



The PLUMB LINE

*Behold, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of My People”
— Amos 7:8b*

A discipleship class designed by Pastor Troy aimed at building our Community of Faith toward its vision of growing faithful followers of Christ.

Pastor & Leader Booklet- COMPLETE

THE PLUMB LINE- Class Outline

PART I BASIC: Accepting our Responsibility as Disciples

1. **Introduction:** *“The Plumb Line”*
2. **The Master Builder:** *“Who is God? Who are we?”*
3. **The Master’s Plan:** *“God’s Basic Plan of Salvation”*
4. **The Support Beams:** *“Basic Doctrine”*

PART I ADVANCE:

5. **Building Spiritual Stamina:** *“The Spiritual Disciplines”*
6. **Styling It:** *“From the Upper Room to a place called Azusa Street”*

PART II BASIC: Assisting in Spreading & Living out our Responsibility as Disciples

7. **The Big House:** *“The Church- It’s Nature, Mission and Power.”*
8. **Assessment Tools:** *“Determining Spiritual Phase with the Phrase.”*
9. **Building Dynamics:** *“Shepherding & Flock Dynamics”*

PART II ADVANCE:

10. **Variances & Code:** *“Spiritual Gifts & The Spiritual Health of the Leader”*
11. **Driveways:** *“The Wesleyan Way”*
12. **THE WRAP: Apprentice-Journeyman-Craftsman & Finishing Touches:**
“Growing into a Faithful Follower of Christ!”

PART I BASIC:

Accepting our Responsibility as Disciples

1. PART I BASIC- Introduction: The Plumb Line. (1st Level): The Purpose of our Class. (A 12-level experience to help us meet the Standard of God- The Plumb Line.)

THE PLUMB LINE Class led by Pastor Troy:

The Plumb Line is a very special 12-week discipleship class designed by Pastor Troy aimed at building our Community of Faith toward its vision of growing faithful followers of Christ through Prayer, Outreach, Evangelism, Worship and Discipleship. In conversation with the elders, pastors & ministry staff, I have developed this special course which has been written just for our church family. We believe THE PLUMB LINE is a class that every single person in our church can grow from! We believe God will use it in PREPARING our church for a whole new level of ministry as a Community of Faith. Discipleship does not happen accidentally but in an atmosphere where our spirit is challenged vertically according to God's Word both in a planned and intentional way. Our class is a 12-level experience at unlocking the standards God has for us and how we can measure up to the vertical challenge God has for us in growing into a Faithful Follower of Christ!

a. A Plumb Line- Explain

i. WORLD DEFINITION OF THE PLUMB LINE:

You may be asking "Just what is a Plumb line?" **A plumb line is a simple but accurate tool used for determining whether or not something is perfectly vertical i.e. upright.**

It has been used since very ancient times. A plumb line consists merely of a line and a weight of some sort, at first just a stone, but later a weight made from lead. Plumb lines were known to many people throughout Biblical History, including Jesus Christ who would have owned a set of various weights of them for His use in the building trade.

The weight is called the **plumb bob**. When suspended next to a workpiece it defines a vertical line- The "Plumb". The word comes from the Latin *plumbum*, or "lead," which is the material that replaced the original stone versions used to weight the bob or plummet.

The Plumb Line dates at least back to ancient Egypt. It was used by bricklayers, masons, and carpenters to make sure construction was done in a plumb or perfectly upright fashion.

Plumb bobs are also used in surveying and are used to set instruments exactly over a fixed datum marker. Up until our modern age great buildings were built using vertical datum lines or marks in the floor to keep the buildings plumb as they built upward.

Today you can still find brass datum marks inlaid on the floor of many great buildings signifying points builders used to keep great buildings, towers, domes, etc.... plumb as they were built.

ii. **BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF THE PLUMB LINE:**

The Hebrew word **misgelet** is translated “Plummet” in the King James or in most modern language Bibles as the “Plumb Line”. We find this word used in 2 Kings 21:13, Isaiah 28:17, Amos 7:7-8 & Zachariah 4:10.

In our text, the “Plumb Line” is always **a symbol of God’s action in testing our lives against His plan for us, and that plan is Holiness.** As Isaiah says in 28:17 *“I will make justice the measuring line and **righteousness the plumb line.**”* (niv)

iii. **CONNECTING IT TO THE WORD OF GOD AND GOD’S PLAN FOR US:**

1. 2 Kings 21:13,

2 Kings 21:1-13 ncv

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he was king fifty-five years in Jerusalem. His mother’s name was Hephzibah. ²He did what the LORD said was wrong. He did the hateful things the other nations had done—the nations that the LORD had forced out of the land ahead of the Israelites.

