

Introduction to Africans teaching Africans (ATA) March 13, 2017

**The most important thing to learn from our teaching is:
All we know about God is found in the Bible. Don't believe anything you are taught or hear about God unless you find it in the Bible. Don't say or teach anything about God unless you find it in the Bible.**

History or His Story

I. Introduction

1. A Journey through History and into the future—the Bible is God's Story. Look at how God controls everything.
2. Our big Problem—Man's complete ruin in sin
3. God's solution—God's perfect remedy in Christ
4. How do we respond as Christians? How do we live? It is much easier to talk about being a Christian and much harder to actually live as a Christian. We are to show by our actions that we actually belong to Jesus.
5. The Bible is going to be our history book; it is our only guide, It contains all we know about God and it is complete. **Revelations 22:18-19.** I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book.
 - A. Bible is inerrant (without error) and authoritative, the very word of God. Be faithful to the Bible. We will look at a lot of scripture.
 - B. We will spend time in the Old Testament studying God telling about man's big problem. We will study how God begins immediately to solve the problem.
 - C. We will talk about God's solution to our big problem sin; Jesus is the solution.
 - D. Next we will talk about what to expect when we become Christians and how to live lives pleasing to Christ. How to know you are a Christian.
 - E. Talk about false teachers. **Don't believe anything you are taught or hear about God unless you find it in the Bible. Don't teach anything about God unless you find it in the Bible.**
6. We will spend a lot of time in the Old Testament. Why O.T.? The Bible is a complete book and we can't understand it with only the New Testament. For example, we can't fully understand our need for Jesus without the Old Testament. We see that the doctrines of the Bible begin in the Old Testament and these thoughts are continued in the New Testament. For

example, we see a lot of teaching in Isaiah about the sovereignty of God and we see this again in Romans—much of Romans is found in Isaiah. Jesus studied and used O.T. scriptures. We learn much about Jesus from the O.T. for example:

Psalms 22:1-18 A Psalm of David.

What is being described here? Matthew 27:46 graphic description

A. This is clearly a picture of Jesus on the cross a thousand years in the future. Here are some more examples of prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament.

Isaiah 42:1-9 or 52:13-53:1-12 or Zechariah 9:9.

The OT gives us a lot of detail about Jesus, and why we need Him.

7. All history is controlled by God **Isaiah 45:7**.

8. Redemption is the key subject of the OT, actually the whole Bible. The Bible in the OT continually points forward to Jesus Christ and redemption -**Psalms 22, Isaiah 7:14**.

A. Every passage in the Bible is to be taught with the idea that Jesus and His saving work is the focus of the Bible. The OT points forward and the NT points us back to Jesus Christ; all history and His Story is about Jesus. We can say that while not all Scripture is the gospel, all Scripture is related to the gospel. *Every teaching and sermon should look to and mention Jesus*

9. The OT is God's voice to us today **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

A. *The Bible is alive. Hebrews 4:12. It is important to get a person to study the Bible.*

II. Let's look at the OT the beginning of history.

1. **Genesis 1:1** In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. This is obvious so why discuss? Even churches are believing the big bang theory as well as the theory of evolution.

2. **Genesis 1:31** His creation was good, it was like heaven –perfect—no sin

3. **Genesis 3:1-7**

This is a really big event!!! We now have sin in the world! All the troubles of the world come from this one sin.

4. God's reaction to sin= always punishment= sometimes immediately and sometimes delayed. **Genesis 3:16-19, 23-24**.

5. God always punishes sin.

A. A Christian's punishment is here on earth but not after he dies. Often the punishment here on earth is that God withholds a blessing He had intended for you. Deuteronomy 32:51-52 reports that Moses was not allowed to enter the Promised Land because of his sin at Meribah.

B. The non believer is punished both here on earth and after he dies he is punished forever.

6. Sin changes everything. A few scriptures about sin

i.. **Romans 3:23** "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God"

ii. **Romans 6:23** "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

III. Sin and its effect on man

1. Sin rules over unredeemed man, sin abounds and man is unable to resist sin.
 - A. Unconverted man will always choose sin- he is unable to choose to do good—it is only by the power of God that we can ever want to do good.
 - B. Jeremiah 17:9. Men have a sick and evil heart.

