple worship.
April 1, 5	Jesus Christ is born
AD-- Anno Domino (year of our Lord)	
April 15, 29	Jesus Christ dies on the cross.
June 5, 29	The Holy Spirit is given on the day of Pentecost.
48	The Council of Jerusalem decides gentile Christians do not have to live according to the law of Moses.
48--57	Paul's three missionary trips.

6. Study the Context of All Quotations and Incidents

Who said it or who did it?

Why was it said or done?

When did it take place?

Where did it take place?

7. Look for the Pattern

As a general rule, doctrine is not based on one incident or reference. Doctrine is part of a pattern.

8. Ignore What Isn't Taught

The Bible doesn't tell us everything we want to know, only what we need to know. Remember: "We'll understand it better by and by."

9. Accept the Supreme Authority of The Bible

The teaching of the Bible takes priority over all other writing. Many doctrines and philosophies appear in commentaries and devotional books which are not in harmony with the teachings of the Bible. The Bible always has the final word. In addition, examine Biblical fiction, art, and music very carefully. Many gifted people do not follow the scriptures in the midst of their creative flow.

10. Learn the Difference between What Is Reported and What Is Commanded

The Bible is extremely valuable as a history book. However, not all incidents which are reported can be accepted as a basis for doctrine. For example, snake handling is reported but it is not commanded.

Food For Thought

The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years by 39 different authors using three different languages, yet it has never been proven wrong. The Bible has never been in proven conflict with scientific fact in such areas as history, medicine, astrology, and archeology. It never will be.

2. Normal Is Better Than Average

Romans 12:1-2

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1. **Average behavior: Doing what most of the people do most of the time.**
2. **Normal behavior: Living according to the teachings of the Bible.**

God is our manufacturer. The Bible is our operator's manual.

Living according to the value system of the Bible is the normal, natural, logical way to live.

3. **Frequency may make a non-Biblical action average but never normal.**
4. **Living within the Biblical "prohibitions" is perfectly normal.**

A certain prohibition isn't wrong because the Bible says it's wrong. The Bible says it's wrong because it is wrong.

Normal (biblical) living is sound practice from a psychological, physiological, financial, and sociological point of view.

5. **Even though never practiced, certain sins can appear "normalized" to the born-again Christian through exposure to --**

Humor. Dirty jokes always get a laugh. TV situation comedy scripts built around a suggestive theme are usually very popular.

Music. Things are sung about today which weren't talked about in mixed company 50 years ago.

Drama. The soap operas are a living catalog of all the sociological abnormalities known to the human race, to say nothing of sinful practices.

Fiction. Four-letter words are off the toilet wall and into the best-sellers.

Advertising. The bright and the beautiful are seen doing all the abnormal things in the most attractive environments.

6. **The born-again Christian must remain sensitized to the abnormality of sin.**

3 What the Bible Says About Speaking in Unlearned Languages

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Acts 2:1-11, 1 Corinthians 14

In the Bible, speaking in unlearned languages is reported but never commanded and it is never forbidden.

This is a scriptural fact.

The practice of speaking in unlearned languages originates from the day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came to earth that day. Acts 2:1-11.

There was the sound of a rushing mighty wind. V. 2.

Flames of fire appeared above the heads of the 120 assembled. V. 3.

And, they were given the ability to speak in Aramaic while out-of-towners heard them speak in the visitors' native tongue.

This ability to speak Aramaic in a way that everyone could understand it had a specific purpose that day.

Jerusalem was filled with travelers from other countries who were there for the Feast of Pentecost. V. 9-10.

God wanted all these people to hear about Him in their own languages. V. 11.

However, the 120 Galileans were speaking Aramaic, and not in unknown languages or a mysterious heavenly language.

The out-of-towners were amazed and said, in Verse 8, "each of us hears them in his own native language."

Today, we would get the same effect in the General Assembly of the United Nations when the simultaneous translators speak into the 6-channel public address system in the six basic languages of the UN.

The official languages of the UN for all written and spoken communication are:

Arabic,

Chinese (Mandarin), English,

French,

Russian,

Spanish (Castilian).

Many modern Evangelicals lose sight of the fact that the purpose of the language miracle on the Day of Pentecost was to spread the good news about the power and blessing that came with the gift of the Holy Spirit to every segment of Judaism present in Jerusalem that day. This was long before instant communication that would come with radio, TV and the Internet. The primary means of spreading any news, good or bad, was "word of mouth."

