

# **FOUNDATIONS FOR DISCIPLESHIP**

## ***Systematic Theology Course***

**Dr. William E. Bell**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This comprehensive course on the Doctrines of the Scriptures represents a complete study necessary for building a secure Biblical foundation into your life as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Foundations For Discipleship Course consists of nine volumes, each of which is subdivided into twelve 45-minute audio units. Each unit is accompanied and supplemented by a downloadable study guide.

Listen carefully to each audio message, and follow along in the printed material. Make notes on your printed study guide as needed, to help you grasp and retain the material. This will become your own personal notebook and can be used in training others. When needed, replay sections that you did not grasp the first time. It may be that the information is entirely new to you and needs to be run past you again, or perhaps you find that your mind wandered a bit. The great advantage of digital material over a live lecture is this flexibility of time, place and replay capabilities.

The normal pace is one unit per week with the entire course taking two years to complete. The pace may be accelerated cautiously if you desire, but should be kept modest enough so not to hinder comprehension. Ideally, the course would be done in a small-group setting where each participant works through a specific unit on a given weekend. The Bible study group would then meet during the week to listen to that weeks audio unit again together accompanied by a time of sharing notes, discussion and prayer together.

### **Doctrinal Statement**

- The Bible alone and the Bible in its entirety is the Word of God written and is thus inerrant in the original manuscripts.
- There is only one true God, and He exists eternally in three persons - Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- Jesus Christ is God the Son incarnate, born of a virgin, and sinless. He died a substitutionary, sacrificial death for man's sin, was raised bodily from the tomb, ascended bodily into heaven, and will return bodily in glory to this earth.
- Salvation is entirely by grace through faith in Jesus Christ, apart from any human merit.
- The Christian life is substantially as taught in Volume 1, Units 5-6 of the organization's training material, and I do not subscribe to nor do I participate in any of the "distortions" therein discussed.
- The local church is at the very heart of God's program for this age, and I am an active, participating member of such an assembly.

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# **Introduction – The Great Commission**

## *Volume 1 - Unit 1*

### **I. The Great Commission**

**Matthew 28:18-20** – “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen.”

**Mark 16:15** – “And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.”

**Acts 1:8** – “But ye shall receive power when the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

### **II. World Statistics – 2002 Population: 6.3 Billion**

#### **World Religious Populations**

Roman Catholics	1,057,328,093
Independents	385,745,407
Protestants	342,001,605
Orthodox	215,128,717
Anglicans	79,649,642
Jews	14,434,039
Muslims	1,188,242,789
Hindus	811,336,265
Chinese folk-religionists	384,806,732
Buddhists	359,981,757
Ethno-religionists	228,366,515
Atheists	150,089,508
New-Religionists	102,356,297
Sikhs	23,258,412
Spiritists	12,333,735
Baha'is	7,106,420
Confucianists	6,298,597
Jains	4,217,979
Shintoists	2,761,845
Taoists	2,654,514
Zoroastrians	2,543,950
Mandaeans	38,977

<http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/clock2.html>