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GSACS ANNUAL COMPETITIONS

Online Academic Testing is available to all full-member status schools for grades 3-12. The testing window routinely opens in January with testing windows at the end of January and beginning of February.

At-School Academic Testing for writing categories is ordered during the online testing window, but the writing is done at the students' schools during the online academic testing window. The submissions are mailed to the state office when students complete their writing entry. Writing tests are available for grades 4-12.

At-Event Academic Testing for chess and spelling are arranged by host schools during the various competition events. Chess is available for grades 7-12. Spelling is available for grades 1-12.

Dates and Locations for each of these events are provided on the GSACS calendar.

This manual and all necessary judging forms and documentation are found on the GSACS website (www.gsacsca.org). Member schools have permission to copy and use these for the purpose of competing in the GSACS competition events.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Materials concerning both the Academic and Fine Arts Competitions will be digitally sent to each member school and uploaded on the GSACS website (www.gsacsca.org). It is the responsibility of each school to register by the deadlines posted.

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GSACS FINE ARTS GENERAL INFORMATION

I. PURPOSE

The purposes of the GSACS Competition include, but are not limited to the following:

- A. To glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
- B. To help in the disciplining of Christian youth.
- C. To strengthen Christian education.
- D. To encourage and increase the acquisition of spiritual, intellectual, and moral maturity within individual students and schools.
- E. To draw the focus of Christian education into a unity striving together for excellence.
- F. To enhance local church ministry as students use skills honed at competition to minister to their church family.

Involvement in competition activities will of necessity require self-discipline and thus help the young person to develop quality Christian character more fully. We desire for our students to "...increase in wisdom, and stature, and in favor with God and man" (Luke 2:52).

II. DATE AND LOCATION OF COMPETITION

The date and location of the competition will be set by GSACS and will be published annually.

III. ELIGIBILITY OF CONTESTANTS AND SCHOOLS

A. Contestants

1. Junior High Students: Grades 7-8
2. Senior High Students: Grades 9-12

Exception: In order to accommodate smaller schools, students in grades 7-8 may compete in senior high group categories of large vocal ensemble, choral, choir, large instrument ensemble, band, group acting, readers' theater, choric speaking, and Bible Quiz. Maximum student participation guidelines still apply. Groups with mixed age groups (JH and SH) will always compete at the SH level. Schools that include JH students in SH groups may cause the group to not be eligible at the national level.

B. School eligibility

1. For a school to be eligible to participate in the GSACS Competition, it must meet the following minimum requirements:
 - a. The school must annually sign the statement of faith of GSACS.
 - b. The school must have paid its annual dues to GSACS.
 - c. The school must be in good standing with GSACS and AACS.
2. Number eligible per school

Junior High

- a. A school may enter 3 students for each individual category from grades 7 and 8 combined. Exceptions:
 - 1) Music – A school may enter 2 students from each individual category from grades 7 and 8 combined.

- 2) Academic Testing - Any number of students may take any number of online academic or Bible tests. The tests are taken at the respective schools online during the GSACS academic testing window.
 - 3) Writing Competition – Any number of students may participate in the essay or poetry competition. Schools pre-order and students write during a pre-determined block of time within the set GSACS writing window. Topics are given to the school prior to the writing window.
 - 4) A school may enter 2 students for the category of chess.
 - 5) A school may enter 2 students for the category of spelling bee.
 - 6) A school may enter 2 students for each category of science fair (physical and biological).
 - 7) A school may enter 2 students for each category of culinary art.
- b. A school may enter 1 group for each group category from grades 7 and 8 combined. Exception: a school may bring 2 debate teams.

Senior High

- a. A school may enter 3 students for each individual category from grades 9-12 combined. Exceptions:
 - 1) Music – A school may enter 2 students from each individual category from grades 9-12 combined.
 - 2) Academic Testing - Any number of students may take any number of online academic or Bible tests. The tests are taken at the respective schools online during the GSACS academic testing window.
 - 3) Writing Competition – Any number of students may participate in the essay or poetry competition. Schools pre-order and students write during a pre-determined block of time within the set GSACS writing window. Topics are given to the school prior to the writing window.
 - 4) A school may enter 2 students for the category of chess.
 - 5) A school may enter 2 students for the category of spelling bee.
 - 6) A school may enter 2 students for each category of science fair (physical and biological).
 - 7) A school may enter 2 students for each category in culinary art.
- b. A school may enter 1 group for each group category from grades 9-12 combined. Exception: A school may enter 2 groups in each of the videography group categories and in debate. (One group cannot produce two videos.)
- c. A qualifying student wishing to continue in AACS National Competition must register with the GSACS State Office by the set deadline. Each school is responsible for completing forms and payments necessary for Nationals.

IV. STUDENT PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

- A. Participation is limited to the following entries: A student may be entered in no more than 2 individual entries in each area of Bible, Music, Speech, and Debate. NOTE: Sacred Piano Duet, Classical Piano Duet, and Sacred/Classical Piano-Organ Duet will be considered group competition.
- B. A student may enter as many entries as he wishes in Academics (online and writing categories only).

- C. A student may be entered in no more than 2 individual entries in Art, but the categories cannot be the same.
- D. A student may be entered in no more than 1 individual entry in Science Fair.
- E. An elementary or junior high student who chooses to compete at the senior high level in any group competitions may not participate in the same group categories at the elementary or junior high level except in the categories of Choir or Band. Schools that include JH students in SH groups may cause the group to not be eligible at the national level.
- F. Each school initiates its own elimination process to ensure that its contestants are the best qualified to represent its school.

V. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DRESS

We desire to demonstrate conservative Christian standards in appearance, activities, and conduct. The utmost respect for and adherence to the following standards is expected and required of all students and school officials participating as judges, chaperones, accompanists, and directors. Any student who fails to meet the standards of dress may be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the school to communicate and enforce the following guidelines before the students arrive to the event. Students must adhere to the following dress standards throughout the competition.

- BOYS: Young men will wear dress shirts with ties, tucked in, with dress (non-denim) pants, and shoes (preferably not athletic shoes). Men's hair should be short, off the ears and out of the eyes, with no long sideburns. Facial hair should be trimmed and neat. Blue jeans are not to be worn during the competition time even if the student is finished competing.
- GIRLS: Young ladies will wear skirts or dresses to the knee or longer, with no necklines that are exceedingly low or open. Choice of jewelry and hair styles should be appropriate for performances. All clothing must be modest, not sheer or tight. No pants or shorts are to be worn during the competition even if the student is finished competing

VI. LIMITATIONS REGARDING USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) is not the work of the student and work generated with AI tools or software must not be entered in any category, except as explicitly permitted in the rules for a category.

Prohibition of AI Writing Tools: The use of AI writing tools, including but not limited to Gemini, ChatGPT, or any other AI platform, is strictly prohibited unless the rules for the category explicitly permit its use. This prohibition extends to the use of AI features within word processing software, such as rewrite or polish. The prohibition also includes AI writing suggestions in Google Docs or Microsoft Word (e.g., CoPilot). Any entry found to have violated this rule will be disqualified.

AI technology is changing rapidly. While GSACS takes the position that there are many appropriate uses for AI in a school and personal setting, this competition setting that seeks to award the achievements of one's own work, AI will be limited. Competitors and sponsors are responsible for reviewing and adhering to the guidelines within each category as it relates to AI use. Furthermore, if a student wishes to compete at the National level, he will need to be familiar with the AACS guidelines to avoid disqualification as they may be slightly different from GSACS policies.

1. **In preaching and teaching categories:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used to generate content. AI tools may appropriately be used to research or compile, but may not be used to write outlines, applications, stories, or required student-generated content. AI may suggest edits or revisions to student-created content if the software does nothing more than suggest changes. All revisions must be made by the student.
2. **In Original Persuasive Oratory:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used to generate content. AI tools may appropriately be used to suggest edits or revisions to student-created content if the software does nothing more than suggest changes. All revisions must be made by the student.
3. **In Extemporaneous Speaking:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used at any stage of the process. AI tools or software may not be used to generate ideas, to suggest edits or revisions, or for any other purpose. The speech must be entirely the work of the student.
4. **In Debate:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may appropriately be used for argument development, but no part of debate writing should be generated by AI. All constructive, negative, and rebuttal writing should be entirely generated by students. While using AI for research, the students should never write the debate position in the AI prompt and should understand that citing AI without more original sourcing would not be considered quality research.
5. **In art categories:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may appropriately be used for concept development at preliminary stages in the design process, but no part of the final submission may be AI generated. Use of AI should be noted in documenting on the AIS or other required forms.
6. **In composition categories:** Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used at any stage of the process except for pre-writing research. In pre-writing research, the writing prompt/topic may not be entered into AI software for any purpose. AI tools or software may not be used to generate ideas in writing to suggest edits or revisions, or for any other purpose. From beginning to end, except for pre-writing research, the submission must be entirely the original work of the student. The competitor *and* the school proctor will both be required to sign this statement as part of the statement of originality: "I certify that this submission is entirely my original work and that I received no help in completing this project other than general instruction and supervision. Except for pre-writing research, I did not use any AI tools or software to create my writing submission. I did not enter the writing prompt in AI software to assist me. When writing, I followed conscientiously the instructions regarding the use, limitations, or prohibition of AI tools."

VII. DEFINITIONS OF SOME KEY TERMS

- A. Levels of Competition
The GSACS annual competition offers competition for the Junior High Level (grades 7-8), and Senior High Level (grades 9-12) with the exception as noted under "Eligibility of Contestants."
- B. Areas of Competition – Bible, Music, Speech, Academics, Art, Science Fair.
- C. Divisions of Competition – An area may be subdivided into divisions. Example: Bible divisions are Bible Quiz, Bible Testing, Bible Preaching, and Bible Teaching.
- D. Categories of Competition – A division may be subdivided into categories. Example: Bible testing categories include New Testament Bible Knowledge and Old Testament Bible Knowledge.

- E. Disqualification – If a student is not eligible to receive a first, second, or third place award because of a rule violation, he/she may still perform if other acceptable criteria are met (i.e., if performing would still demonstrate conservative Christian values).

VIII. JUDGING

A. Judging Forms

Each participant is responsible for bringing 3 completed judging sheets for each round of competition. For group competitions, only one set of judging sheets is required for the group. In addition to judging forms, certain categories will require additional documentation; and each contestant is responsible to come to the event prepared with these documents (available for download from the GSACS website at www.gsacsca.org). Schools should be prepared to pay for emergency printing costs should they need last-minute printing done at the host school.

B. Placement

Contestants must have a first-place rating to be eligible for first place, at least a second-place rating to be eligible for second place, and at least a third-place rating to be eligible for third place. However, if more than one student earns a first-place rating, those students will be awarded first-, second-, and third- place ribbons based on their point totals.

C. Judges

First-time judges will receive instruction prior to the competition event. Each participating school must supply an ample number of judges for the event to run smoothly. A judge may serve in more than one area. A judges' meeting is scheduled at the beginning of the competition event, and all judges are asked to attend.

IX. RECORDING POLICY

No flash photography can be used during a performance to avoid distracting the performer. The recording of a single entry by representatives of the participant's school for personal use is permitted. The recording of all or portions of a performance and its use should follow all copyright laws and privacy laws for minors. In any case, the head judge in a competition may prohibit recording.

X. TESTS

Academic testing competition is handled on-site at member schools prior to the competition event. See the calendar of events for ordering and registration deadlines. The exceptions are spelling, chess, and science fair categories.

XI. TIME LIMIT AND DISQUALIFICATION

Students will be penalized substantially for going overtime or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established. The student will be disqualified if he goes over one full minute or under one full minute. However, if he is overtime or under time, but not by one minute, 5 points will be deducted on each judging sheet. Exception: The time limit for an academic test cannot exceed one hour, except for creative writing and expository writing, which have a time limit of two hours.

XII. REGISTRATION

- A. Registration must be completed online and in accordance with the instructions provided by the host school and GSACS office.
- B. It is the responsibility of the GSACS Competition Coordinator to send a record of the state winners to the AACS coordinator directly after the state competition.
- C. Registered schools who have not paid student entry fees may not be able to participate without consent from GSACS.

