

**DOTA 247      MEMORISATION 49 and 50      THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH:  
THE TASKS OF THE CHURCH LEADERS (ACTS 20:28)  
THE GLORY IN THE CHURCH (EPHESIANS 3:20-21)**

Copyright Dota

T = teacher 1      S = teacher 2

(4p)

---

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this meditation and memorisation series you may learn how to build up the Christian Church. Two teachers will meditate on the meaning of two Bible verses and then memorise them together.

In this tenth series, the Bible teaches five truths about the Christian Church. The topics of today's meditation and memorisation are: THE TASKS OF THE CHURCH LEADERS and THE GLORY IN THE CHURCH.

(S)      **POINT 1. MEDITATION ON THE TASKS OF THE CHURCH LEADERS**

The new Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Acts 20:28.

The memorisation verse is: The tasks of the church leaders. Acts 20:28. "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood." Acts 20:28.

(T)      **First. The Christian leaders proclaim the whole will of God in the Bible (20:27).**

One. The Christian leaders may never limit their teaching and preaching to their favourite themes.

As prophet Christian leaders must represent the God of the Bible and proclaim the whole message of the Bible to people. The minimum all Christians should know is God's whole salvation plan in the Bible. Believers in Jesus Christ must not come to a standstill after hearing the gospel and a few chosen themes of their leaders. The message of the whole Bible is a unity.

Two. The typical characteristic of false prophets and false teachers are that they skip over important truths in the Bible on the one hand and add their own imaginations and traditions on the other hand.

A genuine Christian leader may never add or subtract any truth from the Bible (Dt 4:2). Revelation 22:18-19 warns that any prophet that adds anything to the Bible is a false prophet and God will add to his life all the plagues described in the Bible. And any prophet that takes words away from the Bible is a false prophet and God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in Paradise. Revelation 21:8 warns that all liars will be thrown in the fiery lake of burning sulphur, which is hell. Therefore anyone who calls himself a prophet should be very careful what he preaches and teaches.

Three. The Christian leaders must teach the following Old Testament truths.

The origin of the Bible, its inspiration and authority. The creation of the universe and the earth. The fall of man into sin and its consequences. The salvation of believers in the Messiah, Jesus Christ. The messianic line throughout the Old Testament. The covenant of God with his people. Faith. The law that was added to the covenant and how it differs from grace. The religions of the world cannot save. The historical books in the Old Testament. The theocracy during the Old Testament. The poetical books in the Old Testament. The prophetic books in the Old Testament. And finally Israel in the Old Testament and in the light of the New Testament.

Four. The Christian leaders must teach the following New Testament truths.

The life of Christ and Christians. The death of Christ and Christians. The resurrection of Christ and Christians. The rule of Christ from heaven. The kingdom of God. The Holy Spirit. The Christian Church. Spiritual growth. Spiritual warfare. Christian relationships between people of the opposite sex. Making disciples. Training labourers. Equipping leaders. The spiritual gifts and tasks in the Body of Christ. And finally the second coming of Christ.

Five. The Christian leaders must teach the following practical skills.

Quiet Time. Assurances. Priorities. God's guidance. Bible Study. Bible explanation. Bible memorisation. Prayer as a response to God's Word. Prayer as intercession. Using the Bible prayers. Fellowship. Witnessing. Evangelisation. Serving. Giving. Leadership. Making practical applications. Self-esteem. Holiness and lifestyle. The Christian leaders must teach believers to know the Bible, to believe it and to obey it. And they must train Christian character and Christian behaviour.

(S)      **Second. The Christian leaders proclaim anything that would be helpful (20:20).**

The maximum all Christians should know is whatever is edifying and helpful in the Bible. The Christian believers should never be forced to listen to things that tear their faith apart or break them down. Christians should not listen to people who preach political ideologies and programmes. They should never listen to false teachers and false prophets and their false religious books. They should never listen to the religious opinions of people that are not born again

Christians. The Christian leaders may never sow hatred against people belonging to another culture. They may never encourage revenge or instigate people to violence and holy wars. All leaders that do such things should be immediately deposed. The Christian leaders should prepare themselves well and only teach and preach truths from the Bible that are useful and edifying (Eph 4:29).

**(T) Third. The Christian leaders teach in public and in houses (20:20).**

All elders must be able to teach from the Bible (1 Tim 3:2). Some elders teach and preach in public in the meetings of the congregation (1 Tim 5:17). Other elders teach and preach in the homes of Christians (Act 5:42).

