

Churches in America Study Guide

Churches in America is an online *DeafPah!* course that helps prepare church members to serve in their congregation's ministry. Your instructor is Rev. Dennis Konkel.

You may download the video lessons and this study guide for free from deafjesus.org.

The required textbook for this course is *Churches in America*, by Thomas Tanteufel; 1994, Concordia Publishing House.

The videos were originally prepared as VHS tapes for the Deaf Institute of Theology.

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Lesson # 1 – Introduction

Watch video # 1

Read pages 7-9 in *Churches in America* by Thomas Tanteufel

1. Do you know of other church deaf groups in your area? Circle: Yes No

2. Which ones are interpreted? _____

3. Which ones are deaf worship? _____

In your meeting with your mentor, tell your mentor about various religions, and tell how they are different from each other.

Lesson # 2 – Why is the Church Divided?

Watch video # 2

Read pages 9-11 in *Churches in America* (“*Why We Should Deplore Divisions*” – “*The Teaching Task of the Church of Christ*”)

1. Read John 17:20-23 and Ephesians 4:4-6. What do these verses say that is Christ’s plan for His body, the church?

2. The visible Christian church on earth is divided. How and why did that happen?

Lesson # 3 – The Church in Ancient Times

Watch video # 3

Read pages 12 – 13 (first column) in *Churches in America*

1. The church that has only true believers in Jesus Christ is... (check one)

___ the Visible Church

___ the Invisible Church

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2. The church that has both true Christians and false Christians is (circle one)
___ the Visible Church
___ the Invisible Church

3. The three Christian creeds that answer false teaching are:
 - (a) The _____ Creed
 - (b) The _____ Creed
 - (c) The _____ Creed

4. Ask your mentor to show you the translation of these three creeds that he uses in worship. Please read those three creeds carefully. **Which one of these creeds does your church use most often?**

Lesson # 4 – Churches Split

Watch video # 4

Read pages 13 (right column) – 16 in *Churches in America*

1. In the year 1054 the church divided in the “the Great Schism.”
 - (a) The church in the **east** was called: _____
 - (b) The church in the **west** was called: _____

2. What was the **political** reason for this division? _____

3. **Theological** division: The Eastern Church and the Western Church have different words in the Nicene Creed.
 - (a) *“I believe in the Holy Spirit....who proceeds from the Father and the Son,”*
(Check one) ___ Western Church ___ Eastern Church

 - (b) *“I believe in the Holy Spirit....who proceeds from the Father.”*
(Check one) ___ Western Church ___ Eastern Church

4. In the year 1517 who complained against the Roman Catholic Church because the church sold forgiveness of sins for money?

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5. Name 4 churches that started in the Old World (Europe).
(a) Lutheran (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____
6. Name 4 churches that started in the New World (America).
(a) Mormon (b) _____
(c) _____ (d) _____

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 17 of the book.

Lesson # 5 – The Lutheran Church

Watch video # 5

Read pages 19 in *Churches in America*

1. How did the Lutheran Church begin? _____

2. The word “**Evangelical**” means (check one)
___ We believe that we are saved by grace through faith alone, not by our own works.
___ Tell people about Jesus.
2. The word “**Evangelism**” means (check one)
___ We believe that we are saved by grace through faith alone, not by our own works.
___ Tell people about Jesus.

Lesson # 6 – The Confessional Principle

Watch video # 6

Read pages 20-21 in *Churches in America* (“*Statements of the Lutheran Heritage*” introduction, “*The Confessional Principle*” & “*Source of Doctrine*”)

What is the difference between The Confessions and “We confess our sins?”

1. The Confessions _____

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2. "We confess our sins" _____

3. Which sentence describes the **confessional principle**? (check one)
- ___ The Lutheran Confessions accurately explain important doctrines in the Bible and the Confessions fully agree with the Bible.
- ___ Lutheran Pastors promise to support those parts of the Confessions that they agree with.
- ___ The Lutheran Confessions are God's Word inspired by Holy Spirit, equal to the Bible.

Lesson # 7 – The Lutheran Confessions

Watch video # 7

Review again pages 20-21 in *Churches in America* ("The Ecumenical Creeds" – "The Formula of Concord")

1. The Lutheran Confessions all together are called:
"The Book of _____"
2. The first documents in the Lutheran Confessions are the three Christian creeds:
- (a) The _____ Creed
- (b) The _____ Creed
- (c) The _____ Creed
3. Next is first important Lutheran confession ("AC")

2. What is the difference between Luther's Small Catechism and Luther's Large Catechism?
- (a) Small Catechism _____
- (b) Large Catechism _____

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3. The Small Catechism teaches six important topics. *(If you have a copy of Luther's Small Catechism, find those six topics and list them here. If you don't have a copy, you can download Luther's Small Catechism for free from the internet.)*

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____
- (f) _____

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the meaning of the word "Apology" the title of one of the Lutheran Confessions.