XIII. COMPETITION EXPENSES

- A. GSACS will issue an information sheet in October that lists all expenses related to competition events for the current school year.
- B. Schools pay a one-time registration fee for all competition events in the school year: academic testing, fine arts competition, and the elementary competitions.
- C. Schools will write a check (or pay online with an added convenience fee) payable to GSACS for school registration and student fees. Any amount charged for food-related services will be payable to the host school.

XIV. AWARDS

The following awards will be given to the individual and group winners at the conclusion of the competition.

- A. A first-, second-, and third- place ribbon will be awarded to the three entries with the highest point totals. To qualify for a first-place rating, the contestant must score within the bracket defined for a first-place rating. The second-place winner could be a contestant who scored within the first-place bracket, but whose score was lower than the first-place winner. A second-place winner, however, must score at least within the second-place bracket to be awarded a second-place ribbon. The same procedure is used for determining third place. If no contestant scores high enough to receive one of the ribbons, no award will be given.
- B. Honorable mention certificates will be awarded to any contestant who earns a first-place rating, but does not receive the first, second, or third place ribbon. Ties will be allowed for academic testing only. Honorable mention recipients will be individually recognized verbally at the Awards Ceremony but not handed certificates at that time. The honorable mention certificates will be included in the school packets distributed to each school at the conclusion of the competition.
- C. A trophy will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners for every SH preaching category. A medallion will be awarded to first, second, and third place winners for every JH preaching category. All other participants will receive a certificate of participation that will be placed in the school packets distributed to each school at the conclusion of the competition.
- D. One team trophy will be awarded to each Bible Quiz team placing first, second, or third. Individual team members will receive a ribbon. Medallions will be awarded to first and second place winners in Bible Teaching and Bible Memory.
- E. In group competitions, each member receives a ribbon whose group places first, second, or third.
- F. An award will be given to the school with the highest percentage of students placing from any given school. This will be determined by dividing the school's total number of

first, second, and third places by the number of competing students in grades 7-12. No school with fewer than 10 students competing in fine arts and academics is eligible for this award.

- G. A perpetual trophy will be awarded to the school scoring the most points.
- H. The recipient schools will be decided by awarding the following points to winners:
 - 1. First-place winners: three points
 - 2. Second-place winners: two points
 - 3. Third-place winners: one point

XV. NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR GRADES 9-12

Schools sending qualifying students to the AACS National Competition must purchase a National Competition Manual, adhere to its guidelines, and utilize its judging sheets. Each school sending students to the national event are responsible for registering with AACS.

A state association winner must satisfy the following minimum required standards to be qualified to compete in AACS competition:

- A. Only senior high students (grades 9-12) who have won or “placed” in an AACS certified state or regional competition may participate in the National Competition. Students will be allowed to compete only if their school is currently a member in good standing of the GSACS/AACS. A state may enter only one individual or group in each category.
- B. GSACS will be responsible to certify the eligibility of each student entered from the GSACS and to secure the registration of those students who qualify from the GSACS. Schools should refer to the calendar of events for national competition registration deadlines.
- C. Students must use the same material (speech selections, music selections, etc.) at the AACS competition as is used at the state level. Exception: Some rules for Nationals require more preparation/performance guidelines than the state rules mandate. In this case, new material in conjunction with material performed at state level is permissible.
- D. National competition rules vary from state competition rules. It is the responsibility of the contestant to know the differences and adjust to qualify for the national competition.

AREA ONE: BIBLE

Division 1: Bible Quizzing

Division 2: Bible Testing

Category 1: Old Testament Bible Knowledge

Category 2: New Testament Bible Knowledge

Category 3: Bible Memory

Division 3: Bible Teaching

Division 4: Bible Preaching

Category 1: Expository Preaching

Category 2: Evangelistic Preaching

Category 3: Topical Preaching

The King James Version will be the translation used in every Bible competition category.

If planning to compete at the National level, refer to the AACCS website for specific KJV version publication.

DIVISION 1: BIBLE QUIZZING for Junior High and Senior High

Bible Quizzing is a jump-quizzing competition measuring Bible knowledge and speed of recall. Three opposing teams are challenged by an oral question, and any team member who responds first is given opportunity to answer within a time limit. Points are scored for correct answers and penalties assessed for incorrect and incomplete answers. Both individual and team scores are kept. The highest scoring team is declared winner at the game's end. Competition proceeds as in a double-elimination tournament.

Note: Teams must be prepared to begin competition by Thursday at 8:30 a.m.

QUIZ PANEL

The Quiz Panel will determine any contested decisions upon request of the Quizmaster and will declare the winner.

1. The Quiz Panel consists of the Quizmaster, scorer, and timekeeper.
2. The Quiz Panel will be appointed and instructed by the coordinator.
3. All decisions by the Quiz Panel will be final.

TEAM MEMBERSHIP

1. For each game, a team will be composed of two to five members and may include up to two substitutes from the same school.
2. A team may change team members after the conclusion of a given game in the tournament.
3. JH level is grades 7-8. SH level is grades 9-12. Students in JH can compete on a SH-level team at the state level, but they cannot compete on a JH *and* SH team.

TEAM COACHES

Each team's coach will be present during competition.

1. Although the number of coaches for pre-contest preparation will be at the school's discretion, each team will have no more than two official coaches present during competition.
2. The coach will be responsible for the behavior of the team at all times.
3. The coach's behavior will be considered as team behavior and, as such, will meet the Dress and Conduct Code outlined in the General Rules.

4. Questions, clarification, or protests presented courteously to the quizmaster by a coach or captain during a timeout or following a game will be received courteously.

STUDY CYCLE

The King James Version will be the only acceptable translation for judging Bible competition categories. The study cycles (also available on the GSACS website) are as follows:

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Senior High</u>	<u>Junior High</u>
2025-2026	Romans, James	Romans 1-10; James
2026-2027	Mark, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude	Mark 1-12; 1, 2 & 3 John, Jude
2027-2028	1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus	1 Thess. 1-3; 2 Thess. 1-2, 1 Tim. 1-4; 2 Tim. 1-2; Titus 1-2
2028-2029	Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon	Gal. 1-4; Eph. 1-4; Phil. 1-2; Col. 1-2
2029-2030	John	John 1-15
2030-2031	Acts	Acts 1-18
2031-2032	1 & 2 Corinthians	1 Corinthians 1-15; 2 Corinthians 1-6
2032-2033	Matthew	Matthew 1-18
2033-2034	Hebrews, 1 & 2 Peter	Hebrews 1-5, 11-13; 1 & 2 Peter

PRE-GAME PROCEDURE AND SEATING PLAN

1. The quizmaster will face the opposing teams. The quizmaster will determine the arrangement of the competition room.
2. Three opposing teams will be seated to see and hear clearly the quizmaster and to see the scoreboard.
3. Each school's starting quizzers will sit as a team, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
4. Each team will choose a captain and co-captain prior to quizzing.
5. Each team will identify the captain to the quizmaster prior to quizzing.
6. The official mode of response will be a bell-and-light jump system.
7. The quizmaster will review the rules and game procedure and answer any related questions preceding play.
8. The quizmaster and event coordinator can determine a reasonable accommodation to allow participation by a quizzing who is physically unable to stand.

GAME PROCEDURE

1. A game will consist of 20 correctly answered regular or toss-up questions plus whatever free and tie-breaking questions become necessary, regardless of time.
2. **Regular Questions:** A game will commence with the reading of a regular question by the quizmaster to the three teams. The regular question format will be as follows: "Question number one: question."
 - a. If no quizzing responds within ten seconds after the reading of a question, the question will be tossed out and another question read to continue play.
 - 1) Tossed out questions will not constitute any of the 20 regular questions.
 - 2) Team members may confer before any quizzing is recognized.

- 3) Quizzers may begin to confer while the question is being asked, as long as they do not prevent other teams from hearing the question. Quizzers may not confer once the quizzer is recognized.
- b. During or after the reading of a regular question, the first quizzer whose light comes on will be recognized by the quizmaster as the team spokesman for that question and will be addressed by state and number, for instance, "Tennessee, Number Three."
3. **Interrupted Questions:** The reading of regular, toss-up, or tie-breaker questions may be interrupted by a quizzer, but he must then answer the question without hearing it read in its entirety.
 - a. The clock will start upon the quizmaster's verbal recognition of the quizzer.
 - 1) Thirty seconds will be allowed in which to answer any question in its entirety.
 - 2) The quizzer will be allowed a maximum of ten seconds before beginning his answer, but the clock will continue to run marking the thirty-second count. An answer will be considered as started when a quizzer gives new information which is part of the unread portion of the question or part of the answer.
 - 3) In a year when more than one book of the Bible is included in the study material, if the quizmaster has not said the name of the book, the quizzer may say the name of the book within the ten seconds in order to earn the full thirty seconds. However, if the new information supplied includes the name of the book, the quizzer must correctly state the name of the precise book in order to be ruled correct. (Example: First Corinthians, instead of just Corinthians.)
 - 4) In a year when only one book of the Bible is included in the study material, if the quizmaster has not said the chapter of the book, the quizzer may say the chapter number within the ten seconds in order to earn the full thirty seconds. However, if the new information includes the chapter number, the quizzer must correctly state the precise chapter number in order to be ruled correct.
 - 5) If the quizzer fails to begin his answer within the ten seconds, it will constitute an error.
 - b. Upon giving the correct answer to a regular question, 20 points will be scored for the answering team, and another regular question will be read to continue the cycle.
 - 1) Each individual quizzer's points will be tallied on a score sheet.
 - 2) During the competition, any quizzer having correctly answered six 20-point questions (quizzing out) will leave the game.
 - (a) He may be replaced by an eligible substitute.
 - (b) He will not return to the current game.
 - (c) Should the team captain quiz out, the co-captain will assume the role of challenger.
 - (d) Should an entire team vacate whether through quizzing out or erroring out, the format will change to two-team rules; in other words, the toss-up question will still be worth 20 points, and no error will be assessed for the attempt on the toss-up.
 - c. At the quizmaster's call of time, or when the quizzer is seated again, any incorrect or incomplete answer will constitute an error.
 - 1) Each individual quizzer's errors will be tallied on a score sheet.
 - 2) During the competition, any quizzer having made six errors (erroring out) on regular or toss-up questions will leave the game.
 - (a) He may be replaced by an eligible substitute.
 - (b) He will not return to the current game.
 - (c) Should the team captain error out, the co-captain will assume the role of challenger.

- 3) Beginning with the fourth team error, ten penalty points for each error will be deducted from the team's score.
 - (a) The first three errors will not affect a team's score.
 - (b) On the sixteenth and all subsequent questions, ten penalty points for each error will be deducted whether or not the team has previously committed three errors.
4. **Toss-Up Questions:** After penalty points have been assessed for the incorrect answer to a regular question, the regular question shall be reread and will constitute a toss-up question.
 - a. Only the remaining two teams may vie for a response to the toss-up question.
 - b. If no quizzer responds within ten seconds, the question will be tossed out.
 - c. A correct answer to a toss-up question will score 20 points for the answering quizzer's team.
 - d. Beginning with the fourth team error, an incorrect answer to a toss-up question will deduct ten points from the team's score.
 - e. On the sixteenth and all subsequent questions, ten penalty points for each error will be deducted whether or not the team has previously committed three errors.
 - f. When competition consists of only two teams, toss-up questions will carry a value of 20 points and incorrect answers will not be penalized.
 - g. The toss-up format will be as follows: "Toss-up Question [to the remaining teams]: question." Quizzers may jump after the second *question*. If the Kirkman Box is used, quizzers may jump as soon as the amber light comes on. [Instruction for quizmasters: The quizmaster will do his best to time the reset so that the amber light will come on at the same time as the second word *question*. In any case, the standard is when the amber light comes on.]
5. **Free Questions:** Upon error on a toss-up question, the remaining third team will be given a free question, which will be a new, previously unread question.
 - a. The first quizzer to rise may attempt to answer a free question without fear of penalty upon error, termed *attempt*.
 - b. No other attempts to answer will be permissible.
 - c. A correct answer to a free question scores ten points for a team.
 - d. No penalty points will be assessed at any time for free questions which are incorrectly or incompletely answered, or unanswered in any manner; hence, the term *free*.
6. **Tie Score:** In the event of a tie score after the twentieth question, single regular questions will be asked until the tie is broken, termed *tie-breaker questions*.
 - a. Individual scores and errors will continue to be tallied.
 - b. If the twentieth question is answered in error, the entire round will continue to completion, toss-up and, if necessary, free question included. Thereafter, the single tie-breaker questions will continue until a winner is declared, as in a sudden-death play-off. However, the quiz must end with a correctly answered 20-point regular or toss-up question.
 - c. If, after the twentieth question, one team has the highest score and the remaining two teams are tied in score, then the winner will drop from the contest; and the game will continue until a tie-breaking question produces a middle winner. The format will change to two-team rules; in other words, the toss-up question will still be worth 20 points, and no error will be assessed for the attempt on the toss-up. A tie-breaking question, regular or toss-up, must be answered correctly in order to end the quiz. (A tie cannot be settled by the points lost for an incorrect answer.)
 - d. The same process described above (5.c) will be followed if two teams are tied for first place honors at the end of a game. Each game will have a high winner, a middle winner, and one loser (see Determination of Winner).