³Manasseh’s father, Hezekiah, had destroyed the places where gods were worshiped, but Manasseh rebuilt them. He built altars for Baal, and he made an Asherah idol as Ahab king of Israel had done. Manasseh also worshiped all the stars of the sky and served them. ⁴The LORD had said about the Temple, “I will be worshiped in Jerusalem,” but Manasseh built altars in the Temple of the LORD. ⁵He built altars to worship the stars in the two courtyards of the Temple of the LORD. ⁶He made his own son pass through fire. He practiced magic and told the future by explaining signs and dreams, and he got advice from mediums and fortune-tellers. He did many things the LORD said were wrong, which made the LORD angry.

⁷Manasseh carved an Asherah idol and put it in the Temple. The LORD had said to David and his son Solomon about the Temple, “I will be worshiped forever in this Temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen from all the tribes of Israel. ⁸I will never again make the Israelites wander out of the land I gave their ancestors. But they must obey everything I have commanded them and all the teachings my servant Moses gave them.” ⁹But the people did not listen. Manasseh led them to do more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed ahead of the Israelites. ¹⁰The LORD said through his servants the prophets, ¹¹“Manasseh king of Judah has done these hateful things. He has done more evil than the Amorites before him. He also has led Judah to sin with his idols. ¹²So this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: ‘I will bring so much trouble on Jerusalem and Judah that anyone who hears about it will be shocked. ¹³ I will stretch the measuring line of Samaria over Jerusalem, and **the plumb line used against Ahab’s family will be used on Jerusalem.** I will wipe out Jerusalem as a person wipes a dish and turns it upside down.

2. Isaiah 28:17,

Isaiah 28:16-17 nlt

Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem. It is firm, a tested and precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never run away again.

¹⁷ “I will take the measuring line of justice and **the plumb line of righteousness** to check the foundation wall you have built. Your refuge looks strong, but since it is made of lies, a hailstorm will knock it down. Since it is made of deception, the enemy will come like a flood to sweep it away.

3. Amos 7:7-9

Amos 7:7-9 nlt *A Vision of a Plumb Line*

⁷ Then he showed me another vision. I saw the Lord standing beside a wall that had been built using a **plumb line**. He was checking it with **a plumb line to see if it was straight**.⁸ And the LORD said to me, “Amos, what do you see?”

I answered, **“A plumb line.”**

And the Lord replied, **“I will test my people with this plumb line.** I will no longer ignore all their sins.⁹ The pagan shrines of your ancestors and the temples of Israel will be destroyed, and I will bring the dynasty of King Jeroboam (*King of Israel*) to a sudden end.” [()-my emphasis added]

4. Zech 4:10.

Zechariah 4:8-10 nlt

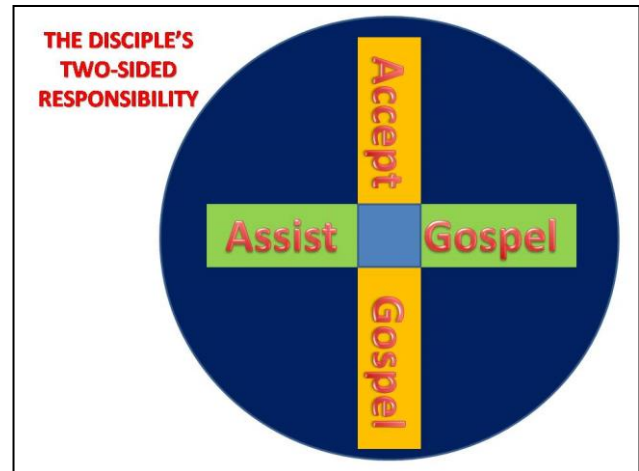
Then another message came to me from the LORD:⁹ “Zerubbabel is the one who laid the foundation of this Temple, and he will complete it. Then you will know that the LORD Almighty has sent me.¹⁰ Do not despise these small beginnings, for the LORD rejoices to see the work begin, **to see the plumb line in Zerubbabel’s hand**. For these seven lamps represent the eyes of the LORD that search all around the world.”

b. The Measuring Tool of a DISCIPLE- Define Disciple!

The Plumb Line is God’s Standard for our Righteousness or Holiness- which means our walk according to the Lord’s Holy Way for His People! As I said earlier: I have designed the PLUMB LINE CLASS to cover what every Biblically Functioning Faithful Follower of Jesus Christ needs to know to be an effective Disciple.

But this means we must also define **DISCIPLE!** It is a noun which means: **one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another, in this case, the doctrines of Jesus Christ. A disciple is someone who is “a convinced adherent of a school or individual.”**

It is important to note the two-sided responsibility of a disciple. They **“ACCEPT”** the doctrine **AND** they **“ASSIST IN SPREADING”** the doctrine. As a modern church we are failing horribly at the latter half of this two-sided responsibility, and we are very marginal in meeting the “Plumb” of the former. Remember in a VERTICLE STRUCTURE there are two axis’s the E-W and N-S. We as disciples must have both Axis’s aligned to be “Plumb.”