When those visitors got back home from their trip to Jerusalem, they told everyone who would listen about the miracle of them hearing Aramaic coming out of the Galileans' mouths and them being able to hear it in their native language. Now that is a miracle!

By the time the church at Corinth was organized, Paul was having trouble with certain Christians who took pride in being able to "speak in unlearned languages". Already, they had forgotten that the miracle was in the hearing and not the speaking. This problem caused him to write what we now know as 1 Corinthians 14.

In this chapter, we learn the following facts:

Paul ranks the gift of prophecy (spiritual instruction) above the ability to speak in unlearned languages. V. 1-6.

Paul could speak in many languages, perhaps because he had studied them. But, he said that 5 words in a known language are worth more than 10,000 words in unknown languages. V. 18-19.

Unlearned languages should not be spoken in church at all unless someone is available to translate into a known language. What would be the point? V. 27-28.

Praying or singing in unlearned languages is also not useful. V. 14-15.

Speaking in unlearned languages was useful at Pentecost. However, if it is done in church, unbelievers will think it is crazy. V. 22-25.

It is wrong to forbid someone else to speak in unlearned languages. V. 39. We must assume, however, the rules for worship given here will be obeyed.

All parts of a worship service should make sense to everyone who attends. V. 40.

The real language miracle on the Day of Pentecost was in the *hearing* and not in the *speaking*.

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4. Where Do Dinosaurs Fit?

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Need more information?

Biblical Evidence for Long Creation Days

By Hugh Ross, Ph.D.

[Old earth theory]

In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood

Walt Brown Ph.D.

[New earth theory]

Biblical Evidence for Long Creation Days

In the Beginning: Compelling Evidence for Creation and the Flood

Genesis 1:1-19

The purpose of this seminar is to help parents of school-age children provide scriptural guidance to balance the non-Biblical approach of some science teachers and textbook publishers.

We Believe --

God created everything, both organic and inorganic. We may not know how or when He did it but we believe He did do it.

God exists in the eternal present. For God, there is no future and no past, only the eternal present. There was never a time when God was not and there will never be a time when He will not be.

We know --

Our time is measured by the time it takes the earth to rotate on its axis with the sun as the reference point. One complete revolution is one day.

God did not create our sun until the fourth day of creation. Gen. 1:14-18.

The study of archeology and geology indicates there may have been some sort of cataclysmic catastrophe in the history of the earth.

Within The Biblical Account of Creation, We Can Theorize That--

The "days" of the creation sequence were not 24-hour days as we know them now. Since time only exists for man and not for God, He would not have been bound by a sequence of six 24-hour days. Some of God's "days" could have been trillions of years long. This is especially true of the first 3 creation days, before the earth's timekeepers were created. Frank R. Klassen believes the human race is no more than 6,000 years old. (Chronology of the Bible, Regal Publishers, Nashville, 1975.) However, an unlimited amount of time could have expired before the creation of man, during the first 5 creation days. This might be called the "long day" theory.

Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." However, the next verse says, "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep." It doesn't seem logical that God would have created something empty, shapeless, and dark. Therefore, we can imagine a gap or indefinite period of time between Verse 1 and Verse 2. A "cataclysmic catastrophe" might have occurred during this gap. One theory indicates the war of the angels (Rev. 12) took place during this period. This gap could also explain fossils of prehistoric animals and the time it takes to form coal, oil, and precious stones.

Above everything else we must believe that God created everything in His own good time. He has the power to have done it in 144 hours or 144 trillion years. Nothing happened by accident or without His creative force to guide the process. We may never know how, when, or why. We only need to know one word. God.

5. The Job Description Of The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit Is Spiritual Electricity

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The third Person of the Trinity is God, the Holy Spirit. When Jesus died and went to Heaven, He sent back His Holy Spirit to serve humans by providing us with three kinds of power:

Power to Know: help us understand the Bible and what it teaches about God and Jesus Christ.

Power to Do: perform the will of God in our lives and share the truth with others.

Power to Survive: help us resist the evil power of Satan and his demons.