- e. In a two-team tie breaker, a team that loses more than 10 points without the other team winning will always have a chance to come back and win the quiz. In other words, there are some scenarios in which the first team to correctly answer a 20-point question does not yet win the tie breaker.
- f. If, after the twentieth question, all three teams are tied, the quiz will continue one question at a time until there is a high winner, a middle winner, and one loser. An evaluation of how one or more of the teams will finish the quiz will be made only after a correctly answered 20-point question. Each team getting an error on a regular or toss-up question will continue to incur a 10-point deduction.
- 1) If no team earns 20 points for an answer, then all three teams will continue to the next question, regardless of the score.
 - (a) Example 1: All three teams have 120 points after 20 questions. On the first extra question, Team A misses, Team B misses, and Team C misses the free question. The quiz continues, even though the score is 110-110-120.
 - (b) Example 2: All three teams have 120 points after 20 questions. On the first extra question, Team A misses, Team B misses, and Team C correctly answers the free question. The quiz continues, even though the score is 110-110-130.
 - 2) If a team earns 20 points for an answer, then at the end of the question an evaluation will be made regarding how the teams have finished in the quiz.
 - (a) Example 3: All three teams have 120 points after 20 questions. Team A jumps first and gets 20 points. The score is 140-120-120, and Team A is the high winner. Team A drops from the quiz, and a two-team tie breaker continues according to rule 5.c. above.
 - (b) Example 4: All three teams have 120 points after 20 questions. Team A jumps first and misses; then Team B jumps and gets 20 points. The score is 110-140-120, and the quiz is over with Team B the high winner, Team C the middle winner, and Team A the loser.
 - (c) Example 5: The score is 110-110-130 after Example 2 above. Team A jumps and gets 20 points. The score is 130-110-130, and Team B is the loser. Team B drops from the quiz, and a two-team tie breaker continues according to rule 5.d. above.
7. **Time-Outs:** A team may call two time-outs during a game. A coach may talk with quizzers only during a time-out. This does not mean a coach would be forbidden a spontaneous congratulations or encouragement.
- a. Time-outs will be allowed after the answer of one question and before the reading of the next.
 - b. Time-outs will be no longer than one minute.
 - c. A time-out will not be necessary for substitutions which become necessary at the quizzing out or erroring out of quizzers.
 - 1) Voluntary substitutions require the calling of time-outs.
 - 2) Other teams may substitute quizzers during one team's time-out.
 - 3) A time-out may be called for a team conference.
 - d. A challenge will take precedence over a time-out.
 - e. The procedure for calling a time-out will be as follows: The quizzer or coach should stand and say, "Mr. Quizmaster, we would like a time-out."
 - f. If tie-breaker questions are required, each team will be allowed one time-out during the tie breaker, regardless of the number of previous time-outs taken.
8. **Fouls:** The following actions will constitute fouls.
- a. Talking or conferring by any quizzers between the time the quizzer has been recognized and the time points are awarded or penalties assessed.

- b. Any part of the hands or feet touching the chair during the reading of a question.
 - c. Failure of a quizzer to come to full stature.
 - d. A team's display of an overly antagonistic attitude toward officials and rulings.
 - e. A disagreeable attitude evidenced by indiscreet challenging.
 - f. Any behavior not conducive to the Christian spirit.
 - g. For every three team fouls, ten points will be deducted from that team's scores.
 - h. If a quizzer begins to answer before he is recognized, a foul will be given; but he will be allowed points for a correct answer.
 - i. If the wrong quizzer answers the question, the right quizzer will be then permitted to answer the question. However, if both quizzers are from the same team, an error will be assessed and the question repeated as a toss-up question.
 - j. If the amber light fails to come on and the timer fails to engage when the quizzer jumps, then the quizzer has jumped too soon, and a foul will be assessed. The quizmaster will attempt to time the reset with the second word *question* (i.e., "Question number 7, *question*").
[Instructions for quizmaster: The quizmaster will do his best to time the reset so that the amber light will come on at the same time as the second word *question*. In any case, the standard is that quizzers may jump as soon as the amber light comes on.]
 - k. If after the amber light comes on and the timer begins to count down, the quizzer begins to stand but then is seated again without answering, this is an error, not a foul. The quizmaster gives the error to the quizzer and moves to the toss-up question
 - l. If a quizzer restrains or assists another quizzer physically (holds him in his seat or pushes him to his feet).
 - m. If a quizzer or team causes a delay in the game.
9. **Challenges:** The following rules will govern all challenges.
- a. An answer to any question (regular, toss-up, free, or tie-breaker) will be considered open to challenge under the following circumstances.
 - 1) It is believed that incorrect information was considered correct.
 - 2) In a finish-the-verse question, the first five words of the verse are identical to those of another verse in the Scripture included in the competition.
 - 3) It is believed that correct information was considered incorrect.
 - b. Each challenge must be submitted to the quizmaster at the appropriate time.
 - 1) If the original question is ruled *correct*, either of the other teams may immediately challenge the ruling, prior to the asking of the next question.
 - 2) If the original question is ruled *incorrect*, a challenge by any of the teams may be made only after the completion of the toss-up question and before the asking of the free question.
 - 3) A challenge to the ruling on a toss-up question, whether *correct* or *incorrect*, must be made immediately, prior to the asking of the free question.
 - 4) A challenge to the ruling on a free question, whether *correct* or *incorrect*, must be made immediately, prior to the asking of the next question.
 - c. The results of the quizmaster's ruling on the challenge will be as follows.
 - 1) If the challenge to a *correct* ruling on the original question is sustained, the answering team is assessed an error, and a new question replaces the challenged one to be used as the *toss-up* question. If the challenge is overruled, the answering team retains the 20 points, and the quiz continues to the next question.

- 2) If the challenge to an *incorrect* ruling on the original question is sustained, the first team to answer is awarded 20 points, the result of the toss-up is discarded, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge is overruled, the result of the toss-up question stands.
 - 3) If the challenge to a *correct* ruling on a toss-up question is sustained, the answering team is assessed an error, and the quiz continues to the free question. If the challenge is overruled, the answering team retains the 20 points, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge to an *incorrect* ruling on a toss-up question is sustained, the answering team is awarded 20 points, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge is overruled, the result of the toss-up question stands, and the quiz continues to the free question.
 - 4) If the challenge to a *correct* ruling on a free question is sustained, the score reverts to what it was before the question was asked, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge is overruled, the answering team retains the 10 points, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge to an *incorrect* ruling on a free question is sustained, the answering team is awarded 10 points, and the quiz continues to the next question. If the challenge is overruled, the result of the free question stands, and the quiz continues to the next question.
- d. Only a team captain may challenge by standing and saying, “Mr. Quizmaster, I would like to challenge.” The captain may yield the floor to a team member to voice the challenge.
 - e. The quizmaster, with or without counsel of the quiz panel, will have sole authority to accept or reject the challenge.
 - f. No penalty shall be assessed against any team that properly submits a challenge.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

No unanswered (tossed-out) questions will be asked again until all questions have been asked once during the entire competition. All decisions on the correctness of answers will be the sole responsibility of the quizmaster who may seek counsel of the quiz panel at his own discretion.

Description of Acceptable Question and Answer Forms

Interrogative Question form: a question constructed by the use of a direct word(s) from Scripture together with an interrogative and answerable by a paraphrased word or phrase.

- (1) Interrogatives will be limited to selections from this list: who, whom, what, why, where, when, which, how.
- (2) Interrogative questions drawn from a Scriptural context without the inclusion of direct word(s) will not be permissible.
- (3) Interrogative questions will include the book and chapter citation from which the question is drawn, but not the verse.
- (4) Example:
 Q: “Question number 2, question: By whom was Jesus led into the wilderness in Matthew 4?
 A: “the spirit.”

Finish-the-Verse Question form: a verse completion question answerable by a direct Scriptural quotation without any book, chapter, or verse reference citation.

- (1) Finish-the-verse questions will begin with the statement “Finish this one verse” or “Finish these two verses” or “Finish these three verses.” Verses must be quoted verbatim.
- (2) No quizzier will be expected to cite references in finish-the-verse(s) questions.

(3) Example:

Q: "Finish this one verse. Question number 1, question: He came unto his own . . ."

A: "and his own received him not."

(4) A quizzer may repeat all or some of the words of the verse that the quizmaster has already spoken, but the quizzer must proceed beyond those words within the first ten seconds.

(5) Having begun to finish the verse, a quizzer may stop and retrace some or all of the words that he has already spoken, provided that he makes no change in the retracing.

Reference Question form: a question citing a chapter and verse reference with or without the use of a key word(s) answerable by information found in that specific verse reference.

(1) Reference questions will begin with the phrase "This is a reference question. Question number 8, question:"

(2) Reference questions will include the phrase, "According to . . ." followed by a chapter and verse reference. This phrase may be located at the beginning or at the end of the question.

(3) The standard of what constitutes a correct answer to a reference question is more precise than that for an interrogative question because the correct answer must come from that specific verse. While a paraphrased answer may occasionally be ruled correct, precise language from the specific verse is preferable.

(4) Examples:

Q: "This is a reference question. Question number 4, question: Who hath no where to lay His head according to Matthew 8:20?"

A: "the Son of man" —Correct.

A: "Jesus" or "the Son of God" —Incorrect. These paraphrased answers would be acceptable for an interrogative question, but not for a reference question.

Q: "This is a reference question. Question number 6, question: According to 1 John 4:16, who dwelleth in God?"

A: "He that dwelleth in love" or "A person who dwells in love" —Correct.

A: "Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God" —Incorrect. While this answer is true, it is taken from a different verse.

Quotation Question form: a total recall question which states an exact Biblical reference and is answerable by a direct verbatim quotation.

(1) Quotation questions will begin with the phrase, "Quote this one verse. . ." or "Quote these two verses. . ." or "Quote these three verses. . ." and follow with a book-chapter-verse reference.

(2) Quotation questions will be answerable by the verbatim quotation of the verse(s) cited. The quizzer may, but will not be required to, cite the reference; however, he must begin the quotation of the verse within the ten-second time frame.

(3) Having begun to quote the verse, a quizzer may stop and retrace some or all of the words that he has already spoken, provided that he makes no change in the retracing.

(4) Example:

Q: "Quote this verse. Question number 3, question: John 1:4."

A: "John 1:4, 'In Him was life; and the life was the light of men.'"

Determination of Correctness of Answers

- 1) An answer will be considered correct only if it will have been correctly and completely stated within the thirty-second time limit.