**(S) Fourth. The Christian leaders call people to repent and believe in Jesus Christ (20:21).**

Christian leaders do not simply give speeches or lectures to interested people, but proclaim the gospel and teach the Bible. They invite people to respond to the message of the Bible. They call people to repent and turn to the God of the Bible. This means that non-Christians must confess that they are sinners and lost and that they need the Saviour, Jesus Christ. Whoever believes that Jesus Christ died on the cross to make atonement for their sins, and was resurrected to give them a transformed life, will be saved.

**(T) Fifth. The Christian leaders are willing to bear trouble and persecution (20:22-23).**

To suffer is never an easy matter. To suffer for the sake of Jesus Christ and his message nevertheless brings a great reward. Jesus Christ will give them the crown of righteousness (2 Tim 4:8) and they will share in the glory of Jesus Christ (Rom 8:17). They will inherit the new earth on which only righteousness will dwell (2 Pet 3:10-13). The old Paradise in the book of Genesis was a wonderful and beautiful garden, but Adam and Eve still had the possibility to sin and did sin (Gen 2:15-17; 3:6). But the new Paradise in the book of Revelation will surpass the old Paradise a million times. It will not just be a garden, but the whole renewed earth (Rev 21:1-2). Every person who does not believe in Jesus Christ and his death on the cross for their sins and his resurrection to give them a new life, will never enter Paradise! No murderer, terrorist or warlord will enter Paradise, no matter what other religions teach. No lying prophet, or lying religious leader or lying government official will enter Paradise (Rev 21:8). Only people who believe in Jesus Christ will dwell in Paradise (Rev 21:8,27). In Paradise God will wipe away all tears and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things have passed away (Rev 21:4-5).

**(S) Sixth. The Christian leaders are finishers (20:24).**

Genuine Christian leaders never give up, but persevere until they have finished the tasks that Jesus Christ has assigned to them.

**(T) Seventh. The Christian leaders are elders and are appointed by the Holy Spirit (20:28).**

The Bible teaches the following about the appointment of elders as leaders in the Christian church.

One. The potential candidates must be born-again men and that is a work of the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:3-8).

Two. The men that are already active in the congregation and prove that God's hand rests on them are the best candidates to be chosen as elders (2 Cor 10:18; Act 6:3,5).

Three. The Christian members of the church that choose the new elders must also be born again Christians (Act 1:21-22; 6:3).

**(S) Eighth. The Christian leaders have the following tasks.**

One. Every Christian church must be led by a group of elders and never by a single leader, whatever he may be called.

Two. The elders are *the shepherds* of the Christians and *the overseers* over all the activities of the church. As shepherds, the elders feed, lead and protect the Christians. The elders lead by their example and supervise everything that happens in the church. They are responsible for the spiritual and moral lives of the Christians under their supervision.

Three. The elders must keep watch over one another and especially watch how every elder walks with God, how he manages his own family at home and how he fulfils his ministry. They are also responsible for the spiritual and moral lives of the other elders in the church. Thus everybody in the Christian church stand in an accountability relationship to other Christians. Every elder and every other Christian leader and every Christian are responsible to the other elders and must be willing to give an account of their lives and ministries to them.

Four. The elders must protect the Christians against false prophets and false teachers that try to disturb the Christian church. They must warn the Christians whenever it is necessary.

(T) **POINT 2. MEDITATION ON THE GLORY IN THE CHURCH**

The second Bible verse that we will meditate and memorise is Ephesians 3:20-21.

The memorisation verse is: The glory in the church. Ephesians 3:20-21. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21.

(S) **First. The glory in the church is that Christians belong to the family of God the Father.**

In Ephesians 3:14-19 the apostle Paul prays a beautiful prayer for Christians. Paul bends his knees in prayer before God the Father. God is *the spiritual Father* of Christians because he created us and because he saved us. God is certainly not the spiritual Father of unbelievers. In John 8:39-44 Jesus Christ said that the religious leaders and teachers of the Jews had Satan as their spiritual father, because like Satan they continually told lies and like Satan they continually tried to murder Christ. The God of the Bible is the spiritual Father of only Christians. Christians are called the Father’s family in heaven and on earth. The Christians who have already died and the Christians who are still alive form one family, because they all have the Holy Spirit present and working in their spirits, whether they are already in heaven or still on earth.

(T) **Second. The glory in the church is that the Spirit of Christ really dwells in the hearts of Christians.**

Paul prays that God may strengthen Christians with *power* through the Holy Spirit dwelling in their hearts. He is not emphasising power to the exclusion of all God’s other attributes. He asks that the Holy Spirit would control the Christians in such a way that they experience Christ or the Spirit of Christ living in their inner man or hearts. It is not true that Christians first receive the Holy Spirit and later Jesus Christ. It is also not true that Christians first receive Jesus Christ and later the Holy Spirit. Christ and the Spirit can never be separated. Christians believe in one God, who reveals himself as the Father in heaven, as the Son in the history of this world and as the Spirit in the hearts of Christians. Christ or the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9-10) comes to dwell in the heart of a person who believes in Jesus Christ.