2. Examples of man's sinfulness and inability to do good from the Bible. And God's corresponding punishment
 - A. **Genesis 4:8** First human children reported; one is a murderer. Cain kills Able. **Genesis 4:8**. Punishment- **Genesis 4:11-12** Continue story of man's sin and hopelessness to reach God after the initial sin—*Noah, tower of Babel, Sodom and Gomorrah, etc.*
 - B. **Exodus 32:4** reports the sin; **Exodus 32:27-28** reports the punishment

This is idol worship and we see how the people rebelled against God who redeemed them out of slavery.

- C. **2 Samuel 11**. Story of David and Bathsheba—adultery and murder- tell story. Punishment **2 Sam 12:1-14**. David is confronted with his sin and he repents. *Even though David repented, God still punished him.*

- D. Solomon sins after we have promise of God **2 Chronicles 1:7-12**.
 - i. Solomon's sin. **1 Kings 11:9-10**. *Solomon chased great wealth, foreign wives and other gods*
 - ii Solomon's punishment **1 Kings 11:11** *Last time for a united kingdom*

- E. *Manasseh* was the son of Hezekiah, a very godly king. **2 Kings 21:1-6** reports sin of Manasseh and we see punishment in **2 Kings 21:10-15**
 - i. Later Manasseh repented 2Ch 33:10-13 and God delayed his punishment until a later time.

There are many more examples. God is a God of justice and always punishes man's sin.

3. OT is a continual story of man's continual sin and his hopelessness to be able to be reconciled to God after Adam's original sin.
 - A. Noah, tower of Babel and Sodom and Gomorrah for example.

4. Man has no hope in himself.—law, Ten Commandments- If man perfectly obeyed God's law, he would be justified, but no man except Jesus was able to perfectly obey the law.

5. **Judges 21:25** In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes. *400 year of Judges=Israel's dark ages*

6. Period of the Kings
 - A King Saul, **1 Samuel 15:11** "I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments."

- B. King David
- C. King Solomon
- D. All the kings of Israel
- E. Kings of Judah many were evil

7. Prophets—they foretold (told the future) and they forth told (explained what the Bible is saying). There were many and some wrote books. Some were mentioned in different books, many are only mentioned in passing with no name, probably many were never mentioned.
1 Kings 20:13.

A. God sent these prophets to warn the people and call them to obey God. *Isaiah's message*

8. Babylonian judgment, then return after 70 years of exile **Ezra 9:1-2**

9. Babylonian judgment of 70 years was followed by restoration. The people continued to disobey God. And so, the OT history closes with a warning and a promise. **Malachi 4:1-2**

Summary of OT. Perfect creation* man's complete ruination in sin* man unable to live in a way pleasing to God*God gave man many chances to redeem himself *God is a God of judgment, but God has a plan –redemption.

IV. Fortunately, God is also a God of love and mercy **John 3:16-17**

1. His plan of redemption is revealed as soon as man sinned. Grace is immediately extended—for example, man is not killed on the spot.

Grace=God's unmerited favor to us another attribute of God.

A. God did not wait for man to cry out for help; He came to Adam **Genesis 3:8-9**

2. First promise of redemption is right after first sin. **Genesis 3:15** looks forward to the cross. God loved man so much that He-God pursued man so He could begin to reestablish His relationship with man. *Just as He did in the garden, Jesus so desires our reconciliation & relationship that He willingly comes down to our level and pursues us.*

3. God has always planned for man's redemption—**Ephesians 1:4**

4. God begins to reveal His plans in Gen 12. Abraham and chosen people **Genesis 12:1-3**
 Good memory verses. God makes a promise or covenant to Abraham. God promises great blessings to Abraham and to Abraham's descendants. **THIS IS CALLED THE Abrahamic covenant.**

A. God seals or makes official this covenant in Genesis 15.

5. A covenant is a promise from God. A covenant has three parts:

i. First, these covenants come only from God to man. Covenants totally depend on God, and God will make sure the covenants are kept.

ii. Second, they are forever and can't be changed. They are eternal.

iii. Third, covenants are based on God's grace alone. God gives them to us at no cost and He gives them to people who have done nothing to deserve them.

6. The Mosaic Covenant was made between God and the nation of Israel and can be found in Exodus 19-24 and Deuteronomy 5:6-22. This covenant is often referred to as The Law

7. Davidic covenant is found in 2 Samuel 7:10-13. This is an unconditional covenant made between God and David through which God promises David and Israel that the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would come from the lineage of David and the tribe of Judah and would establish a kingdom that would endure forever.

Again –a Summary of OT. Man is hopeless—sin leads to condemnation—a savior is needed. All this is from the Old Testament—teach the whole Bible.

New Testament

God reveals His perfect plan and our Messiah is born. Here we read reports about the life of Jesus Christ, how we are saved and also how to live as Christians. This testament also looks at the future.