The Holy Spirit is really the Ghost of Jesus. In fact, the King James Version of the Bible calls Him just that: the Holy Ghost

There are numerous power companies but they all distribute electricity. And there are numerous churches but if they have any supernatural power, it is of the Holy Spirit.

Some churches are Wesleyan in doctrine and believe that we are filled with the Holy Spirit after we are saved, in a second, definite, instantaneous work of grace known as entire sanctification.

Some churches have a Pentecostal background and believe we are filled with the Holy Spirit when we are baptized in the Spirit, sometimes with the evidence of speaking in unlearned languages as the Spirit gives us utterance.

Some churches are Calvinist in doctrine and believe that we are filled with the Holy Spirit at the point we are saved, in a single work of grace.

One thing applies in every case: we must be filled with the Holy Spirit. If we aren't, we have no source of power.

Electricity may be flowing all around us in the walls of a home or other building. This electric power can bring wonderful appliances to life in our hands, but only if we plug in to a receptacle and bring the electric power into contact with the computer, lamp, or tool we hope to use.

The Importance of self-defense

During the days of piracy on the high seas, pirate ships would steer close to a victim vessel so the marauders could swing over onto the deck from the rigging. When the

defending captain saw the pirate ship drawing close, he called the command, "Prepare to repel boarders!" When we see Satan and his demons trying to board our vessel, we, too, need to prepare to repel boarders. Change that TV channel; leave the movie theater; close that book or magazine; close your eyes until the danger passes.

The objective of God and the forces of good is salvation of the souls of all humans who will accept His Son as their personal sin sacrifice. However, the objective of Satan and his demons is damnation of the souls of all humans in Hell forever. This conflict of objectives results in spiritual warfare. The latter portion of the sixth chapter of Ephesians describes this spiritual warfare in the hand-to-hand combat language of the first century. In fact, the term "stand" which appears several times in this chapter is an ancient military command. When given on the battlefield, the command "stand" meant to form a hollow square with the backs of the soldiers facing the inside of the square and the weapons facing out towards the enemy.

The night before Jesus died,

He shared many important things with His disciples. During this time of sharing, He told them about the Holy Spirit, referred to as the "Comforter" in the King James Version. This is how He outlined the job description of the Holy Spirit as they walked from the Upper Room to the Garden of Gethsemane:

*** * * * ***

After His death and resurrection, the time came for Jesus to go back up into heaven. Just before He ascended, Jesus said this to His disciples:

Acts 1:8. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses . .

There are several different interpretations of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The scriptures outlined here represent a summary of what Jesus Christ, Himself, said about the Holy Spirit.

John 14:16 Permanent companionship.

John 14:26 Instruction.

John 15:26 Confirmation of Jesus' teachings.

John 16:7-8 Conviction of sin.

John 16:13 Revelation of truth.

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6. Christ in the Parent-Child Relationship

Eph. 6:1-4 Mutual Expectations

V. 1: A parent has the God-given right to expect obedience.

V. 2: A parent has the God-given right to expect honor.

V. 4: A child has the right to expect fair and rational treatment.

Proverbs 22:6: A child has the right to expect spiritual training.

Proverbs 13:24: A child has the right to expect a combination of physical discipline with physical love.

A parent should expect tearful protestations in the face of discipline,

The meaning of the Biblical word *rod*. The use of the word "rod" in Proverbs refers to corporal discipline as described below. Do not assume that you are encouraged to beat your children with a stick! However, do not assume, either, that the meaning of rod is always pastoral, as in *Thy rod and thy staff they comfort me*.

What Is Corporal Discipline? The word "corporal" pertains to the body. Therefore, corporal discipline is inflicting temporary discomfort to the body. There are many other forms of discipline which parents may use, such as behavior modification, restrictions, or time out, that do not involve discomfort to the body.

Abuse versus corporal discipline.

Please note that we are talking about temporary discomfort, usually to the buttocks. If your corporal discipline is leaving marks on the body which are still visible after thirty minutes, you may be involved in physical abuse, not corporal discipline. As a general rule, limit your corporal punishment to your bare hand. The use of such traditional instruments of discipline as a belt or a yard stick may make it too easy to cross over from discipline to abuse. Never strike a child in the head or face. The normal target is the buttocks. The implement of discipline is the open palm. Avoid pulling hair, pinching, or shaking. In fact, excessive shaking can cause permanent injury to a small child. This type of injury to the brain and central nervous system is known as *shaken child syndrome*.