Lesson # 8 – Lutheran Doctrines (Part 1)

Watch video # 8

Read page 22 in *Churches in America (Lutheran Doctrines: "God," "Man," "The Savior")*

- 1. We believe in how many Gods? _____
- 2. We believe that God is how many persons? _____
- 3. Who died to save us? (Circle one)
 The Father The Son The Holy Spirit
- 4. Who makes faith in us to trust our Savior? (Circle one)
 The Father The Son The Holy Spirit
- 5. The Bible says that God made people like Him ("in His image;" Genesis 1:27).
What does that mean?

- 6. Jesus Christ is... (check one)
 ___ True God
 ___ True Man

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___ BOTH True God and True Man

7. Jesus Christ is our Savior because... (check one)
- ___ He taught us how to love our neighbor.
 - ___ He gives us wisdom and strength to be good enough to please God.
 - ___ He offered His life to forgive all of our sins.
 - ___ He knows that we are not as bad as some other people.

Lesson # 9 – Lutheran Doctrines (part 2)

Watch video # 9

Read pages 22-23 in *Churches in America* (“Justification” – “The Christian Life”)

1. What does **justification** mean? _____

2. God says that we are righteous (right with Him), why? _____

3. How do people get faith in God? _____

4. As God’s children, we have power to do good things, how? _____

Lesson # 10 – Lutheran Doctrines (part 3)

Watch video # 10

Read pages 23-24 in *Churches in America* (“The Means of Grace” and “The Church”)

1. What does the word **means** in the “Means of Grace” mean? _____

2. What are the “Means of Grace?”
(a) _____

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- (b) _____
(c) _____

3. The Means of Grace give us (what?) _____

4. The Church is... (check one)
- a building
 - a meeting for worship
 - people who believe in Jesus Christ

NOTE: The word "Church" in this lesson is the "Invisible Church" that you studied in Lesson 3.

Lesson # 11 – Lutheran Doctrines (Part 4)

Watch video # 11

Read page 24 in *Churches in America* ("Election" – "Lutheran Worship")

1. Does God want (desire) people to go to hell? (yes or no) _____
2. Some people trust Jesus; they are saved and they will go to heaven. Who is responsible for that? (Check one)
- Those people themselves are responsible.
 - God alone is responsible.
 - God and those people are both responsible.
3. Some people don't trust Jesus; they are lost. If they die in their unbelief, they will go to hell. Who is responsible for that? (Check one)
- Those people themselves are responsible.
 - God alone is responsible.
 - God and those people are both responsible.
4. When Jesus comes again... (check one)
- He will come secretly; only believers will see Him.

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___ all people will see Him, both believers and unbelievers.

5. Jesus comes again... (check one)

___ only once.

___ several times.

6. When Jesus comes again... (check one)

___ only believers will be raise from the dead.

___ all people will be raised from the dead.

7. In the final judgment

(a) what will happen to believers? _____

(b) what will happen to unbelievers? _____

8. Lutheran worship emphasizes... (check one)

___ our work for God.

___ God's work for us.

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 25 of the book.

Lesson # 12 – The Eastern Orthodox Church

Watch video # 12

Read page 27 in *Churches in America* (“Eastern Orthodox”)

1. What does the word **orthodox** mean? _____

2. The Eastern Orthodox Church started when it split from what other church?

3. There are two large branches of the the Eastern Orthodox church in the America. Each branch is called by the name of another nation or language. They are:

(a) _____ Orthodox Church

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(b) _____ Orthodox Church

Lesson # 13 – Eastern Orthodox Doctrine

Watch video # 13

Read pages 27-28 in *Churches in America* (“*Source of Doctrine*” – “*Way of Salvation*”)

1 The Eastern Orthodox church has two sources of doctrine:

(a) _____

(b) _____

2. Eastern Orthodox Bibles add a section that Lutherans and most other Protestant Christians do not accept as God’s Holy Word. That added section is called (what?)

3. The Eastern Orthodox Church teaches that... (check one)

___ we work to go to heaven.

___ God’s works alone bring us to heaven.

___ we can help God and work with God to go to heaven.

4. Lutherans believe that... (check one)

___ we work to go to heaven.

___ God’s works alone bring us to heaven.

___ we can help God and work with God to go to heaven.

Lesson # 14 – Eastern Orthodox Sacraments & the True Church

Watch video # 14

Read pages 28-29 in *Churches in America* (“*The Sacraments*” – “*...Worship*”)

1. The Orthodox Church has (how many?) _____ sacraments.

2. Lutherans have (how many?) _____ sacraments.

3. The Orthodox Church has three parts to baptism:

(a) _____

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- (b) _____
(c) _____

4. The Orthodox Church believes that they are the only true church on earth. Why?

Lesson # 15 – Roman Catholicism

Watch video # 15

Read pages 30-31 in *Churches in America* (“Roman Catholicism” – “Way of Salvation”)

Catholic [Capital “C”] is the Roman Catholic church group.

catholic [small “c”] means “universal.” In ASL we sign “all church believe same together.” This is the “invisible” true body of Christ (See lesson 3).