- a) Answers to quotations and finish-the-verse questions must be verbatim and complete within the time limit.
- b) When answering reference and interrogative questions, if a quizzer is interrupted by the call for time while giving additional information beyond what the judges consider necessary for correctness and completeness; so long as the information given before the call for time was correct and complete, the answer will be considered correct.
- 2) An answer will be considered correct if a proper name is mispronounced.
 - a) The quizmaster may request clarification by spelling.
 - b) An incorrect spelling of the proper name will constitute an error.
- 3) Only the first answer from a quizzer will be considered. Starting over to make a correction will constitute an error.
- 4) Should a quizzer interrupt the reading of a question, he will not be required to complete the question before answering, but an incorrect answer will constitute an error.
- 5) When a quizzer has finished his answer he should be seated.

Errors: The following actions will constitute an error.

- 1) If the quizzer fails to begin his answer within ten seconds.
- 2) If at the timekeeper's call of time (30 seconds), any incorrect or incomplete answer has been given.
- 3) If the wrong quizzer answers the question, the right quizzer will then be permitted to answer the question, and the wrong quizzer will be assessed a foul. However, if both quizzers are from the same team, an error will be assessed. A new regular question will be asked if the question was a regular question or a free question, or the free question will be asked if the question was a toss-up.
- 4) If an answer would require clarification for understanding.
- 5) Quoting an **entire** verse word for word in response to an interrogative or reference question.
- 6) An answer to a finish-the-verse or quotation question in which there is any deviation from verbatim quotation of Scripture, i.e. any addition, omission, reversal, or change of words.
- 7) If the quizmaster calls for spelling of a proper name and it is incorrectly spelled.
- 8) Should a quizzer interrupt the reading of a question, he will not be required to complete the question before answering, but an incorrect answer will constitute an error.
- 9) Only the first answer from a quizzer will be considered. Starting over to make a correction will constitute an error.
- 10) Any incorrect information in an answer. This includes giving information that is not a part of the question or the answer.
- 11) Incorrectly or incompletely identifying the name of the book or the chapter number, even if the answer is correct.
- 12) Any incomplete answer at the call for time.
- 13) If, after the amber light comes on and the timer begins to count down, the quizzer begins to stand but then is seated again without answering, this is an error, not a foul. The quizmaster gives the error to the quizzer and moves to the toss-up question or to the free question.

DETERMINATION OF WINNER

- 1. Grades 7 – 8: The team with the highest score after 10 questions or 15 minutes, whichever comes first, or after sudden death tiebreaker will be declared the high winner.

2. Grades 9 – 12: The team with the highest score after 20 questions or 20 minutes, whichever comes first, or after sudden death tiebreaker will be declared the high winner.
3. The team with the highest score at the end of the round will be declared the high winner. The team with the second highest score will be declared the middle winner. The last place team will be considered the loser of the game. In other words, each game with three teams will have two winners and one loser.
4. The advantage of being a high winner is the draw of opponents as the contest eliminates quiz teams.
5. The quizmaster will determine the teams competing in each game. Determination of Winner rule 1 will help the quizmaster determine the selection of teams to participate in each game.
6. Competition will proceed as in a double elimination tournament so that each team must be defeated twice before being eliminated.

DIVISION 2: BIBLE TESTING for Junior and Senior High

Category 1: OT Survey (JH Only); OT Bible Knowledge (SH Only) – Online

Category 2: NT Survey (JH Only); NT Bible Knowledge (SH Only) – Online

Category 3: Bible Memory

General Rules:

1. The test-taking time is limited to one hour.
2. Neither Bibles, reference materials, notes, nor study guides will be allowed in the testing room.
3. All examinations are done online during the academic testing window in view of proctors assigned by the school.
4. The students scoring the highest cumulative scores will be declared the winners as long as scores/points reflect effort and knowledge of the material tested.

Rules by Category:

Category 1: Old Testament Bible Knowledge (SH Only) and OT Survey (JH Only)

At the senior high level, competition in this category will be by online examination, testing knowledge of factual or objective rather than interpretive material from pre-assigned Old Testament books. At the junior high level, competition in this category will be by online examination, testing knowledge of factual or objective rather than interpretive material in a survey style of the entire Old Testament.

School Year

2025–2026	Nehemiah, Daniel, Jonah
2026–2027	Genesis
2027–2028	Joshua, Judges
2028–2029	1 & 2 Samuel
2029–2030	Proverbs
2030–2031	Isaiah

Category 2: New Testament Bible Knowledge (SH Only) and NT Survey (JH Only)

At the senior high level, competition in this category will be by online examination, testing knowledge of factual or objective rather than interpretive material from pre-assigned Old Testament books. At the junior high level, competition in this category will be by online examination, testing knowledge of factual or objective rather than interpretive material in a survey style of the entire Old Testament.

School Year

2025–2026	1 & 2 Peter, 1, 2, & 3 John, Jude, Revelation
2026–2027	Mark, Acts
2027–2028	Romans, 1 Corinthians
2028–2029	2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians
2029–2030	Philippians, Colossians, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy
2030–2031	2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon, Hebrews, James

Category 3: Bible Memory

Competition will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee fashion. Bible Memory verses are located in the Appendix. The six-year cycle by school year is stated below:

2025–2026	God’s Promises
2026–2027	The Wisdom of God
2027–2028	Soul-winning
2028–2029	The Triune God
2029–2030	Sin and Salvation
2030–2031	Prayer

- Students are not required to provide judging forms for Bible Memory.
- All students will stand, forming a single line facing the Bible Memory master. The master will question from left to right.
 - Style 1: Master cites reference; student recites verse. Master may continue this style for as many rounds as he chooses.
 - Style 2: Master refers to application of verse; student cites both reference and verse. Master may continue this style for as many rounds as he chooses.
- All questions will be taken from the official memory material.
- The master may conduct only two styles of quizzing as follows:
- Each student will be given a question different from that given the preceding student.
- The student will not begin speaking until the master’s questioning is completed.
- A student will be permitted one error before his elimination. Upon commission of his second error, the student will be eliminated by the master with confirmation from the judges.
- GSACS will use the KJV Bible for judging Bible competition categories. (If competing at the National level, see AACS website for current publication and ordering information.)
- The following will constitute errors:
 - Any incorrect reference citation.
 - Any deviation from the verbatim quotation of Scripture, i.e., any addition, omission, reversal, or change of words.
 - Incomplete answers at the call of time.
 - Only one error per question may be scored against a student.
 - Pronunciation mistakes will not constitute errors.
 - Having begun either to cite a reference, quote a verse, or both, a student may stop and begin again, repeating exactly as begun; but in the repeating, there can be no change of reference or quotation. If such change occurs, the student will be declared in error.
- The student will have 15 seconds to begin to say a verse or verse reference but must finish within 35 seconds of start of timer.
 - Timing will begin at the master’s signal, “Time!”
 - If the student wishes a repetition of the question, to prevent the starting of the clock, he will signify his request by saying, “Please repeat the question.”
 - Only one repeat request per question will be permissible.
- Having already correctly cited a passage, a student will not be asked to recite the same passage in a later round.

12. The correct citation or quotation will not be given after a response has been deemed in error. However, a contestant who has been ruled in error may immediately request that the master give a brief summary of the nature of the error.
13. A student may state a challenge for one of the following reasons:
 - a. The student believes that the master ruled an incorrect response of another student to be correct.
 - b. The student believes that the master ruled a correct answer to be incorrect.
 - c. The student believes that the master has not correctly enforced a rule.
14. The challenge must be stated immediately following the response to the question being challenged. The student will initiate the challenge by saying, "Excuse me, Mr. Quizmaster, I would like to challenge." The master will have sole authority to accept or reject the challenge.
15. After a student's elimination, the proceedings continue as normal. The next question from the master's official list will then be given to the next student.
16. When the students have been reduced to two, provided that each student has committed one error or that each student is errorless, the elimination procedure changes, but not before the completion of the current round. At that point, when one student commits an error, the opponent will be given an opportunity to correctly answer that same question. If the opponent will answer correctly that same question, plus answer the next question correctly on the master's list, then he will be declared champion.
17. If one of the last two students commits an error and the other student, after correcting the error, commits an error on the extra question, then the first student may attempt to answer the extra question. If the first student then succeeds in correcting that error and then correctly answers another extra question, he will be declared champion.
18. If both of the finalists commit errors on the same question, both will continue in competition. The question will be answered correctly by the master, and the competition will continue with the next question directed to the one who erred first on the prior question. The competition will resume under rule 14 and 15.
19. Any protest relating to the reference or quotation of a verse will be referred to the judges immediately. Only a student participant may lodge a protest. The deadline for lodging a protest will be before the affected student would have received his next question had he not been eliminated. No protest will be entertained after a contested question has been given to another student. When only two students remain, a protest must be made immediately, i.e., before the second student has begun to answer the question, or, if both have missed the same question, before the correct answer is given to the audience.
20. When oral quizzing has continued for at least 20 rounds or for at least 1.5 hours without producing a winner (whichever comes first), the master will institute written quizzing.
 - a. If, when written quizzing is instituted, some competitors have one error while others are errorless, the errorless competitors shall be allowed three unpenalized errors in written quizzing.
 - b. In written quizzing, the competitors will be given ten outline statements. The competitor must write the reference(s) and verse(s) that correspond with each outline statement.
 - c. A thirty-minute time limit will be established for written quizzing. If a competitor finishes his writing before the time limit expires, he may turn in his work and the time elapsed will be recorded on his paper. All work will be collected when the time limit has expired.

- d. In written quizzing, errors will be weighted numerically. Any word error (incorrect word, omitted word, or added word) will be given a weight of 3. Any error in spelling, punctuation, or capitalization will be given a weight of 1.
 - e. If a tie remains after the writing is scored, the times for competitors (19.c.) will be used to break the tie. In the case of a continuing tie, the entire writing process will be repeated for the tied competitors.
21. The master and judges have complete authority and control. Their decisions will be final.

Note to School Coordinators and Judges:

Each school should permit an entry only if the school can verify the entrant knows a minimum of one third of the required verses for that grade level. When participation is low, the following procedures will be applied to determine winners and qualifications for medallions:

Because this category has extensive memory work involved and routinely has a smaller number of contestants at the state level, judges will apply the following guideline when determining winners for this category. When the number of contestants is limited and does not allow multiple rounds of quizzing, a single contestant who shows a knowledge of at least one third of the material will qualify for a first-place award. A second-place standard requires a student to know at least a quarter of the material. A third-place standard requires a student to know at least a tenth of the material. This standard is only used when the number of contestants does not allow multiple rounds of quizzing to test their full knowledge of the material.

DIVISION 3: BIBLE TEACHING for Junior and Senior High

Competition in this category shall provide opportunity for developing organizational and teaching talent for God's use.

1. Students may be either young men or young women.
2. Each SH student will prepare and teach a Bible lesson 10–15 minutes in length. Each JH student will prepare and teach a Bible lesson 8-12 minutes in length. A missionary biography or contemporary story is not sufficient. The lesson should be based on a Bible character, a Bible doctrine, or a concept taught in Scripture.
3. Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used to generate content. AI tools may appropriately be used to research or compile, but may not be used to write outlines, applications, stories, or required student-generated content. AI may suggest edits or revisions to student-created content if the software does nothing more than suggest changes. All revisions must be made by the student.
4. Each lesson will be prepared for a class of junior-age children, ages 9–12.
5. Each lesson may include some type of audio and/or visual aid. These aids do not have to be original.
6. Lessons may be original or from published sources.
7. Each student will submit three copies of the typewritten lesson outline to the judges at the time of presentation. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
8. The lesson outline will include the following:
 - a. Outline of lesson content
 - b. Objectives of lesson
 - c. Specific principle(s) to be taught
 - d. Scripture references
 - e. Materials required
 - f. Brief summary of lesson
 - g. Application of principles to child's life (Present a decision)
 - h. Bibliography of references
9. **Recording is absolutely prohibited** except for the recording of a **single entry** by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in an event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge in a competition may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.