Balance physical love and corporal discipline on the basis of a ratio of ten to one. For every smack, there should be ten hugs, along with prayer and corrective counseling. If this much hugging and counseling becomes impractical, it may be time to look for another form of discipline. By the way, I am opposed to teachers using corporal discipline in school for this very reason. What teacher is going to hug ten times for every smack?

The purpose of any discipline. The purpose of discipline is to improve behavior, for the safety and long-term well being of the child. In addition, a child who comes to accept discipline from loving parents will be more likely to accept it from a loving God, also.

Corporal Discipline Limitations. There are a few No-No's to observe when using corporal discipline:

Never spank while in the heat of anger.

There are two important reasons for this restriction:

- a) You may be tempted to cross over from discipline to abuse; and
- b), you may not be in a proper frame of mind to provide sincere hugging and counseling.

Never spank to impress others. As a general rule, these situations come up when other children and adults are involved. For example, you and your four-year-old are visiting Mrs. Clutter whose house is jam-packed with all kinds of breakable knickknacks. While walking sedately [for a four-year-old] through the living room, Johnny trips over the leg of an end table and the table goes down with a crash of broken glass. You will be tempted to spank Johnny to impress Mrs. Clutter; don't. Counsel Johnny. Offer to make restitution to Mrs. Clutter. But don't spank. This was an accident that you might have made as well.

Never spank because of accidents that could not be prevented even if due care was taken. These kinds of accidents may occur in your own house as well as Mrs. Clutter's. The kitchen and dining room are likely locations. Spills at the table come to mind.



Is corporal discipline working? If it's not, perhaps you should try other techniques
There is a philosophical difference between discipline and punishment. The purpose of discipline is to improve future behavior. The purpose of punishment is to provide a negative reward for past behavior. Try to think in terms of discipline and not punishment.

To be able to control your children in your home, you must:

Establish rules and limits. Your children may act like they don't want limits but many humans thrive in a controlled environment. Make sure they know and understand the rules of the home.

Enforce established rules and limits. Don't make empty threats. You may say, "The next time you run in the house, you will sit in the time-out chair 2

minutes." **But if you say it, make sure you do it. Count on one thing: you will be tested..**

Understand and be able to use the basic principles of such behavioral techniques as contingency contracting, positive reinforcement, behavior shaping, and delayed reinforcement.

Behavior Modification

Contingency contracting: A contingency contract is based on an if/then statement. The classic contingency contract exists between an employer or employees. **If you do the things listed in your job description, Then I will give you a pay check or even a bonus..**

For younger children, contracts are always verbal. For older children, they may be written. Here are some sample family contingency contracts:

IF you will be quiet during family worship, THEN you may have a snack.

IF you don't pull puppy's tail, THEN you may take him outside to play.

IF you memorize 10 of the 13 original colonies, THEN I will give you a new puzzle.

Positive reinforcement: This involves the process of rewarding positive behavior while ignoring negative behavior. Of course, you never wait for positive reinforcement when dealing with dangerous, or immoral behavior. Use more instant interventions.

Behavior shaping: Sometimes a child cannot meet your rules and standards. Therefore, you must accept, and reinforce his/her ability to perform/conform on a graduating scale. Use this technique in connection with positive reinforcement. Harry is a new student in the community who has never been to Cub Scouts before. At first, you might reinforce him for not disturbing others while he is out of his seat. Later, you reinforce him for being in his seat even though he is not attending to what you are doing. Over successive sessions, you can gradually increase the requirements for reinforcement until he performs on the same level as the other students.

Delayed reinforcement (token economy): A token economy is based on delayed reinforcement. Again, the employee/employer relationship provides an example. When an employee comes to work and performs the tasks listed in the job description, the reinforcement comes at the end of the pay period in the form of a pay check or envelope. When working with younger students, instead of using edibles (Fruit Loops) for immediate reinforcement, use tokens for delayed reinforcement. You can make tokens out of small squares of colored construction paper. These tokens may then be exchanged for prizes or privileges.