1. The headquarters for the Roman Catholic Church is (where?) _____
2. The head of the the Roman Catholic Church is (who?) _____
3. The Roman Catholic Church has three sources of doctrine:
- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

Lesson # 16 – The Roman Catholic Way of Salvation

Watch video # 16

Read pages 31-32 in *Churches in America*

1. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that... (check one)
- ___ we work to go to heaven.
- ___ Christ sacrifice alone pays for all of our sins and brings us to heaven.
- ___ Christ’s forgiveness plus our good works pays our way to heaven.

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2. The Lutheran Church teaches that... (check one)
- we work to go to heaven.
- Christ sacrifice alone pays for all of our sins and brings us to heaven.
- Christ's forgiveness plus our good works pays our way to heaven.
3. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that the *first* step toward salvation is (what?)
- _____
4. Both Catholics and Lutherans teach, "We are saved by grace." But...
- (a) Lutherans teach that **GRACE** means what? _____
- _____
- (b) Catholics teach that **GRACE** means what? _____
- _____

Lesson # 17 – Roman Catholic Doctrine of the Church

Watch video # 17

Read page 33 in *Churches in America* ("The Church")

Here are various doctrines. Check which teachings are **Roman Catholic** and which teachings are **Lutheran**.

CATHOLIC	DOCTRINE	LUTHERAN
	1. A Christian congregation (local church) can call and ordain it's minister.	✓
	2. A minister of the church must receive his ordination from a bishop.	
	3. The only true Christian church has people who believe in Jesus Christ and obey the church's bishops and Pope.	
	4. A true Christian church is any group of Christian people who believe in Jesus, teach the Bible correctly, and serve the sacraments.	

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Lesson # 18 – Roman Catholic Sacraments; Praying to Saints

Watch video # 18

Read pages 33-34 in *Churches in America* (“*The Sacraments*” – “*Veneration of Saints*”)

1. The Roman Catholic Church has (how many) _____ sacraments

2. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that their sacraments give people what?

3. The Roman Catholic Church teaches which sacrament removes original sin?

4. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that their sacrament of **confirmation** gives what?

5. The Roman Catholic Church teaches what happens in the **Eucharist** (the Mass; Lord’s Supper)? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Catholic teaching:
 The bread and wine only represent (symbolize) the body and blood of Jesus.
 The bread and wine change to become Jesus’ body and blood, and they don’t stay bread and wine any more.
 The priest (minister) offers Jesus body and blood back to God as a new sacrifice for our sins.

6. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that we do two different kinds of sins. Explain what these mean:
(a) Mortal sin _____
(b) Venial sin _____

6. The Roman Catholic Church teaches what must we do what to remove guilt for sins?

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7. The Roman Catholic Church teaches that who is the only person that can officiate a wedding?

8. Explain the difference between the Lutheran and Catholic beliefs about **saints**.

(a) Lutherans teach that *saints* are who? _____

(b) Catholics teach that *saints* are who? _____

9. The Bible says that we must worship only God and pray only to Him through Jesus Christ. But Roman Catholics also pray to whom?

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 35 of the book.

Lesson # 19 – Calvinist Churches

Watch video # 19

Read page 37-38 in *Churches in America*

(The introduction, "Statements..." and "Doctrines of the Calvinist Heritage")

1. Reformed churches follow the teaching of who? _____

2. Name some **denominations** (churches) that follow Calvinist teachings.

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3. Name some of the **confessions** that explain Calvinist teachings.

Lesson # 20 – Calvinist Doctrine (Part 1)

Watch video # 20

Read page 38 (“*Salvation by Grace*”) and page 41 (“*TULIP*”) in *Churches in America*

Here are various doctrines. Check which teachings are **Calvinist** and which teachings are **Lutheran**. If Calvinists and Lutherans agree about a teaching, check both sides.

CALVINIST	DOCTRINE	LUTHERAN
✓	1. The Bible is the true Word of God.	✓
	2. God is Three-in-One (the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit)	
	3. We are born as sinners, completely lost. We can do nothing to save ourselves.	
	4. Only God’s grace saves us.	
	5. Grace and faith are God’s free gifts.	
	6. We can’t work to earn our salvation.	
	7. God chooses people for salvation; He gives them grace and faith.	
	8. God chooses people for punishment in hell; God does not give them grace or faith.	
	9. God wants ALL people to be saved; God’s grace is free for everyone.	
	10. If a person is saved, only God is responsible for that.	
	11. If a person is lost, only God is responsible for that.	