DIVISION 4: BIBLE PREACHING for Junior and Senior High

Category 1: Expository Preaching

Category 2: Evangelistic Preaching

Category 3: Topical Preaching

General Rules:

1. Students will be restricted to young men.
2. Each entrant may enter only one of the preaching categories.
3. Each SH student will prepare a sermon 10–15 minutes in length. Each JH student will prepare a sermon 8-12 minutes in length.
4. Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used to generate content. AI tools may appropriately be used to research or compile, but may not be used to write outlines, applications, stories, or required student-generated content. AI may suggest edits or revisions to student-created content if the software does nothing more than suggest changes. All revisions must be made by the student.
5. Each student will present three copies of his typewritten sermon outline to the judges at the time of delivery.
6. The outline guidelines are as follows:
 - a. It should be done in a standard subordination format.
 - b. It should be done in sentence form, with transition sentences.
 - c. It should include a written introduction and conclusion.
 - d. It should include a title, thesis, and Scripture references.
7. The King James Version will be the only authorized translation.
8. **Recording is absolutely prohibited** except for the recording of a **single entry** by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in an event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge in a competition may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.

Category 1: Expository:

An expository sermon is one in which a portion of Scripture is interpreted in relation to one theme or central idea. The bulk of the material for the sermon is drawn directly from the passage, and the outline consists of a series of progressive ideas centered on that one main idea.

Category 2: Evangelistic:

An evangelistic sermon may be either expository, topical, or textual, but one which is primarily directed toward the lost, with the goal of drawing them to Christ. Since an evangelistic sermon may be textual in nature, it is good to have a definition of textual preaching also. A textual sermon is one in which the main divisions are derive from a text consisting of a brief portion of Scripture. Each of these divisions is then used as a line of suggestion, and the text provides the theme of the sermon.

Category 3: Topical:

A topical sermon is one in which the main divisions are derived from the topic, independently of a text. Scripture passages should be used to support the topic. Scripture passages must be used to support the topic. Greatest care must be taken that Scripture passages are not taken out of context.

Note to Competition Coordinators:

- The preaching of God’s Word should not be taken lightly. The expectation for students entering competition is that the student—prior to the competition event—has had the opportunity to preach the message he is preaching at this competition event in a ministry situation with the pastor or a pastoral staff member present and granting approval of the message afterward. It could have been in a meeting such as the following:
 - A regular church service
 - A youth meeting
 - A school assembly or chapel service
- Students going on to AACS competition must preach the same sermon they preached at GSACS but may make suggested adjustments made by the state-level judges.

AREA TWO: MUSIC for Junior and Senior High

Division 1: Individual Performance

- Category 1: Female Vocal Solo
- Category 2: Male Vocal Solo
- Category 3: Instrumental Brass Solo
- Category 4: Instrumental Woodwind Solo
- Category 5: Instrumental Bowed String Solo
- Category 6: Instrumental Plucked String Solo
- Category 7: Instrumental Percussion Solo
- Category 8: Classical Piano Solo
- Category 9: Sacred Piano Solo
- Category 10: Organ Solo

Division 2: Group Performance

- Category 1: Small Vocal Ensemble (2-6)
- Category 2: Large Vocal Ensemble (7-12)
- Category 3: Choral (13-24)
- Category 4: Youth Choir (25+)
- Category 5: Small Instrumental Ensemble (2-6)
- Category 6: Large Instrumental Ensemble (7-12)
- Category 7: Orchestra/Band (13+)
- Category 8: Sacred/Classical Piano-Organ Duet
- Category 9: Handbell/Handchime Ensemble (2-6)
- Category 10: Handbell/Handchime Choir (7+)
- Category 11: Sacred Piano Duet
- Category 12: Classical Piano Duet

General Rules:

1. Memory is required of piano solos, vocal solos, and vocal groups. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano) or instrumental groups. Failure to memorize when required results in automatic DISQUALIFICATION.
2. Each contestant (individual or group) will submit (3) three copies of his selection plus an original and (3) three copies of judging sheets for the judges use prior to the performance. Each performer is responsible for providing original music for his/her accompanist. Failure to submit the original, copies, or judging sheets will result in DISQUALIFICATION although performance will be allowed.
3. Each school coordinator overseeing their student performers is responsible to adhere to all copyright laws in obtaining music for accompanists, directors, and multiple performers in their school's individual and group categories. (Refer to the Music Publishers Association *Quick Guide to Copyright Laws*. For this state competition, judges require only to see one original. If planning to compete at the national level, copies of music, with few exceptions, are not allowed.
4. Contestants must number at least every 5th measure on the music given to judges (except for piano solos and duets). Numbers must be clear and legible. Numbers may be written in pencil. Failure to number at least every 5th measure will result in a five-point penalty. Judges should not write on original music.
5. No competitors are permitted to use page-turners; accompanists may use a page-turner. See exceptions in the digital music section.
6. If there is question about the appropriateness of a performance or selection, a committee of judges along with GSACS officials will determine whether the performance or the selection merits disqualification. No one judge can independently disqualify based on performance or selection.
7. Contestants are penalized for going over time or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established. When a student violates his time limit by more than 1

minute, the student will be disqualified. Being under or over time less than 1 minute results in points being deducted from his score.

Photocopied Music Guidelines:

1. The music is in the public domain—either it is not copyrighted or the copyright date is 1922 or earlier.
2. The copyrighted music has been ordered but not yet received, and the contestant presents a note from a music store stating that he has ordered and paid for the music.
3. The contestant presents a letter from the publisher or the copyright holder giving permission to copy the music. Publishers often grant permission for adjudication. Ban directors should note that most publishers sell an additional score for a significantly reduced price.
4. The contestant or accompanist may reproduce single pages to facilitate page turns.
5. An emergency copy may be made to replace previously purchased copies which for any reason are not available for an imminent performance. Proof of purchase must be attached to the copies.
6. If the contestant is using digital sheet music or something similar printed from an online download, he/she will need to provide proof of purchase or a ‘permission to use letter’ with the music.

Digital Music Guidelines:

1. Scores on digital devices are allowed if students and accompanists abide by all copyright laws and have proof of purchase or documented permission to use all music used by competitors or given to judges during the competitions. When a score on a digital device is used, a device to turn pages is also permitted so long as the device is operated by the competitor.
2. If the contestant is using digital sheet music or something similar printed from an online download, he/she will need to provide proof of purchase or a “permission to use letter” with the music. Permission from the publisher must be supplied to the judges.

Altered Music Guidelines:

1. Copyrighted music may be edited or simplified if the fundamental character—melodically and harmonically—of the work is not distorted. Minor deviations from the printed music must be clearly marked on the music given to judges.
2. Copyrighted lyrics may not be changed without permission of the copyright holder.
3. Personal arrangements of a copyrighted work must have the written permission of the copyright holder. Personal arrangements and deviations from the printed music should be clearly marked on the judge’s copies or DISQUALIFICATION will result after the performance is finished. Lengthy repeats *may* be deleted to save time when performed at the state competition. Students planning to participate at the national competition must adhere to the guidelines in the national competition manual.

Selection Guidelines

Each member school of GSACS is responsible for filtering and approving music selections that students perform at competition. Schools should be mindful of the fine arts emphasis at this competition. Although judging is subjective in nature, school leaders and students should keep these basic guidelines in mind when selecting and approving music. Vocal and instrumental selections will be from the following types of music: sacred, spirituals, patriotic, folk, semi-classical, or classical. If in doubt of

the appropriateness of a selection, schools should confer with other music directors of member schools for feedback and suggestions.

1. The term *classical* will not be limited to denote music from that period of history but will apply to selections of a classical nature as opposed to those of popular music. Piano and organ selections must be sacred or classical per the rules of the category. The traditional musical periods – Renaissance, Baroque, Classical (including Beethoven), Romantic, Impressionistic, and music since 1900 – are most considered for classical categories, such as classical piano, classical piano duet, and classical guitar or harp.
2. Folk music is the body of literature that identifies with a culture or a country in the form of ballads, religious songs, work songs, cowboy songs, patriotic and political songs, and love songs. Many such folk songs have been passed from one generation to another generation with no composer identification. Protest songs or songs of any subversive cultural movement are not permitted.
3. Rock style, gospel country, jazz, or music that imitates these styles will not be permitted. A “night club” sound, note sliding, crooning or “contemporary” sound is unacceptable for this competition. Participants are to avoid contemporary movie themes, though the music itself may be acceptable, and are not to use songs produced and/or popularized by current pop or rock stars even though the song itself may be acceptable.
4. Lyrics must be God-honoring in subject and biblically accurate in doctrine.
5. Medleys will be acceptable.
6. No student or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups from the same school in the same year. Each school competition coordinator is to monitor this requirement.
7. Selections performed in a foreign language must be accompanied by an English translation.
8. Selections for the sacred categories must be pieces that can be ministered in a conservative, evangelical worship service. The texts, including those represented by the instrumental selections though not sung, must be theologically sound, and not associate with false religions or heretical teachings.
9. The goal of these music guidelines is not to assert to member schools what is right or wrong for their ministries and places of worship. The goal of these guidelines is purposely limiting in that the state and national events focus on the fine arts of vocal and instrumentation so that judges can best articulate vocal skills, harmonies, precision of notes, and command of instrument without the distractions of performance emphasis, subjective style preferences, and modern popularity. Making “fine art” selections that best fit within these guidelines is meeting the difficulty level of competition GSACS and AACS have established for these specific events.

Types of Instruments, Accompaniment, and Sound Equipment

1. No amplification will be used for vocal categories.
2. No percussion instruments except in large instrumental ensemble, orchestra/band, handbell/handchime ensemble or handbell/handchime choir will be permissible.
3. No electronically amplified musical instruments except the organ and those specifically mentioned will be permissible.
4. Only live piano accompaniment will be permitted for all music categories which need accompaniment. (Exception: see pre-recorded accompaniment policy below)

5. Each student or group will provide an accompanist who will not be considered as part of the group in size determination or grade level requirements.

Recorded Accompaniment Policy

This policy does not eliminate the need for a pianist altogether, but it does remove the need for the pianist to be present at competition. This policy is meant to address the difficulty many schools have in acquiring pianists for the on-site competition.

1. If a pianist is not available to accompany a school to competition, GSACS will allow the use of a pre-recorded piano or pipe organ accompaniment to be used for vocal and instrument solo and vocal small ensemble performances.
 - a. Pre-recorded, for this policy, means that a pianist recorded an accompaniment for the purpose of it being used for the competition performance. This does not mean that the accompaniment recording could not be used for other performances beyond competition, such as for a church worship service or other ministry opportunity.
 - b. Pre-recorded, for this policy, means that the recording was not purchased. GSACS will disqualify any performance that uses professionally or commercially recorded accompaniment. There will be no exceptions made.
 - c. The recording should be piano or pipe organ accompaniment only. If using a digital keyboard, the sound should not be synthesized. The piano recording should sound like an acoustic piano sound.
2. When using a pre-recorded accompaniment, the student is responsible for supplying his own device, such as an Iphone, and Bluetooth speaker to use for the performance. The speaker should be placed on the piano so the judges have the best balance of sound and voice when adjudicating.
 - a. The student is responsible to provide a person (chaperone, parent, teacher) who can handle the start and stop of the recording, including speaker connections and volume control.
 - b. Judges will not be responsible for the recordings and reserve the right to adjust the order of performances to avoid delays in the competition due to technology malfunction.
 - c. Just as performers must adjust to the mistakes of a live accompaniment, so they must also adjust to technological difficulties when using a pre-recorded accompaniment. In other words, there is no room in the schedule for “do overs” because of volume issues or other difficulties that become present once the performance begins. Students are responsible to test the technology prior to the performance to reduce technology issues. Any quick volume check should be done before a student gives his name and title of song.
3. This policy applies to vocal and instrument solo and vocal small ensemble performances only.

Preparation and Performance Guidelines

1. No choreography, planned or unnecessary bodily movement (including hand clapping or waving, foot stomping, finger snapping, etc.) will be permitted.
2. Warm-up areas will be available throughout the day based on availability.