(S) **Third. The glory in the church is that Christians continue to love more and experience the love of Christ more.**

One. Faith expresses love.

Galatians 5:6 says, “The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.” Genuine Christian faith cannot be separated from genuine love. 1 John 2:9 says that a person who hates is still in the darkness. Therefore Paul prays that Christians will be rooted in love as a tree is rooted in a violent storm. Christians who learn to love their enemies and persecutors throughout the violent storms of difficulties and persecutions will experience more and more how much Jesus Christ loves them. They will not only grasp with their minds, but also with their hearts, feelings and emotions that nothing that happens on this world can separate them from Christ’s love for them (cf. Rom 8:37-39). Genuine faith always grows into genuine love. And love grows like a spiral: Christ loves us first and we love him as a response. Then we begin to experience more of his love and begin to love him even more. Etc.

Two. Love surpasses knowledge.

Here on earth the *finite* mind of man can never grasp the *infinite* love of Jesus Christ. And also in heaven man remains a finite creature. Forever he will grow in love and grasp more and more God’s love for him. Christian love fills Christians more and more and the ideal remains forever the measure of the fullness of God.

Three. The ideal is the fullness of God.

Genuine Christians never stop to grow spiritually. In this life on earth, they become more and more Christlike, but also in heaven after death they will continue to grow in Christlikeness. Forever they will be increasingly transformed into that image (2 Cor 3:18). Growth in such things as knowledge, love, joy, etc., will continue throughout eternity. Such growth is not inconsistent with perfection. Even in heaven and on the new earth Christians will still remain creatures and hence finite. Christians never become God. Only God remains forever infinite, also infinite in his love, holiness, righteousness and faithfulness.

(T) **Fourth. The glory in the church is that God answers prayers.**

Although Paul asked *much* in his prayer, God is able to grant *far more*! God is able to do all that we ask him to do. God is even able to do all that we dare not ask but merely imagine. God is even able to do immeasurably more than all this! The glory in the Christian Church is that the God of the Bible actually answers the prayers of Christians. The glory in the Christian Church is that the God of the Bible does even far more than what Christians ask or even imagine! For example, Christians ask for the conversion of a certain person, and God not only brings this person to faith in Jesus Christ, but also his whole family! In some places in the world, whole villages and towns turn in faith to Jesus Christ! The answers of God to prayer is visibly seen in the transformation of lives. God’s power is at work in people!

(S) **Fifth. The glory in the church should all the time be given to God the Father and to God the Son.**

Therefore the glory in the Christian Church should never go to Christians or to Christian leaders, but always to the God of the Bible! Christian churches should never glorify and praise their leaders and speakers, but forever bring glory to the God of the Bible, who has revealed himself in Jesus Christ. Not only in all generations here on earth, but also forever in eternity will Christians bring glory to the God of the Bible in Jesus Christ. Revelation chapter 4 and 5 tell that the joyous celebration in heaven and on the new earth will never end!

(T) **POINT 3. MEMORISATION OF THE NEW BIBLE VERSE**

(T+S) The tasks of the church leaders. Acts 20:28. “Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.” Acts 20:28.

(T+S) The glory in the church. Ephesians 3:20-21. “Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21.

(S) **POINT 4. REVIEW OF THE LAST BIBLE VERSES YOU HAVE MEMORISED**

Let us review the last 5 Bible verses that we have memorised without looking at our notebooks. Series “The kingdom of God”, verses 4-5 and series “The Christian Church”, verses 1-3.

(T) Never look back from serving in the kingdom. Luke 9:62. “No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.” Luke 9:62.

(S) The triumph of the kingdom. Daniel 2:44. “In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those other kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever.” Daniel 2:44.

(T) The nature of the church. 1 Peter 2:5. “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 2:5.

(S) The activities in the church. Acts 2:42. “They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.” Acts 2:42.

(T) The ministries of the Christian Church. Ephesians 4:12-13. “To prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4:12-13.

(S) **POINT 5. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK**

First. Daily review the last five memorised Bible verses once every day for 5 weeks.

Second. See the workbooks “Go and build Christ’s Church” and Internet on [www.dota.net](http://www.dota.net)

Third. Listen every SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY on the radio to “Discipleship training on the air”.