Time out: You will find the need for a time out area where students can go whose negative behavior cannot be tolerated. This may be a corner of the room (a time-honored tradition) or a chair. Keep time out periods short. You might use an egg timer to keep track of the time. You may need different time-out areas for different children. Use the rule of thumb: one minute for each year of age. Of course, in the adult world, the ultimate time out is prison.

There must be consistency among all adults in a child's life if behavior modification is to be effective.

In order for behavior techniques to be effective, your program must be consistent across all care-giving adults. This includes parents and baby-sitters. Behavioral techniques have less chance of working if all adults involved are not using the same reinforcement procedures. This is especially true for students with serious behavior problems. Involved adults must confer on the various techniques which will be used. These discussions must include things such as: what we use as reinforcers, what is the reinforcement schedule, how shall we word the contingency contract, on and on.

The child has the right to expect that the parent will not give in to the crying,

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7. Christ in The Employer-Employee Relationship

Ephesians 6:5-9

Most adults have experienced the role of an employee. Many know what it's like to be an employer or "boss". The Apostle Paul has some very practical advice for persons in both categories.

In fact, his advice is so practical that organized labor as we know it today would never have come into existence if our society had followed Paul's instructions.

Employees Should--

- V. 5. Obey all orders *which are not dangerous, immoral, or illegal).**
- V. 5. Put in a good day's work even when no one is watching.**
- V. 7. Show a Christ-like attitude on the job.**
- V. 8. Remember that some rewards for doing a good job may come from the Lord and not the employer.**

Employers Should--

- V. 9. Treat employees as they wish to be treated by employees.**
- V. 9. Not threaten employees without just cause.**

Standard management practice for employee discipline follows this sequence:

**verbal warning,
written reprimand,
suspension without pay, and
dismissal.**

V. 9: Remember that both employers and employees are ultimately accountable to God.

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8. The Care and Feeding Of Baby Christians

John 3:3-7, 1 Peter 2:2

If you are born again, you are in the Family of God where:

God is your Father.

Jesus Christ is your Elder Brother.

All other born-again believers are your brothers and sisters in Christ.

And the church is your mother.

If you recently accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, you are a Baby Christian.

During your spiritual infancy:

You are in a group with a high mortality rate. Satan will do his best to cause your spiritual death because he knows how weak and vulnerable you are.

You will need special food at frequent intervals. Peter calls this special food the "milk of the Word". 1 Peter 2:2.

You will need lots of tender loving care from your mother and your brothers and sisters. You get TLC automatically from your Father and your Elder Brother, if you want it.

You will need spiritual discipline. As babies grow older they make mistakes and get into trouble. Your mother will have to be very careful in providing the right type and amount of discipline. Your Father will love you very much but He will discipline you, also--when you need it.

You will need lots of instruction. Sunday school, Bible studies, and worship services will provide you with many valuable learning experiences.

You will learn to have fun with your spiritual family. Being a baby Christian isn't all discipline and learning. There will be many chances for social interaction with your new brothers and sisters. One simple way to get to know your family a little better is to hang around after church and talk to people. You'll soon find yourself a part of the social life of the church.

For more information, read: [First Steps for Baby Christians.](#)

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9. Why Did The Christmas Angels Sing About Peace?

Luke 2:13-14; Romans 5:1

The night Jesus was born, the heavenly angels sang, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men." Luke 2:14.

Since that night we have had very little political or military peace in the world.

Did the angels sing the wrong song? Why did they sing about peace if there was to be no lasting peace in the world?

Answer: The peace the angels sang about is peace with God. Romans 5:1

In the beginning, God made us for fellowship and worship.

However, sin broke that relationship and when the angels sang the first carol, man was not at peace with God.

*** So, Jesus was born to be the ultimate sin sacrifice for the whole world and this would make it possible for true peace to exist between God and man**

*** The angels did sing the right song.**

The angels sang the right song for another reason. Peace with God will bring political and military peace, also.

*** What would happen if everyone in Ireland would be at peace with God through Jesus Christ? Or, if all the inhabitants in Israel and the Arab countries were at peace with God?**

When two people are at peace with God, they will be at peace with each other!

Some Christmas Meditation Moments

May be read or recorded during a live service or radio broadcast

41 Born in a Barn

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about why Jesus had to be born in a barn.

Did you ever wonder why God couldn't have found a nicer place for Mary to give birth to Jesus that first Christmas Eve? A barn is such a dirty, smelly place -- for any baby to born, let alone, the Prince of Peace.