3. Each student or group should be present at the beginning of the HOUR of the performance and be prepared to perform ON CALL whether per the published schedule or not. Scheduling conflicts should be communicated to judges immediately.
4. Instrumentalists may tune their instruments with the piano before performing.
5. Either the soloist, one member of a duet or small ensemble, or the director of a large ensemble, choral, or choir shall announce the name of the participant/group, the school, the title, and composer/arranger of the selection. Timing will begin after the introduction.
6. The director or a student will be responsible for securing furnished original copies from the judges following the performance. Unclaimed music will be mailed upon request at the school's expense, not the host school's expense.
7. For all music performances, schools/students will be required to secure their own instruments (except piano and organ) and needed equipment (bells, pads, accessories, etc.). Tables and music stands are available based on the host school's inventory. Schools may check with the host school about available stands, tables, and large percussions that don't travel easily.

DIVISION 1: INDIVIDUAL MUSIC PERFORMANCE for Junior and Senior High

Rules by Category:

Category 1: Female Vocal Solo

Category 2: Male Vocal Solo

Category 3: Instrumental Brass Solo

Category 4: Instrumental Woodwind Solo

Category 5: Instrumental Bowed String Solo

Category 6: Instrumental Plucked String Solo

Category 7: Instrumental Percussion Solo

Category 8: Classical Piano Solo

Category 9: Sacred Piano Solo

Category 10: Organ Solo

Categories 1 and 2: Female and Male Vocal Solos

1. All vocal solos will be memorized. Failure to memorize will result in disqualification.
2. Vocal soloists will perform one selection within five minutes. Students planning to compete in national competition will need to perform two selections or medleys with a ten-minute time limit for each selection. At least one selection must be sacred and in English.

Categories 8-10: Classical and Sacred Piano Solo

1. Memory is required for piano solos. Failure to memorize will result in disqualification.
2. Students will perform one selection or medley within eight minutes.
3. All measures are to be numbered. Failure to number every measure will result in a five-point penalty.

Categories 3-7, 10: Instrumental Solos

1. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano).
2. Students will perform one selection or medley within eight minutes.
3. Bowed String Category – for string instruments that are played by a bow rubbing the strings to cause vibration, such as but not limited to the violin, cello, and bass. Note: for students planning to participate at the national level, the harp is included as a non-bowed instrument eligible in this category.
4. Plucked Strings Category – is for string instruments that are played by plucking or striking directly on the strings to cause vibration; and for this specific fine arts competition, are limited to classical-style harp or guitar. This category is classical in style and selections. If a sacred piece is performed, it should follow the same traditions as the classical musical periods. Electric instruments are not allowed. Original compositions are not allowed. If a composition is written for accompaniment, it must be performed with one. Note: for students planning to participate at the national level, the national competition is limited to classical guitar only.
5. Percussion Solo Category – is an instrumental percussion as a solo or concert etude. It must be from standard concert literature and must conform to the music guidelines set forth in this manual. Since much of this literature is unaccompanied, an accompaniment is optional. No electronic devices are permitted. No drum sets are permitted. The solo must fit one of the following categories:
 - a. Snare Drum Solo
 - b. Timpani Solo
 - c. Mallet Percussion: any instrument with notes arranged in piano keyboard fashion including, but not limited to orchestra bells (or glockenspiel), xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone
 - d. Multiple Percussion: Multiple percussion has no standard set of instruments, but often has a combination of snare drums, concert toms, and small instruments such as triangle, wood blocks, or cymbals.

DIVISION 2: GROUP PERFORMANCE for Junior and Senior High

Rules by Category:

Category 1: Small Vocal Ensemble (2-6)

Category 2: Large Vocal Ensemble (7-12)

Category 3: Choral (13-24)

Category 4: Youth Choir (25+)

Category 5: Small Instrumental Ensemble (2-6)

Category 6: Large Instrumental Ensemble (7-12)

Category 7: Orchestra/Band (13+)

Category 8: Sacred/Classical Piano-Organ Duet

Category 9: Handbell/Handchime Ensemble (2-6)

Category 10: Handbell/Handchime Choir (7+)

Category 11: Sacred Piano Duet

Category 12: Classical Piano Duet

Categories 1 and 2: Small and Large Vocal Ensemble

1. A small vocal ensemble consists of 2 to 6 voices (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may **not** be directed.
2. A large vocal ensemble consists of 7 to 12 voices (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may be directed.
3. Each ensemble will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
4. Memory is required of vocal groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.

Category 3: Choral Group

1. A choral group consists of 13 to 24 members. It may be directed.
2. Each choral group will perform two numbers within 12 minutes. At least one selection must be sacred. At least one selection must be in English. The intent is that the piece be 100% in English. Incidental use of a foreign word or phrase would be accepted. An entire verse in a foreign language would result in penalty.
3. Memory is required of vocal groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.

Category 4: Youth Choir

1. A youth choir consists of 25 or more members.
2. Each choir will perform two numbers within twelve minutes. At least one selection must be sacred and in English. It may be directed.
3. Memory is required of vocal groups.
4. Note: Youth Choir is NOT a category at the national level.

Categories 5-6: Small and Large Instrumental Ensemble/Handbell or Handchime Ensemble

1. A small instrumental ensemble consists of 2 to 6 instruments (plus piano accompaniment if

- desired). It may **not** be directed.
2. A large instrumental ensemble consists of 7 to 12 instruments (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may be directed.
 3. Each ensemble will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
 4. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.
 5. Percussion ensembles are allowed in the large instrumental ensemble category. No electronic devices are permitted. No drum sets are permitted. The following instruments are allowed:
 - a. Snare Drum
 - b. Timpani
 - c. Mallet Percussion: any instrument with notes arranged in piano keyboard fashion including, but not limited to orchestra bells (or glockenspiel), xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone.
 - d. Multiple Percussion: multiple percussion has no standard set of instruments, but often has a combination of snare drums, concert toms, and small instruments such as a triangle, wood blocks, or cymbals.
 6. Percussion ensembles are excluded from the small instrumental ensemble category, and no percussion instruments will be permitted in small instrumental ensembles.

Category 7: Orchestra/Band

1. An orchestra or band consists of 13 or more musicians.
2. An orchestra or band will perform two numbers within 15 minutes. It may be directed.
3. Piano may be used only if the piano part is written in the score and if the piano is played by a student. It may not be used to fill in missing instruments. The student is included in the competitor count.
4. Memory is not required.

Categories 9 and 10: Handbell/Handchime Choir

1. A handbell/handchime choir consists of 7 or more musicians (plus piano accompaniment if desired).
2. A handbell/handchime choir will perform two numbers within 15 minutes. It may be directed.
3. Seventh and eighth graders may compete.
4. For all handbell competition, schools will be required to provide all equipment (bells, pads, etc.) except tables.
5. Instruments are limited to handbells and handchimes (and piano accompaniment, if desired); additional instruments or devices are not allowed.
6. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.

Categories 8 and 11-12: Organ and Piano Duet, Sacred and Classical Piano Duet

1. Sacred piano duet consists of two students and one piano. Only sacred music is acceptable.
2. Classical piano duet consists of two students and one piano. Only classical music is acceptable.
3. Sacred piano and organ duet consists of one student at the piano and one student at the organ. Sacred or classical music is acceptable.
4. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
5. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.
6. All measures are to be numbered. Failure to number every measure will result in a five-point penalty.

AREA THREE: SPEECH for Junior and Senior High

Division 1: Senior High Individual and Group

Category 1: Debate	Category 7: Oral Interpretation of Scripture
Category 2: Dramatic Interpretation	Category 8: Acting (2-6)
Category 3: Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Category 9: Original Persuasive Oratory
Category 4: Religious Reading	Category 10: Extemporaneous Speaking
Category 5: Declamation	Category 11: Readers' Theatre (3-6)
Category 6: Humorous Interpretation	Category 12: Choric Speaking (7-15)

Division 2: Junior High Individual and Group

Category 1: Debate	Category 5: Humorous Interpretation
Category 2: Dramatic or Religious Interpretation	Category 6: Acting (2-6)
Category 3: Oral Interpretation of Poetry	Category 7: Readers' Theatre (3-6)
Category 4: Declamation or Scripture Narrative	

General Rules for ALL categories:

1. Junior high time limit is 3-8 minutes for the individual categories.
2. Senior high time limit is 5-10 minutes for the individual categories.
3. With the exception of Debate, the time limit for all SH group categories is 5-13 minutes and for all JH group categories is 5-10 minutes.
4. Students will be penalized for going over time or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established. When a student violates his time limit by more than one minute, the student will be disqualified. However, if he is over time or under time, but not by one minute, points or a fraction of a point will be deducted which will prevent an otherwise first-place winner from placing first, a second-place winner from placing second, or a third-place winner from placing third.
5. All material should be in good taste and of high quality. Entries will not be restricted to sacred themes. However, school leaders and students should follow these guidelines and principles when selecting pieces for this competition.
 - a. Selections should not reflect anti-biblical themes or content. Anti-biblical would be anything that downgrades the authority of Scripture. Anti-biblical would be anything that makes fun of authority figures in a disrespectful way (i.e. parents, pastors, and public servants). Anti-biblical would be anything that highlights sin through sensual content, humanism, or worldliness.
 - b. Selections should not contain profanity, crudeness, or suggestive language.
6. Anonymous selections (no author noted) is acceptable at the state level if the speech came from a published work and was published anonymously. NOTE: The AACS national competition does NOT allow anonymous selections.
7. All selections are to be memorized (no scripts will be permitted), excluding the areas of Debate, Original Persuasive Oratory, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Readers' Theatre.

8. Students must submit three typewritten copies of their selection and three judging sheets to the judges prior to their performance. A student will be disqualified if this requirement is not met.
9. A lectern may be used only in the categories of Debate and Extemporaneous Speaking.
10. The student must first introduce himself and cite the name of the selection and author. The time limit is from the beginning of the student's selection until the ending. All other remarks related to introducing the selection will be included in the time limit. It is the responsibility of each school's competition coordinator to see that no student or group performs the same selection in two consecutive years.
11. The following movement and costuming rules apply to the individual categories:
 - a. Body movement should be primarily, but not limited to, movement above the waist. Walking movement should be limited to the stage area.
 - b. No makeup, hand props, or costume pieces will be permitted.
12. All selections will be taken from published works. Self-published works or original YouTube-produced (or other social media platforms) works do not fulfill this expectation.
13. In addition to General Rule #10, the contestant may provide the audience with necessary background information to set the mood for the piece. He may also give transitional narrative for clarity within the piece. These additions combined are not to exceed one minute and are included in the time limit.
14. Singing of a song during a speech is to be limited to no more than one verse of the song or no more than 1.5 minutes of the speech. In addition, no instrument may be used to accompany the individual or group during the speech performance.
15. After five helps the contestant will be DISQUALIFIED and may be asked to step down if the poorly memorized performance causes delays in the competition schedule.
16. Performances are protected by copyright law. In some cases, the source material is also protected by copyright law. Copying the performance of another individual or group without permission from the person who developed the performance is not ethical and may violate intellectual property rights. To discourage this possibility and to protect student privacy, recording is prohibited except under the following restrictive guidelines:
Recording is absolutely prohibited except for the recording of a single entry by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in an event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge in a competition may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.

SH Category: Dramatic Interpretation / JH Category: Dramatic or Religious Interpretation

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation by an individual of a serious selection of narrative or dramatic literature. Cuttings may incorporate multiple characters, but monologues are acceptable. Speeches with a religious theme should be entered in Religious Reading for SH. Religious-themed dramatic interpretations (religious readings) are combined with dramatic interpretation at the JH level.

SH and JH Category: Oral Interpretation of Poetry

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of poetry by an individual. Selections from the Bible are not acceptable for this category and are reserved for the Oral Interpretation of Scripture category. Poetry selections must be a single work or a cutting of a longer work.

SH Category: Religious Reading

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of prose by an individual. The selection should inspire or convict spiritually. The presentation should include dialogue and be dramatic in nature. Monologues are acceptable except at the national level. Selections from the Bible are not appropriate and should be entered in Oral Interpretation of Scripture.