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CALVINIST	DOCTRINE	LUTHERAN
	12. If a person is lost, only that person is himself responsible for that.	
	13. Jesus died for all people.	
	14. Jesus died only for people that God already chose to save.	
	15. If you believe, God gave you that faith. But God does not force you to believe. You can reject His grace.	
	16. You can't stop God's grace. If God chose to save you, you can't reject faith.	
	17. If you believe in Jesus, you can never lose your faith.	
	18. If you believe in Jesus now, you can later decide to reject Him and will will become lost again.	

When you meet with your mentor, discuss what the Calvinist five points of TULIP mean. Also discuss which points agree with the Bible and which points disagree.

Lesson # 21 – Calvinist Doctrine (Part 2)

Watch video # 21

Read page 40 in *Churches in America* (“The Application of Grace” & “Christ”)

Check which teaching is **Calvinist** and which teaching is **Lutheran**.

CALVINIST	DOCTRINE	LUTHERAN
	1. God gives people faith directly through the Holy Spirit. God's Word (the Bible), Baptism, and the Lord's Supper only encourage people to grow in grace, but those means have no power to give God's grace.	
	2. God gives people faith and forgiveness only through the Gospel, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper	

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3. Calvinists teach that Jesus' true body and blood are NOT in the Lord's Supper, why?

4. Lutherans teach that Jesus' true body and blood REALLY ARE in the Lord's Supper, why?

Lesson # 22 – Calvinist Doctrine (Part 3); Church Structure

Watch video # 22

Read page 40 ("*The Law*") and pages 42-43 ("*Congregationalism*")

1. Calvinists teach that the Law of God does what for our justification (salvation)?

Churches have two kinds of structure or government:

Hierarchical churches have high-level pastors called bishops, arch-bishops, and others. Those high-level officers set rules, policies, and doctrine for the whole denomination and they control pastors and churches below them.

Congregational church members control their own business, they choose their own pastors, and they decide their own rules, policies, and doctrine.

2. Congregationalist churches that settled in America first followed which church teaching? (Check one)

Lutheran

Eastern Orthodox

Roman Catholic

Calvinist

3. Over time congregationalist churches became more... (check one)

loose (liberal)

strict (conservative)

When you meet with your mentor, discuss the government or structure of various Christian denominations in America and Europe.

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Lesson # 23 - The Episcopal Church

Watch video # 23

Read pages 43 – 44 in *Churches in America*

1. Who established (started) the Church of England? _____

Your book does not explain the reason this person broke away from the Roman Catholic Church. You can research that question on your own. Tell your mentor what you know about the history of the Church of England.

2. What is the name of the Church of England in the United States?

3. Church bodies around the world that are part of the Church of England are called “The _____ Communion.”

4. Episcopal and Anglican churches unite on four points in their confession of faith:

(a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

(d) _____

5. Various Episcopal churches can be “High,” “Low,” or “Broad.” Explain what that means:

(a) High Church _____

(b) Low Church _____

(c) Broad Church _____

6. Your church is... (circle one) High. Low. Broad.

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 44 of the book.

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Lesson # 24 – Arminian Churches

Watch video # 24

Read page 45 (left column) in *Churches in America* (“Arminian Churches” introduction)

1. Who is the started Arminian doctrine? _____
...in what country? _____

2. Calvinists, Arminians, and Lutherans disagree about several doctrines. Describe those differences:
 - (a) Human Free Will (*Do people have their own power to believe or reject the Gospel?*)
Calvinists teach _____

Arminians teach _____

Lutherans teach _____

 - (c) Predestination (*Did God already decide which people He will save and which people He will condemn to hell?*)
Calvinists teach _____

Arminians teach _____

Lutherans teach _____

 - (d) Limited vs. Unlimited Atonement (*Did Jesus die for just a few people? ...or all people?*)
Calvinists teach _____

Arminians teach _____

Lutherans teach _____

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(e) Eternal Security (*Can Christian believers lose their salvation?*)

Calvinists teach _____

Arminians teach _____

Lutherans teach _____

Lesson # 25 - Methodist Churches

Watch video # 25

Read pages 45 – 46 in *Churches in America* (“*The Methodists*” & “*Statements...*”)

1. Who started the Methodist Church? _____
...in what country? _____
2. Circle one: Yes No The Methodists are very strict about the doctrine their pastors teach and what the people believe.

Lesson # 26 – Methodist Doctrine & Church Structure

Watch video # 26

Read page 46 in *Churches in America* (“*Free Will*” – “*Church Government*”)

1. Methodist teaching about their Means of Grace (God’s Word, Baptism, the Lord’s Supper, Prayer) agree with.... (circle one)

Calvinists	Lutherans
------------	-----------
2. Circle one: Yes No Methodists believe that we can do our own good works that help us get eternal life.
3. Yes No Methodists teach that in the Lord’s Supper, Jesus gives us His true body and blood.
4. Yes No John Wesley taught that Christians should become so holy that they don’t do any more sins.