But think about it. Why did Jesus come to Earth in the first place? He was born to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the World. What better place for a lamb to be born --than in a barn

42 Born to Die

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about why Jesus was born.

He wasn't born to heal all the world's diseases, although He certainly could do that. He wasn't born just to perform all the wonderful miracles which are recorded in scripture. He was born with one primary objective -- to die.

In God's plan for our salvation, established in the beginning of time, the only solution to the problem of sin would be sacrifice, the shedding of blood. And not human sacrifice, either. God sent His own Son to die for our sins so we won't have to die for our sins.

That's what all the hullabaloo at the end of December is really all about. God had just rolled out His plan of Salvation. He had just launched the ultimate solution to sin.

43 Date of Christmas

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about the date Jesus was born.

In his book, A Chronology of the Bible, Frank Klassen says He thinks Jesus was born sometime around Passover -- in the Spring.

No matter though. What is really important is the specific time when you accepted Jesus as your personal sin sacrifice. Is there a definite time, and place, when you said, "Jesus, I accept you as my personal sin sacrifice, and my coming King? That date is far more important for you than the calendar date Jesus was born.

44 ELS and Christmas

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about the name of Jesus throughout the Old Testament.

During the past few years, a lot of folks have been talking about the miracle of Equidistant Letter Sequences -- ELS for short -- in the original Hebrew text of the Old Testament. When God dictated the Old Testament to Moses and the other writers, He did so in such a way that key words and messages are spelled out in the Hebrew letters. When God wanted to use the Hebrew name for Jesus, Yeshua, He did so spacing the letters the same distance apart. The first letter of Yeshua appears in Genesis one-one. The second letter appears 253 letters after that, the third letter 253 letters after that, and so on.

The Hebrew name for Jesus -- Yeshua --not only appears in Genesis one-one but is repeated throughout the entire Old Testament, through Malachi. In the sections we call the Messianic prophecies, we find the phrase, *Yeshua is my Name*. This is such a miracle that computer scientists and mathematicians agree that it could not have happened by chance. Even with today's most powerful computers, ELS would be impossible for mere humans to duplicate.

When the Angel told Mary "His name is called Jesus," he was only reporting what had already been decided when God wrote the first word of Genesis.

\45 How Many Wise Men

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about how many wise men visited Jesus bearing gifts.

To tell the truth, the Bible doesn't say how many wise men visited Jesus. Three gifts are named: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And, all the pictures I've even seen show three men on camels. But the Bible doesn't say how many there were.

Maybe there's a reason why the number is unknown. There is no limit to the number of persons -- wise or otherwise -- who can worship the King of Kings at any one time.

So, forget about how many wise men there were. Just make sure you're one of them.

46 Innkeeper

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about the Bethlehem innkeeper the night Jesus was born.

Although the innkeeper is talked about in songs and stories about the birth of Jesus, he isn't mentioned in the Bible at all. The Bible just says, "There was no room in the inn." Maybe that means, "There was no *appropriate* place in the inn."

Bethlehem was in the midst of a mandated Roman census the night Jesus was born. I'd like to think the innkeeper was a kindly man, who gave Mary the quiet privacy of the stable, rather than the public upstairs sleeping quarters above the bar. If Jesus had been born in such a place, Mary and Joseph would most likely have been separated during the birth.

However it happened, God had his hand on the entire operation and planned it all, right down to the fact that the first evangelists --who were humble shepherds --would have easy access to a nursery in a stable.

47 Keep Christ in Christmas

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about the importance of keeping Christ in Christmas.

I'm going to be honest with you. I don't like to hear the term X-Mas at Christmas time. I know, I know --X is the Greek letter for the C-H sound. But when I think how God coded the name, Yeshua, in the original Hebrew from Genesis to Malachi while he was dictating the Old Testament, I can't believe He is pleased to hear X instead of Christ.

So, let's keep Christ in Christmas, and drop the X!

48 Santa Claus and the Baby Jesus

This is _____ and during this Meditation Moment, let's talk about making room for Santa Claus and the Baby Jesus at Christmas time.

My kids were raised in a Christian home and there were dedicated to the Lord as infants by the pastor of our church. But they still wrote letters to Santa Claus, sat on his lap to have their pictures taken at the mall, and hung their stockings on the mantle Christmas Eve.