SH Category: Declamation / JH Category: Declamation or Scripture Narrative

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of persuasive or inspirational material of high literary value originally prepared by and presented orally by another person or persons. Selections must come from published materials such as speeches. Published essays are only acceptable if the essay was first orally presented before being printed in essay format. The delivery should be directed toward the audience and not toward an assumed off-stage audience. At the SH level, selections from the Bible are not acceptable for this category. At the JH level, this category also includes Scripture Narrative which is a memorized oral interpretation by an individual of one long or two short passages from the Bible (King James Version only), with appropriate introduction and transition.

SH and JH Category: Humorous Interpretation

Definition: The memorized oral interpretation of a humorous selection by an individual. Cuttings are to be taken from published plays or prose. Selections with multiple characters are preferred.

SH Category: Original Persuasive Oratory

Definition: The largely memorized oral presentation of an original persuasive speech by an individual of which no more than 10% is direct quotation. It is designed to move an audience toward personal action or to sway audience opinion.

1. Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used to generate content. AI tools may appropriately be used to suggest edits or revisions to student-created content as long as the software does nothing more than suggest changes. All revisions must be made by the student.
2. Only one 4 x 6 card of notes may be used.
3. Small hand props or costume pieces may not be used. Posters, charts, digital presentation tools, etc., will not be allowed.
4. Three typewritten scripts must be submitted to the judges at performance time. Failure to provide a script results in DISQUALIFICATION.

SH Category: Extemporaneous Speaking

Definition: A persuasive speech on a current issue. The student will be given 30 minutes of preparation time. Topics, drawn randomly, will be from the January, February, and March issues of various news magazines.

1. Topics will be stated as questions requiring the student to take a position on the issue.
2. At ten-minute intervals each student will draw three topic cards. The student will select one topic and advise the judge of his choice. All three topic cards will then be returned to the judge for subsequent drawings.
3. Students will prepare speeches without consultation and without references to prepared notes.
 - a. Students may access research brought with them to the competition during the preparation period.
 - b. Students should review news articles and opinion pieces from reputable sources.

- c. Student research and speech references are not limited to the magazines from which topics will be drawn. Research documents may be paper or electronic.
 - d. Students may **not** access the Internet during the 30-minute prep period.
 - e. All articles referenced must be printed or stored on a laptop or tablet.
 - f. Referenced documents may be originals or copies of whole pages.
 - g. No written material is permitted on any referenced document other than citation information.
 - h. Underlining or highlighting on referenced documents is permitted *if done in only one color on each article*.
 - i. Students may access no other material during the preparation period—no speeches, handbooks, outlines, or briefs are permitted.
4. Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used at any stage of the process. AI tools or software may not be used to generate ideas, to suggest edits or revisions, or for any other purpose. The speech must be entirely the work of the student.
 5. Students will not receive any assistance during preparation time.
 6. A student is permitted to use one 4 x 6 card for notes.
 7. The timekeeper will show numbered cards nine through one at one-minute intervals during the speech to alert the speaker of remaining time.
 8. A competing student is not permitted to listen to other students until after he has completed his speech.

SH Category: Oral Interpretation of Scripture

Definition: A memorized oral interpretation by an individual of one long or two short passages from the Bible (King James Version only), with appropriate introduction and transition. A narrative passage with dialogue in which characters speak or a story is told is recommended. Please note: at the JH level, Scripture Narrative is combined with Declamation.

SH and JH Category: Acting (2-6)

Definition: A stage performance in which no more than six individuals each portray one character without the use of script, costumes, staging, lights, sound effects, or make-up.

1. Cuttings must be taken from published dramatic literature, published plays by a reputable author, or from published prose that has been scripted for stage.
2. Acting will develop understandable scenes with clear character action and reaction. The scene(s) should grow through increased insight, intensification of plot or mood, and thematic statement.
3. Actors may speak to silent or off-stage characters.
4. Each actor may portray only one character.
5. Narration: A brief introduction or scene description may be given, but is not required, for each scene change. The narration must be done by one or more of the actors. The narration may be done by any of the actors and does not violate the requirement that each actor may portray only one character.
6. Full costuming is not permitted. Actors may make use of small hand props and costume accessories (such as an umbrella, shawl, gloves, hat, glasses, etc.). In a quality performance, small props may be used appropriately to enhance the performance and props are not used excessively so that they distract from the performance.
7. Participants must be able to perform their scene(s) in an acting space of approximately 18' x 10'.

- Prohibited elements in this category include Readers Theatre performances, full costuming, makeup, lighting, and furniture other than a table and chairs, stools, or boxes.

SH and JH Category: Readers' Theatre (3-6)

Definition: The oral presentation of dramatic, poetic, or prose material by a group focused on the audience, utilizing some or all the following techniques: effective use of distinct and separate characters, out of scene, characterization, group speaking, and group movement. The presentation may include these types: cameo (face only movement), upper body, or whole-body movement. Characters are not to interact with each other (Refer to Distinctions between Readers Theatre and Choric Speaking.)

- Group size consists of three to six individuals.
- Readers may make use of small hand props and costume accessories (such as an umbrella, shawl, gloves, hat, glasses, etc.). In a quality performance, small props may be used appropriately to enhance the performance and props are not used excessively to that they distract from the performance. No makeup, lighting, full costumes, or furniture other than a table, chairs, and stools. Platforms or prop boxes are permitted.
- All members dressed in black (or any color) or in the same style shall not be considered to be wearing costumes.
- The presentation will be judged on originality of arrangement and the skillful use of the techniques to move the audience with the chosen material.
- Memorization is required. It may not be directed.
- Any form of literature, poetry or prose, adapted to the Readers Theatre form will be appropriate for this contest. All literature must meet acceptable guidelines.
- All speaking and visual expression is to be directed toward the audience or off-stage rather than toward other performers. Normally, narrative material is directed toward the audience and characterization should have an off-stage focus. Performers are not to interact with each other. There should be no physical contact or eye contact between performers. At least three points will be deducted for violating this rule.

SH Category: Choric Speaking (7-15)

Definition: An oral group presentation utilizing some or all of the following techniques: unison speaking, solo speaking, vocal effects, word color, dramatic climax, and group movement. Characters are not to interact with each other as they do in Acting. (Refer to Distinctions between Readers Theatre and Choric Speaking.)

- Group size consists of seven to fifteen individuals.
- The presentation must be memorized. It may not be directed.
- All members dressed in the same color or style shall not be considered to be wearing costumes.
- The presentation will be judged on originality of arrangement and the skillful use of the techniques to move the audience with the chosen material.
- Scripts: Any form of literature, poetry, or prose adapted to Choric Speaking form will be appropriate for this contest. All literature and music used in the choric reading must be published material. At the state level, speech teachers may adapt published works for the purpose of their students performing in a Choric Speaking category. More than one script may be combined along

with music to design the Choric Reading. If planning to participate at the national level, please refer to the national rules for selection limitations.

6. Movement/Interaction:
 - a. Group movement may be used to enhance the presentation but should be limited to simple choices such as changing positions between “scenes” or divisions in the presentation.
 - b. Movement, individual and group, should be more limited than movement in Readers Theatre.
 - c. All speaking and visual expression is to be directed toward the audience or off-stage rather than toward other performers. Normally, narrative material is directed toward the audience and characterization should have an off-stage focus. Performers are not to interact with each other. There should be no physical contact or eye contact between performers. At least three points will be deducted for violating this rule.
7. Hand Props/Instruments: No hand props or costume pieces will be permitted. An instrument may not be played during the presentation and auditory props may not be used.
8. Risers may be used.
9. Music: Any form of singing or music used in the presentation should be used to complement the speech effects and may not exceed 1.5 minutes of the entire presentation.
10. Use of Voice and Group vs. Individual Voices: Performers are to express different pitch levels, pace, pause effect, rate, intensity, and volume. Their speech should be expressed mainly in groups of voices, with **infrequent** solo lines. Large and small group voices must dominate. Excessive use of dialogue between characters without engagement of the chorus must not dominate the performance. Diction must be clearly understood, spoken with ease, and expressed with energy.

Distinctions between Readers Theatre and Choric Speaking

1. Readers Theatre emphasizes the individual performers; whereas, Choric Speaking emphasizes the group speaking with one collective “voice.”
2. Readers Theatre relies on each individual speaker’s unique characterizations and use of other individual acting techniques, while Choric Speaking relies on the group speaking as one body using varying combinations of unison and solo voices.
3. Readers Theatre is more closely related to characterization and acting, while Choric Speaking is basically a speaking choir with many voices.
4. The emphasis of Readers Theatre is the dramatized development of a text via visual elements and the spoken interaction of individual performers. The emphasis of Choric Speaking is the creative use of the voice (vocal variety, word color, etc.) in a choral manner to reinforce the meaning of the text. Choric Speaking is primarily an auditory presentation.
5. Both categories are to be memorized.

SH and JH Category: Debate

Schedule Notice: The schedule for Debate will make it more difficult for debaters to participate in other specific-scheduled competitions. If a competitor is involved in other events that conflict, **he will be required to forfeit the conflicting event(s).**

Definition: Organized oral argument on a current event topic providing participant opportunity to display skills of logical reasoning, research and use of evidence, oral persuasion, conversational, and extemporaneous delivery before a critic.

1. A team will consist of two members, both of whom must be present to avoid forfeiture.
1. A team will be prepared to debate both the pro and con positions of the issue.
2. Rules and tournament procedures (including judging forms) will adhere to the rules published by the National Speech and Debate Association, www.speechanddebate.org. Guidelines to help students prepare for Debate are found at www.speechanddebate.org. *Debate procedures can be found in the Appendix of this Manual.*
3. A script or notes will be acceptable.
4. Computers will be allowed, but online access is **not** allowed. The guidelines for computer use as published by the National Speech and Debate Association will be followed.
5. The debate topic changes each year. The state and national topic (the same for both events) will be announced by AACS and GSACS on their corresponding websites by October of each year.
6. Artificial intelligence tools or software may appropriately be used for argument development, but no part of debate writing should be generated by AI. All constructive, negative, and rebuttal writing should be entirely generated by students. While using AI for research, the students should never write the debate position in the AI prompt and should understand that citing AI without more original sourcing would not be considered quality research.

Research is the key to effective debate. Delivery is secondary. All aspects of the topic from both the affirmative and the negative positions should be researched thoroughly, since debaters will be required to defend both sides of the question sometime during the competition.

AREA FOUR: ART for Junior and Senior High

Division 1: Individual Art Categories

Category 1: Calligraphy

Category 2: Monochromatic Drawing

Category 3: Polychromatic Drawing

Category 4: Watercolor

Category 5: Oil Painting

Category 6: Acrylic Painting

Category 7: Sculpture

Category 8: Textiles

Category 9: Garment Instruction

Category 10: Crafts

Category 11: Printmaking

Category 12: Digital Media

Category 13: Wood Furniture and Cabinet Making

Category 14: Mixed Media

Category 15: Still Life/Macro Photography

Category 16: Landscape/Architect Photography

Category 17: People/Animal Photography

Category 18: Culinary Art – Bread Loaf

Category 19: Culinary Art – Sourdough Loaf

Category 20: Culinary Art – Quick Bread Loaf

Category 21: Culinary Art – Cookies

Division 2: Group Art Categories

Category 1: Live Action Videography (SH Only)

Category 2: Animation Videography (SH Only)

General Rules for ALL Categories:

1. In accordance with principles from Scripture that instruct Christians to think on things that are lovely, pure, noble, and of good report (Philippians 4:8); that instruct Christians to rejoice always (Philippians 4:4); and that instruct Christians to behold beauty in holiness (Psalm 27:4), entries should not reflect sensualism, humanism, or be cultic, depressive, or dark in nature. Artwork is not restricted to sacred themes, but entries that portray a philosophy that is detrimental to spiritual edification will not be allowed.
2. Competition officials will have full authority to determine appropriateness for this fine arts competition event.
3. In the flavor of fine arts and for the purpose of this competition, participants should avoid entering cartoon characters, Hollywood characters, or anime. To avoid international copyright infringements, students should not include likenesses or representations of any copyrighted or licensed artwork or characters (such as characters or recognizable environments from animated film or any forms of sequential art).
4. Each entry will be the original creation of the participant alone, but the participant may have advice or instruction during the brainstorming and creative process.
5. Each entry must have been created since the last state competition.
6. Artificial intelligence tools or software may appropriately be used for concept development at preliminary stages in the design process, but no part of the final submission may be AI generated.