In our faith, it was the Disciples whom Jesus first called who became students of his ministry. At first the Twelve Apostles and then the numbers expanded to the 70 and to many more as the faith spread. In the Book of Acts many followers begin to call themselves disciples, and eventually take the name “Christians”, first at Antioch. (Acts 11:26)

Acts 11:25-26 nlt
²⁵Then Barnabas went on to Tarsus to find Saul. ²⁶When he found him, he brought him back to Antioch. Both of them stayed there with the church for a full year, teaching great numbers of people. (It was there at Antioch that the believers (*Grk- mathētēs, math-ay-tes’ or disciples*) were first called Christians.)

Nelsons Bible Commentary Tells us:
 “The believers were **called Christians** because they worshiped Christ, the Messiah. The historian Josephus called them “that tribe of Christians.” Tacitus, the Roman historian, referred to them as “Christians, a name derived from Christ.” Originally, the church called themselves “The Way.” But later they began to refer to themselves as Christians, despite the fact that the name most likely was originally used to ridicule the believers.¹”

The word **DISCIPLE, FOLLOWER OF CHRIST or CHRISTIAN** today is used as a way of self-identification for those who seek to learn from the life of Jesus and follow in His footsteps. The teachings of Jesus and the history of the early church records in the four gospels and the Book of Acts the use of the word “Disciple” some 232 times!

One could easily conclude that Volume 1: The Gospels and Volume 2: The Book of Acts— **is the discipleship training manual for the followers of Jesus!**

¹Radmacher, E. D. 1997. *The Nelson study Bible: New King James Version*. Includes index. (Ac 11:26). T. Nelson Publishers: Nashville

C. Putting the Plumb Line up against the “Foundation of our Faith” as Disciples.

i. That foundation is Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:19-22 nlt

So now you Gentiles are no longer strangers and foreigners. You are citizens along with all of God’s holy people. You are members of God’s family. ²⁰ We are his house, built on the foundation of the apostles and the prophets. **And the cornerstone is Christ Jesus himself.** ²¹ We who believe are carefully joined together, becoming a holy temple for the Lord. ²² Through him you Gentiles are also joined together as part of this dwelling where God lives by his Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:10-13 nlt

Because of God’s special favor to me, I have laid the foundation like an expert builder. Now others are building on it. But whoever is building on this foundation must be very careful. ¹¹ **For no one can lay any other foundation than the one we already have—Jesus Christ.** ¹² Now anyone who builds on that foundation may use gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But there is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone’s work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value.

ii. For our Lives to be built on the Rock they must be built upon Christ Jesus. There are numerous references to the LORD as the Rock! (*2 Sam. 22:32, 47; 23:3; Psa. 18:2; 31:2; 40:2; Isa. 17:10; 32:2; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 10:4.*)

2 Samuel 22:32 nlt

For who is God except the LORD?
Who but our God **is a solid Rock**?

2 Samuel 22:47 nlt

“The LORD lives! Blessed be **my Rock**!
May God, **the rock of my salvation**, be exalted!

2 Samuel 23:3 nlt

The God of Israel spoke.
The **Rock of Israel** said to me:
‘The person who rules righteously,
who rules in the fear of God,

Psalms 18:2 nlt

The LORD is **my rock** and my fortress and my deliverer;
My God, my strength, in whom I will trust;
My shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.

Matthew 16:18 nkjv

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this Rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4 nlt

I don't want you to forget, dear brothers and sisters, what happened to our ancestors in the wilderness long ago. God guided all of them by sending a cloud that moved along ahead of them, and he brought them all safely through the waters of the sea on dry ground. ²As followers of Moses, they were all baptized in the cloud and the sea. ³And all of them ate the same miraculous food, ⁴and all of them drank the same miraculous water. **For they all drank from the miraculous rock that traveled with them, and that rock was Christ.** ⁵Yet after all this, God was not pleased with most of them, and he destroyed them in the wilderness.

- iii. God wants us to **"Plumb"** our lives with God's Plan for our lives.

Matthew 7:24-27 nlt Parable of the Two Builders

"Anyone who listens to my teaching and obeys me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. ²⁵ Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because **it is built on rock.** ²⁶ But anyone who hears my teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. ²⁷ When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash."

Acts 3:19 nkjv

Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,

d. Small Group Break Out Discussion: (Break into groups of 6-8)

- i. In the 2 Kings 21:1-13 text what actions or behaviors cause the King of Judah, Manasseh, to fall out of Plumb with God's standard for His People? **(Notes.)**
- ii. Amos 7:8 says, "And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" I answered, "A plumb line." And the Lord replied, "I will test my people with this plumb line. I will no longer ignore all their sins." How are we doing in the world today and what represents that Plumb Line for us today as Disciples of Jesus? **(Notes.)**
- iii. Where does your life lie right now in respect to the Plumb Line of God? **(Notes.)** If your life is out of "Plumb", what are 1 or 2 things you could do to make the most significance in righting your life toward better measuring up to the standard of God? **(Notes.)**

e. Group Share on small group learning from the 5 questions. (Notes.)

f. Closing Prayer.

NEXT WEEK: The Master Builder: "Who is God? Who are we?"