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5. Methodist teach... (check one)

___ the true church must have bishops for managing the church.

___ the church does not need to have bishops; having bishops is only a human custom.

Lesson # 27 – The Salvation Army

Watch video # 27

Read pages 46 – 47 in *Churches in America* (“*The Salvation Army*”)

1. Who started the the Salvation Army? _____
...in what country? _____

2. The doctrines of the Salvation Army are similar to.... (circle one)

Lutherans Methodists Catholics

3. Circle one: Yes No The Salvation Army teaches that Christians should become so holy that they don't do any more sins.

4. Yes No The Salvation Army teaches that the Lord's Supper is an important part of their worship.

5. What are some good things that the Salvation Army does for our community?

Lesson # 28 – Holiness & Perfectionistic Churches

Watch video # 28 / 29

Read page 47 in *Churches in America* (“*The Holiness Movement*”)

The word “Perfectionistic” comes from the word “perfect.”

1. What is the largest perfectionist church? _____
Note: This church is identified in the book, but not in the video.

2. Circle one: Yes No Holiness church teaching about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is similar to Lutheran teaching about baptism.

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- | | | |
|----|----------|--|
| 3. | Yes No | Perfectionistic churches teach that the Holy Spirit makes Christians so holy that they don't do any more sins. |
| 4. | Yes No | Many perfectionist churches believe that Jesus promised that we can all be healed of sickness if we have enough faith. |

Lesson # 29 – Pentecostal Churches

Read pages 47 – 48 in *Churches in America* (“*The Full Gospel...Pentecostal Churches*”)

1. What is the largest Pentecostal church in the world? _____
2. What are the four teachings of the Pentecostal “full gospel”?
 - (a) _____
 - (b) _____
 - (c) _____
 - (d) _____
3. The Full Gospel and Pentecostal churches teaches what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Pentecostal teaching:
___ (a) Speaking in tongues is the true proof you are saved.
___ (b) Some people are not healed from sickness because they do not have enough faith.
___ (c) Jesus will come again to set up His kingdom on earth for 1000 years.
4. A Pentecostal friend tells you, “You must experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues to be truly Spirit filled.” What do you answer?

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 48 of the book.

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Lesson # 30 – Mennonites

Watch video # 30

Read page 49 in *Churches in America*

1. Who started the Mennonite Church? _____
2. What is the name of the strict group that broke away from the Mennonites?

3. Mennonites refuse to baptize (who?) _____
4. Circle one: Yes No Mennonites and Amish teach we must have faith +
experience + good works for God to save us.

Lesson # 31 – Quakers

Watch video # 31

Read page 50 in *Churches in America* (“Nonconformity” & “The Quakers”)

1. Amish and Mennonites teach “**nonconformity**.” That means what?

2. Circle one: Yes No Mennonites do not get involved in civil government or
military service.
3. Another name for Quakers is “Society of _____.”
4. Quakers teach that we must feel an experience of God’s Spirit leading us.
They call that experience their “Inner _____.”
5. Circle one: Yes No An important part of Quaker life is studying and learning
the Bible.
6. In their worship (“meeting”) time, Quakers sit quietly, waiting for what?

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Lesson # 32 – Baptists

Watch video # 32

Read pages 50 – 51 in *Churches in America* (“*The Baptists*”)

1. Baptists teach that the only true Baptism is done (how?) _____
2. Baptists do only “**believer’s baptism.**” What does that mean? _____

3. Circle one: Yes No Baptists believe that babies can believe in Jesus.
4. Yes No Baptist teachers emphasize their church confessions (like as Lutherans do).
5. Yes No Baptists believe that Jesus gives us His real body and blood in the Lord’s Supper.
6. A friend tells you, “If you can’t name the date when you accepted Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, you are not really saved.” What do you answer?

7. A friend tells you, “If you were baptized as a baby, that was not a true baptism. You must be baptized again.” What do you answer?

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 52 of the book, especially question #8.

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Lesson # 33 – Liberalism

Watch video # 33

Read page 53 in *Churches in America* (“*Liberalism*”)

1. Religious liberals accept as their highest authority, what? (Check one)
 - God’s Word, the Bible
 - Church Tradition and Doctrines
 - Human Reason

2. The opposite of Liberal is... (Check one)
 - Conservative
 - Atheist
 - Agnostic

3. What do liberals teach? Check the liberal doctrines:
 - (a) All religions are the same.
 - (b) The whole Bible is the true Word of God.
 - (c) God in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament are different.
 - (d) God created the world in seven days.
 - (e) Evolution is true.
 - (f) Jesus was born from a virgin woman (without sex).
 - (g) Jesus was only a good wise teacher.
 - (h) Jesus rose again from the dead.
 - (i) Only people who trust Jesus will be saved.
 - (j) Hell is real.
 - (k) No one can really know what is true.