I. Some basic facts about Salvation-- Why am I covering such basic material?

1. You must teach your people and you must continually examine yourself according to 2 Corinthians 13:5. A most frightening passage Matthew 7:21-23

2. Time is short to accept salvation--Isaiah 55:6 -7 "*Accept Christ before it is too late (death or second coming).*

3. Explain these verses—make sure of your salvation because many in our churches think they are OK, but they aren't and will be surprised at judgment.

4. We are saved by God's work alone. **Isaiah 44: 22 and Ephesians 2:8-9**

5. Why we are saved. **Isaiah 43:25**

A. #1 reason—for God's own purpose

B. #2 reason--God's love Romans **5:8**

6. Salvation is not deserved

A. It is by God's sovereign choice. God chooses who He will save. **Isaiah 44:1-2** *God chose Jacob over Esau even in the womb.* **Genesis 25:23 / Romans 9:13**

B. Consider Abraham—his life—idol worshipper, coward,

He was called God's friend. **James 2:23.** God can save and use anyone even Apostle Paul or even me or you *no one is too bad too be saved.*

II. How to be saved- scripture examples

1. **Romans 10 verses 9-13**

2. **We are saved by faith alone—not works. Ephesians 2:8-9.** *We don't share God's glory.*

A. **This passage proves we do no work to be saved. Luke 23:39-43.**

3. This is so basic why are we going to discuss it?

A. Many passages of the Bible indicate that we should study further.

4. The question is asked. Is there any such thing as having faith and not being saved?

A. Are there two types of people?

i. Clearly unsaved and also those who have faith which does not save.

ii. Clearly saved and doing good works and those who are carnal Christians

5. The Bible raises some questions that we need to consider.

A. James 2:14. What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? James 2:17-18 So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

B. Even the Demons believe. James 2:19. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe--and shudder!

C. Herod believed but historical faith was not enough. Acts 26:27-28.

D. What about verses like Matt 7:13-14, Philippians 2:12 & 2 Peter 1:10?

6. True Saving Faith produces:

A. Repentance You must repent of your sins.—confession—contrition—change—mentioned 35 times in the Bible—Acts 2:38, Matthew 3:2, Mark 1:15 & Luke 13:3. Define repentance—*confession-contrition-this repentance must be from the heart. You must hate your sin.*

B. Love/Obedience John 3:36, Luke 6:46 & 1 John 2:3-4

C. Service Gal 5:13 & Luke 14:26 & 2 Corinthians 8:5 & 1 Peter 4:10 & Rom 12:11

D. Do you believe and trust in Jesus alone? John 14:6

7. Review

A. A person can be saved, instantly die and instantly go to heaven. A person who lives after coming to faith must examine himself to verify that he has saving faith.

III. How do you know that you are saved? The marks of a Christian either warn you or reassure you. *Remember Matthew 7:21-23 warning, Matthew 13: 24-30*

This is very important teaching. Fortunately we can be reassured or warned by the following:

1. Promise of scripture.

A. **John 3:36**

B. **Romans 10:10** *Don't discount promises of scripture*

2. Repent—you have to repent--daily *—been to cross today?*

3. Do you love—**obey** God? **Deuteronomy 6:4.** Mark 12 also.

A. How do we love God? **John 14:15**

B. Obedience is key to loving God—not just emotions. Obedience is why I am here as your teacher. **Isaiah 6:8** tells us that we are to say yes when called by God.

4. Do you love the Word? Do you know it? Do you study it? **Psalms 119:11, Psalms 119:105**

A. Have we agreed that we must love God by obeying Him? How do you obey God—must know Him

The Bible is the most sold book most unused—kept under pillow, don't just store it use it to search out Bible truths.

5. Do you serve God? **James 2:14-18**

A. "I will pray for you" a most repeated meaningless promise if not included with action.
Need action=clothe and feed person who is hurting

6. Do you believe in Jesus alone? John 14:6 *All ways do not lead to God although many Christians think this.*

A. A Christian is one who puts his faith and trust in Jesus Christ. Christianity is an exclusive religion. Christ alone

B. Superstition- don't believe them—do you have any?

C. Witch doctor –Church Sunday morning and witch doctor Sunday afternoon. This does not work.

7. Are you a changed person?—develop fruits of the spirit. **Galatians 5:22-23**
A Christian should be able to identify changes

8. Our goal should be to pursue righteousness **2 Peter 1:5-7**

9. A Christian's life shows evidence of his new status. **2 Corinthians 5:17.**

A. Can you identify change in your life?

10. Humility Luke **1:52**

A. Bible example: *Apostle Paul 2 Corinthians 12:7-9* The thorn helped keep Paul humble. Who is to be lifted up? Only Jesus

B. We must have the attitude of John the Baptist. **John 1:27**

11. Have a good testimony. Are people attracted to Jesus by the way you live or are they repelled?

A. How do you treat your wife? Ephesians 5:22-24 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. and Verses 25-31--Husbands love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.

"Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. *Beat my wife?--never*

B. Don't be a drunk. 1Corinthians 5:11

C. Be industrious. **John 9:4, 2 Thessalonians 3:11-12**

D. Be truthful, not a liar. Zechariah 8:16, **Colossians 3:9** *lying is so bad*

12. Prayer—**2 Corinthians 1:11, Ephesians 6:18, Colossians 4:2** *Do you spend much time in prayer? Very important*

13. Do you love your fellow Christian? 1 John: 4:7 and rest of chapter, also John 13:35.

14. Do you love worship? Psalm 122:1 and Heb. 10:25.

There are other marks of being a Christian, but are these warnings to you or are they reassurance?

IV. What to expect as a Christian.

1. Health, wealth, and prosperity?? Can this be found in scripture?

A. Looking at church in Uganda do we see a rich prosperous church or do we see many Christians living difficult lives? Prosperity has ruined much of the western church—entertainment in church.

i. This teaching is to warn you to be prepared like at a doctor's office. You know it is possible that the doctor will cause you some pain (like injection).

2. Suffering is a main part of NT teaching.--Expect trials, troubles, and suffering **1 Peter 4:12-16**.

3. Expect persecution. **2 Timothy 3:12** *Persecuted church today-pray for it—be willing to join it. Early church was built on persecution.*

4. Rejoice in suffering and struggles. **James 1:2** is a *very hard verse—hard to obey*.

5. Suffering is beneficial for the church.

A. Suffering produces deeper faith, and honors God **1Peter 1:6-7**

B. Produces strength--**1Peter 5:10**

C. Example of God-- Christ suffered on the cross—example: *nobody has ever suffered as much as Jesus.*

D. A Warning. Some use suffering as an excuse to turn away from God. **1Thessalonians 3:5** *Be a mature Christian and you will grow closer to God during times of trouble. Weak Christians fall away.*

E. Intimacy with God –makes us able to enjoy God more intimately and clearly. **James 1:12**

F. Suffering is evidence of Kingdom work going forth.

G. Hebrews 12 teaches that sometimes suffering is to discipline us.

Heb 12:5-6 *If God does not discipline your open sin then maybe you don't belong to him.*

6. Continuing what to expect as a Christian--changed attitude toward money and possessions & people **Act 2:45**

7. We are not alone in the battle. We can expect help Acts 1:8 Helper=Holy Spirit

8. God uses the prayers of others to help us persevere to deepen our faith **2Corinthians 1:11**

V. **False Teachers.** This is another major teaching in the NT & OT, another area of warning from scripture. *We have many false teachers among us.*

1. **Deuteronomy 13:1-5** tells us what to do to a false teacher. We know if a teacher is teaching the truth by comparing his teaching with the Bible.

2. **2 Peter 2:1-3**

3. Modern examples of false teaching--this is only a partial list

A. Baptism saves or works, some denominations teach these.

B. Health, welfare and prosperity

C. Cults such as Jehovah's Witness teach that Jesus is not Lord; there is no hell and other false teachings.

D. Another cult--Mormons

E. Faith healers for money

F. Doubting basic doctrines of the church such as the virgin birth. Believing that all ways lead to God, abortion is all right and ordaining Homosexuals

Study 2 John 2:10-11 for how we teach false teachers when we meet them.

VI. Final notes

1. Teach the Bible--preach scripture. Only teach what the Bible teaches and nothing else.

2. Don't teach your own opinion unless you back up your comments with scripture. *In this case you are not teaching your own opinion rather you are teaching scripture.*

A. Don't teach you prejudices.

B. Bible does not say "God helps those who help themselves"

3. Read the Bible and pray daily. Read to understand properly.

4. Use the Bible as your personal guide and also your church's guide for worship.

A. The Bible can teach you and your church a lot about worship for example:

i. Praise God see Psalm 22:22-23

B. Bible teaches us to evangelize and disciple others. Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:8 & Isaiah 6:8

Future promise—Jesus is coming back again and you better have your heart right

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