However, we never told them Santa really landed on the roof in a sleigh pulled by 8 reindeer, and brought presents down the chimney Christmas Eve. For them, Santa was always make-believe, just like so many other things in a child's life.

But there is a supernatural story at Christmas time: When a baby was born in a Bethlehem stable. shepherds heard about it from a choir of angels, and wise men followed a miraculous star right up to His front door.

You see, parents, if you wait till your kids get older to tell them Santa is only make believe --what are you going to say about the other supernatural part of the Christmas story?

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10. Born-Again Arbitration Instead of Litigation

Believers should not sue each other in lawsuits brought by lawyers in front of judges and juries. Arbitration should be used.

The Apostle Paul had litigation problems in the Church at Corinth. In Chapter 6 of his first letter to them, he said,

1CO 6:1 If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? 2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? 3 Do you not know that we will judge angels? How much more the things of this life! 4 Therefore, if you have disputes about such matters, appoint as judges even men of little account in the church! 5 I say this to shame you. Is it possible that there is nobody among you wise enough to judge a dispute between believers? 6 But instead, one brother goes to law against another--and this in front of unbelievers!

Let's look at what Paul was really saying here within the context of life in the 21st century.

- **V. 1:** It is inevitable that believers will have differences of opinions among themselves. However, these differences should never become formal litigation involving lawyers, courts, and judges where persons that are not believers may become involved, even as spectators.
- **V.2-4:** Following the Rapture, believers with their glorified bodies will be given great authority in the cosmos [Earth and Heaven combined.] Such judgments will be of far greater significance than any differences among believers we will see in this life. On some occasions, we may be called upon to settle disputes among angels.
- **V. 4:** However, Paul doesn't suggest that believers with disputes are just to grin and bear it. Instead he introduces the concept of *born-again arbitration*. Selected believers are to be assigned the job of settling disputes within the cloister of the church, without resorting to formal and public litigation. While such ad hoc judges are not given the rank of apostles, pastors, or teachers, as seen in Eph. 4:11, their Christian service does serve a useful and valuable purpose.

There is no evidence that Paul is talking about matters that should be handled through the criminal justice system. Paul, himself, took full advantage of the Roman courts when the situation justified it.

For more information see

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The author of Sunday Seminars, G. Edwin Lint,

The Author of *Sunday Seminars*, G. Edwin Lint

He has a broad knowledge base and extensive training, and experience. His formal education includes Bachelor of Science in Bible and Bachelor of Theology degrees from the Allentown, Pennsylvania campus of Houghton College; Master of Arts in educational supervision and administration from Rowan University in Glassboro, New Jersey.



He has 36 years of professional education experience with state certification as:

- elementary teacher
- elementary supervisor
- supervisor of curriculum and instruction
- elementary principal
- special education teacher
- supervisor of special education.

His professional experience includes 2 years as elementary teacher at Cedarville, NJ, 8 years as teacher, supervisor of special education, and director of education at the Vineland [NJ] State School, 10 years as Assistant superintendent for Rehabilitation Services, and unit manager at the Laurelton [PA] State School, and 15 years as Special Education Adviser for the Pennsylvania Department of Education in Harrisburg.

Throughout his secular career, he has remained active in Christian service in a variety of capacities:

- Sunday school teacher
- Sunday school superintendent
- teacher trainer
- director of Christian education
- choir member, choir director
- orchestra member (playing trumpet and tuba)
- member and manager of a regional Gospel singing group
- owner of a Gospel music store
- representative for the Pennsylvania Council on Alcohol Problems
- interim and supply pastor.

For over 37 years he has worked as a part-time Gospel DJ. In 1971, he earned an FCC Third Class License with Broadcast Endorsement by passing the written examination. During 1973-1997 he produced and hosted a Gospel music radio program: *Gospel Caravan*. His program was on Internet radio via streaming audio 2000 through 2009.

Ed Lint claims that his most important credential is "a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. I have accepted Jesus Christ as my sin sacrifice. He is my Lamb of God and coming King. The Holy Spirit fills me. He gives me power to live a successful Christian life and protects me from Satan and his demons."

He retired in 1994 and has been an educational consultant and primary author of [DiskBooks Electronic Publishing](#).