4. Circle one: Yes No Liberalism is growing in most Christian churches.

5. Yes No Christian liberals often break away from their churches to start new religions.

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Lesson # 34 – Unionism

Watch video # 34

Read pages 53 – 55 in *Churches in America* (“Unionism”)

1. Which is more important to a Unionist Church? (Check one)
 Right doctrine
 One visible church organization

2. Circle one: Yes No Unionists believe that doctrine is not important because creates walls and separates people into groups.

3. Read in your Bible 1 Corinthians 1:10
What must happen first before churches unite? _____

Lesson # 35 – Union Churches: Moravian; Disciples of Christ

Watch video # 35

Read pages 55 – 56 in *Churches in America* (“The Moravian Church” and “The Christian Churches,” first column)

1. Who started the Moravian Church? _____
When? _____ Where? _____

2. Which is more important to the Moravian Church? (Check one)
 Right doctrine
 Living holy

3. Which is more important to the restorationist “Christian Churches”? (Check one)
 Rightly interpreting the Bible
 Christian character

4. Circle one: Yes No “The Christian Churches” want no written creeds.

5. Who started the Disciples of Christ church? _____

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6. These are called “restorationist” churches because they believe that they restored what? (Check one)
- ___ New Testament Christianity
- ___ The Catholic Church

Lesson # 36 – Disciples of Christ (Part 2)

Watch video # 36

Read pages 56 (2nd column) – 57 (1st column) in *Churches in America*

1. The Disciples of Christ church teaches what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Disciples of Christ teaching:
- ___ a. The Holy Trinity (*God is Three in One: Father, and Holy Spirit*)
- ___ b. The deity of Christ (*Jesus Christ is True God*)
- ___ c. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the full punishment for our sins
- ___ d. None of the above
2. Which is more important to the Disciples of Christ church? (Check one)
- ___ Church organization & practice
- ___ Agreement about doctrine

Lesson # 37– Disciples of Christ (Part 3)

Watch video # 37

Read page 57 (*the rest of the section about “The Christian Churches”*)

1. Circle one: Yes No The Disciples of Christ church supports the Apostles’ Creed.
2. Yes No The Disciples of Christ and other Churches of Christ teach that babies have no sin.
3. Yes No The Disciples of Christ and other Churches of Christ teach that a person who dies without having been baptized can’t go to heaven.

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Lesson # 38 – Independent Churches; UCC

Watch video # 38

Read page 58 in *Churches in America*

1. Most Community Churches identify with which Christian denomination? (Circle one)

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| Baptist | Lutheran |
| Catholic | Methodist |
| Episcopal | Presbyterian |
| None | |

2. What is the UCC church? _____

3. The UCC is a merger of which denominations?

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____

4. Circle one: Yes No These churches joined together because their doctrines agreed.

Lesson # 39 – United Church of Christ (part 2)

Watch video # 39

Read pages 58 – 59 in *Churches in America* (“*The United Church of Christ*”)

1. Write the words **confession**, **conservative**, and **liberal** on the correct lines in this sentence:

*Long ago the church bodies that formed the UCC were _____ ,
but they had no common _____ of faith, so they
gradually became _____.*

2. The UCC teaches what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with UCC teaching:

- ___ a. Jesus was born from a virgin.
- ___ b. Jesus died and rose again on the third day.

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- ___ c. Jesus will come again.
- ___ e. Believe anything you want.

Lesson # 40 – Councils of Churches

Watch video # 40

Read pages 59 – 60 in *Churches in America* (“Cooperative Agencies”)

1. What is the WCC? _____
2. What is the NCC? _____
3. What is the ACCC? _____
4. Which of these organizations are conservative, and which are liberal?
(a) WCC (Circle one) Conservative Liberal
(b) NCC (Circle one) Conservative Liberal
(c) ACCC (Circle one) Conservative Liberal
5. How many church denominations belong to the WCC? _____
6. The WCC has three goals for cooperation:
(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____
7. Name three large Christian denominations in America which DON'T belong to the NCC:
(a) _____
(b) _____
(c) _____

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Lesson # 41 – Millennialism

Watch video # 41

Read pages 61 – 62 in *Churches in America* (“*Millennialism: General Themes*”)

1. The word “*millennium*” means (what?) _____

2. Explain:
 - (a) Pre-millennialism _____

 - (b) Post-millennialism _____

 - (c) Amillennialism* _____

3. Lutherans see which one of these three ideas agreeing with the Bible's teaching?
___ Pre-millennialism
___ Post-millennialism
___ Amillennialism*

* *Both the book and the video both describe amillennialism in the last part of this lesson. However, the book does not tell us that name “amillennialism.” Please discuss this topic with your mentor. Together study Bible verses that clearly describe Jesus coming again at the end of the world.*

Lesson # 42 – Seventh Day Adventists

Watch video # 42

Read pages 62 – 63 in *Churches in America* (“*Seventh-Day Adventists*”)

1. The Adventism began when William Miller taught that Jesus would come again in (what year?) _____.

2. After William Miller's prediction failed, he gave up. But his followers stayed together. They found a new leader, who gave them special prophecies and revelations.
Her name was (who?) _____.

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3. Seventh-Day Adventists worship on Saturday. Why? _____

4. Most other Christians worship on Sunday. Why? _____

The book and videos do not talk about this question. If you don't already know the answer, read: Matthew 28:1; Luke 24:1; John 20:1. You may also discuss this with your mentor.

5. Adventists teach that when people die, their souls will (do what?) _____
until the Final Judgment Day.

6. What do Adventists say will happen to the souls of lost unbelievers after the Final Judgment?

Lesson # 43 – Dispensationalism

Watch video # 43

Read pages 63 – 64 in *Churches in America* (“Dispensationalism”)

1. Dispensationalists believe that world history is divided into (how many?) _____
periods of time (dispensations).

2. Dispensationalists teach that right now we are living in sixth dispensation, which is
period of the _____, and this is only time in history that God deals
with people on the basis of the Gospel of _____.

3. Dispensationalists teach that the **Millennium** will be (how many?) _____ years.

4. Dispensationalists teach that Christ's millennial kingdom will be... (check one)
___ a spiritual kingdom of Christ reigning in the hearts of believers.
___ an earthly political kingdom.

5. Dispensationalists teach that Christ will come back (how many?) _____ times.

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6. What do dispensationalists teach about “**the rapture**”? _____

7. Dispensationalists quote Matthew 24:40-41 to support their teaching about the rapture. They forget to read verses that come before. Read verses 37-41. In Jesus’ teaching...

the people who are “taken” are: (circle one) SAVED LOST

the people who are “left” are: (circle one) SAVED LOST

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 64 of the book.

Lesson # 44 – Non-Christian Groups & Cults

Watch video # 44

Read page 65 in *Churches in America* (first column, introduction to “Cults...”)

When most people discuss cults, they usually focus on the practices of social cults. But in this course we will only focus on the false religious teaching of spiritual cults.

Explain the differences between:

Social cults _____

Spiritual (religious) cults _____

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Lesson # 45 – Unitarian-Universalists

Watch video # 45

Read pages 65 – 67 in *Churches in America* (“Unitarian-Universalists”)

Unitarian-Universalists teach what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Unitarian-Universalist teaching:

- 1. The Bible is the true Word of God.
- 2. The only authority for knowing what true is human reason and experience.
- 3. God is Three-in-One (the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
- 4. Jesus is both True God and True Man.
- 5. If heaven real, all people will go there.
- 6. Hell is a real.
- 7. Believe anything you want.

Lesson # 46 – Jehovah’s Witnesses

Watch video # 46

Read pages 67 – 68 in *Churches in America* (“Jehovah’s Witnesses”)

- 1. Who started the Jehovah’s Witness church? _____
- 2. The name of organization that strictly controls the Jehovah’s Witness church and its doctrine is (what?)

- 3. Jehovah’s Witnesses teach from their own translation of the Bible called _____

- 4. Jehovah’s Witnesses teach what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with JW teaching:
 - a. The Bible is the true Word of God.
 - b. The only authority for knowing what true is the Watchtower Society.
 - c. God is Three-in-One (the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 - d. Jehovah is God’s only correct name and title.
 - e. Jesus Christ is both True God and True Man.
 - f. Jehovah first made Christ as an angel named Michael.
 - g. Jesus died on the cross and bodily rose again on the third day.

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- ___ h. The Holy Spirit is only a name that means God's power.
- ___ i. We can be saved faith in Jesus Christ alone, not by our good works.
- ___ j. Only 144,000 people will be in heaven. All other Jehovah's Witnesses will live on a perfect earth.
- ___ k. Hell is a real.
- ___ l. Believe anything you want.

Deaf Christians commonly sign the word "Bible" as "Jesus-book." Jehovah's Witnesses teach Deaf people a different sign: "B-law." This is because JWs see God's Word as a book of rules, rather than the Gospel that shows us our Savior Jesus Christ.

Lesson # 47 – Mormons

Watch video # 47

Read pages 68 – 69 in *Churches in America* ("Mormons" and "Moroni")

The information about The Worldwide Church of God printed in the book is out of date. After the founder of the church died, the church leaders read the Bible with open eyes and saw clearly the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now they reject their founder's false doctrines and they are true Christians, in the Calvinist tradition.

1. What is the official name of the Mormon church? _____

2. Who started the Mormon church? _____
3. He started the Mormon church in what state? _____
4. Who became the next Mormon leader? _____
5. Today the headquarters for the Mormon church is in what city? _____

6. *The Book of Mormon* claims to tell what story? _____

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7. Who is Moroni? _____

*Information for questions #6 and #7 is in the book, page 69, the box titled "Moroni."
The video lesson does not explain The Book of Mormon.*

Lesson # 48 – Mormon Doctrine

Watch video # 48

Read page 70 (*Mormon teaching about God, Salvation, and the Church*)

1. Mormons teach what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Mormon teaching:

- ___ a. The church of Christ disappeared until Joseph Smith restored it.
- ___ b. There is only one true God.
- ___ c. Long ago God the Father was a man; later he became God.
- ___ d. Good Mormon people, after they die, become angels, then they will eventually become gods.
- ___ e. We are saved by faith alone in Jesus' sacrifice for our sins.
- ___ f. Jesus made it possible for us to become saved, if we fully obey God's Law.
- ___ g. Besides the Bible, Mormons have other scriptures they value higher than the Bible.

2. Mormons often get baptized on behalf of dead friends and relatives. Why?

NOTE: This is reason the Mormon church has a strong interest in ancestry and genealogies.

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Lesson # 49 - Christian Science

Watch video # 49

Read pages 70 – 72 in *Churches in America* (“*Christian Science*”)

The Christian Science religion has a confusing name. This religion is not Christian, and it is not science, as we normally use those words. Mind Science religions use the old Greek meaning for the word “science”= deep knowledge.

1. Who started the Christian Science church? _____

2. What is the name of the book she wrote? _____

3. Christian Science teaches what? Write a check in front of every sentence that agrees with Christian Science teaching:
 a. The Bible is completely true and it has no errors.
 b. God is Three-in-One (the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, Holy Spirit)
 c. Sickness in the world is because of sin.
 d. Christ died on the cross to forgive our sins.
 e. Jesus is our teacher and example; Jesus is not our Savior.
 f. Sin, sickness, and death are not real.
 g. If you know the Christ Idea, you will never be sick.

Lesson # 50 – New Thought Religions; Spiritualist Churches

Watch video # 50

Read pages 72 – 73 in *Churches in America* (“*New Thought*” & “*Spiritualist Churches*”)

1. Circle one: Yes No New Thought religions teach that you can control sin, sickness, and other problems by using the power of your mind.

2. Yes No The Bible agrees with spiritualist teaching that after people die, their spirits can communicate with living people.

3. Yes No The Bible agrees with spiritualist teaching that after people die, their souls continue to develop and become perfect.

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4. Yes No The Bible teaches that religions that appear to communicate with spirits of dead people are really the doctrines of demons.

Lesson # 51 – New Age Religion

Watch video # 51

Read page 73 in *Churches in America* (“*New Age Religion*”)

The New Age Movement borrows ideas from two old Eastern religions:

1. _____ 2. _____

Lesson # 52 – New Age Teaching (Part 1)

Watch video # 52

Read pages 73 – 74 in *Churches in America* (“*Pantheism*” – “*Reincarnation*”)

1. Explain what the word ***pantheism*** means: _____

2. Explain how the Bible’s teaching about God and creation (the world) is the opposite of pantheism:

3. Explain what the word ***reincarnation*** means: _____

4. Read **Hebrews 9:27-28**.
(a) How often do people live and die? _____

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(b) After people die, what is the next thing that happens to them? _____

Lesson # 53 – New Age Teaching (Part 2)

Watch video # 53

Read pages 74 – 76 (“*Cosmic Evolutionary Optimism*” – “*Transformational Politics*”)

Match

New Age teaches:

1. The world is improving, gradually evolving toward perfection.
2. The spirits of people who have died can guide you.
3. Correct politics will solve the world’s problems.
4. We all have divine energy that can make us healthy.

The Bible teaches:

- a. While we show Christian love to our neighbor and do what is right, our highest trust is in God, not government.
- b. The world is stuck in sin; evil will grow stronger until the Final Judgment.
- c. God is our healer, and He has given us wonderful gifts in medical science to help us.
- d. We must receive our spiritual guidance from God alone. Any other spiritual being or force is from the devil.

Lesson # 54 – Testing Doctrines

Watch video # 54

Read pages 76 – 77 in *Churches in America* (“*Testing Doctrines*”)

1. Why is this study important? Read the these Bible verses. Describe in a few words what they teach us:

(a) John 8:31-32 _____

(b) Acts 17:10-11 _____

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(c) 2 Corinthians 11:3-4 _____

(d) Galatians 1:6-8 _____

(e) 1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 _____

(f) 2 Timothy 4:1-5 _____

(g) 1 John 4:1 _____

2. What have you learned in this course that you will find helpful in the future? _____

In your meeting with your mentor, discuss the questions on page 77 of the book.