7. Students should do original drawings or paintings from imagination or actual life. Working from a personal photograph is allowed. If a photograph taken by another person is used, written permission from that person is required.
 - a) The student must strive to be creative in his interpretation of the photograph, rather than trying to copy it exactly. Significant changes must be clearly and noticeably evident in the student's artwork in more than one way or technique.
 - b) Although copying and imitating artwork for the purpose of learning techniques and practicing art skills is acceptable, doing an exact imitation of existing artwork (painting, drawing, illustration, photograph, logo, etc.) for this competition event is prohibited.
 - c) Any photograph used must be included with the artwork. Failure to include any photographs used and the necessary permissions (if needed) will result in disqualification.
8. Two-dimensional works should be matted or framed and should be 8x10 or greater in dimension (but no larger than 36x24). A simple frame and mat can effectively enhance a piece of art. Elaborate mats and heavy ornamental frames are not necessary and sometimes detract from the artwork. Although the framing and matting are not judged based on their quality, the presentation of art is part of the overall effectiveness and should be considered. If attending nationals, all artwork must be ready to display (see Nationals manual for more details).
9. Each student must sign the Statement of Originality found on the required documentation. Entrants should include a label attached to the back of the project with this information: name, school, grade, and category. Failure to include this information will result in a five-point deduction.
10. Each entry must have attached to one of the judging forms a completed Artist's Idea Statement. Photographs showing the development of the artwork may be included, if desired. Photographs are not a replacement for a required pattern. Failure to include this information will result in a five-point deduction.
11. The art student is not required to attend the GSACS competition.
12. Special lighting will not be permitted. The lighting in the exhibit room is the only lighting that will be allowed.

Please note: Students planning to submit artwork for National Competition should refer to the AACCS Competition Manual for further requirements and instructions to meet the qualifications at the national level. Manuals can be purchased at www.aacs.org.

Division 1: Individual Art Categories for Junior and Senior High

Rules by Category:

Category 1: Calligraphy

This art category focuses on the skill and uniformity of creating original lettering designs using established standards for a given hand (style/font). Often these styles use special pen nibs that hold the writing edge at a specific angle. Commonly recognized hands include Gothic, Roman, Uncial, Chancery, and Italic. This category includes limitations and specific guidelines. It does not permit freestyle lettering.

1. Lettering will be done with a calligraphy pen, either metal or fiber tip. Ordinary felt tip markers are not acceptable.
2. No traced letters or dry-transfer lettering will be acceptable.
3. Any style of calligraphy or hand-lettering may be used and should be based on established lettering styles. A sample sheet of the font/style should be included for reference purposes.
4. Lettering should be done by the student himself.
5. The two-dimensional entry may contain other elements (for example, illumination, color, illustration), but the lettering should be the dominant element. The focus of the art should be the calligraphy/lettering.
6. Lettering is to be done by the student himself and not by any electronic device.
7. Each entry shall display either the entire alphabet or be of material so extensive as to indicate a complete mastery of that style of alphabet.
8. If the entry is not in English, the contestant must include a translation attached to the Artist's Idea Statement.
9. Attention should be paid to the overall composition or arrangement of words and lines to ensure balance, focus, and communication.
10. Please note that this category is not a hand lettering competition or font art category. Calligraphy is judged on how well a student can take a known font and skillfully create a text of the font chosen. For this reason, students need to submit the font style they chose to use.

*Suggested books for calligraphy examples:

- Calligraphy for Kids, William Boxtick
- Calligraphy from Beginner to Expert, Caroline Young, Chris Lyon, Paul Sullivan, Usborne Publishing, ISBN 0-7460-0426-5
- Creating Letterforms: Calligraphy & Lettering for Beginners, Rosemary Sasson and Patricia Lovett.

Category 2: Monochromatic Drawing

This art category focuses on drawings created with a single color. This encourages the use of contrast, value, tone, tints, and shades of the chosen color. While often these projects are in grayscale, monochromatic drawings consist of a single base hue (gray, brown, blue, etc.), and the artist varies its lightness and darkness using tints (adding white) and shades (adding black) to create a color scheme of variations of one color. One or more drawing media can be used.

1. Monochromatic drawing is done in only one color.

2. The student may use ink, pencil, charcoal, or another drawing medium; a combination of these media is acceptable.
3. Work done in a medium subject to smearing should be sealed with a protective spray, or be covered with clear glass or acetate. Damage during transport could work against the artist during adjudication.
4. Scratch art is not considered a monochromatic drawing.

Category 3: Polychromatic Drawing

1. Polychromatic drawing is done in more than one color.
2. The student may use pastels, crayons, colored pencils, or another drawing or painting medium; a combination of these media is acceptable.
3. Work done in a medium subject to smearing should be sealed with a protective spray, or be covered with clear glass or acetate. Damage during transport could work against the artist during adjudication.

Category 4: Watercolor

1. Translucent techniques will be acceptable; use of proper watercolor paper is required.
2. Opaque techniques will be acceptable if the paints used qualify as watercolors.
3. Use of airbrush is permitted.
4. Any water-based medium, such as watercolor, gouache, or tempera, may be used.

Category 5: Oil Painting

1. Oil painting involves the use of oil-based paints on a suitable ground.
2. Oil paint and appropriate solvents must be used. Paint should be applied a ground suitable to the medium. These include, but are not limited to, canvas, wood, and assorted art boards.
3. Use of airbrush is not permitted.
4. The work must be completely dry before it is submitted.

Category 6: Acrylic Painting

1. Acrylic painting involves the use of acrylic paints on a suitable ground.
2. Paints must be acrylic polymers and should be applied to a ground suitable to the medium. These include, but are not limited to, canvas, wood, and assorted art boards. Additional substances may be used for textural effects, if the surface of the work remains paint.
3. Use of airbrush is not permitted.
4. The work must be completely dry before it is submitted.

Category 7: Sculpture

1. Sculpture is the art of carving (subtracting), modeling (shaping), or welding (combining), to produce a three-dimensional work.
2. Works from molds are acceptable if the student created the mold and poured the object himself. Molds must be presented with the finished artwork. No 3D printing is permitted in this category.
3. Acceptable materials include, but are not limited to the following: wood, plaster, stone, metal, wax, ceramic slip, ceramic glaze, clay (both fired and unfired), balsa foam, model magic, and

friendly plastic. Paper *alone* is an unacceptable material for sculpture. Paper as a binding agent and molding medium is acceptable, i.e. papier-mâché.

4. If possible, the sculpture should have an attached base. If a base is not attached, then the project should be placed on an appropriate surface, such as a ceramic tile, for display purposes.
5. Entries should not include models or dioramas.
6. Legos or any other commercial interlocking products are not an acceptable material for this competition category.
7. Knives and swords (bladed weapons generally) should be entered in the Crafts category.
8. No objects should be displayed other than the sculpture itself (i.e., flowers, plants, toys).

Category 8: Textiles

This art category limits the types of projects. Read #1a and #1b.

1. Entries will be limited to selections from this listing:
 - a. Macramé, weaving (must show extensive, comprehensive work), quilting, needlework (such as candle wicking, embroidery, ribbon embroidery, crochet, cross-stitch, knitting, needlepoint, or crewel, etc.). No purchased garments, towels or similar items are permitted for these entries.
 - b. Wearable art using appliqué, paints, silk-dye, batik, or tie-dye items. Purchased garments, towels or similar items are permitted for these entries.
2. Kits are not acceptable; however, commercially produced plans or patterns are acceptable. When a commercially produced plan or pattern is used, a copy of the plan or pattern must accompany the project. Photographs showing development of the artwork are not a replacement for the required plan or pattern.
3. No objects should be displayed other than the textile itself (no furniture, plants, or other items).

Category 9: Garment Construction

1. Garment construction from fabric or non-traditional materials, such as paper, plastic, recycled materials, etc., is allowed.
2. Accessories are not considered garments for this category.
3. Kits are not acceptable; however, commercially produced plans or patterns are acceptable. A photo of the plan or pattern rather than the actual pattern must accompany the project. Photographs showing the development of the project are not a replacement for the required plan or pattern.
4. Garments must come to the competition ready for display on a dress form, mannequin, or substantial hanger (such as wood or metal). For students competing at the national level, refer to the AACS competition manual for further display instructions.
5. All designed garments must meet general standards of decency and modesty. Competition officials shall have full authority for making any determination in this regard. Projects determined to be inappropriate will be penalized.
6. Garment construction will be judged on the basis of originality, artistic design, and professional construction. Professional construction includes smooth well-pressed seams and hems, seam finishes on fabric raw edges, precise detail work, and overall neatness.
7. Machine sewing is allowed.

Category 10: Craft

This art category limits the types of projects and materials. Read guidelines carefully.

1. A craft can be anything three dimensional that is not strictly a sculpture or a textile and that conforms to craft rule 2.
2. Types of projects are limited to the following: jewelry making, stained glass, candle making, flower arranging (only if the student has made the flowers), decorative castings (from plaster, etc., as long as the student pours and decorates it himself), basketry, tole painting (on wood or metal), wood burning, sand art, ribbon crafts, string/thread art, decoupage, diorama, beadwork, leather work, metal repousse, punched designs into metal, papier-mâché, origami (paper folding), knives and swords (bladed weapons generally), and mosaic. Other types of craft projects may be entered with permission of the state office organizing the local competition.
3. Purchased beads, pin backs or earring backs for jewelry are acceptable. Containers and garments used for these projects may be purchased.
4. No kits or commercially produced plans, or parts of such, are acceptable. Entries are to be original and handmade, not copied from a commercial pattern. A commercially produced pattern is allowed only for origami.
5. All required documentation should be present with craft at time of competition.

Category 11: Printmaking

1. Printmaking is a design or picture carved or etched into one surface, then inked and transferred to another surface. More than one carved or etched surface may be employed to produce a single print. Prints such as planographic printmaking (lithography, screen printing, and monoprinting) are allowed.
2. The following printing materials (matrices) will be acceptable: linoleum block, woodcut, etching, dry point, collagraph, silk screen, speedy-carve material, glass, Plexiglass, and glass-like material. Do not submit plate or block with the entry.

Category 12: Digital Media

1. Digital Media is a category which includes digitally created art that goes beyond a single artistic medium such as photography or painting. No 3D printing is permitted in this category. Digital Media means the composition or design is created, developed, assembled, or finished with the use of computer hardware and software. Many graphic design projects are considered Digital Media.
2. Digital Media may be pixel-based, vector-based, or a combination of the two. The work may include illustration elements, typography, photography, scanned elements, and other digital elements. All elements must be the student's original creation. Photos and illustrations (if used) must be student's original work.
3. The digital file may be printed on a variety of media including, but not limited to, paper or canvas. The final print should be of high enough resolution to produce a smooth image with no unintended pixilation. The final print should be suitably matted, mounted, or framed as with any piece of fine art.
4. Digital Media will be judged on the basis of composition, aesthetic appeal, originality, and technical achievement.
5. In addition, a process document must be included illustrating the resources used (such as photos, scans, illustrations, fonts, or other elements) in creating the entry. The process document should be a piece of paper (or papers); this is for a quick reference for the judges to view all of the

elements used in the project. Include the process document with other paperwork (judging forms, artist idea statement). Do not create a book or booklet; this document will not be returned.

6. A storage device with the digital image in a universal file format, such as JPEG, TIF, or PDF, is to be submitted with the entry. This storage device should be either on thumb drive or USB stick, formatted to read on a PC. There will be a five-point penalty for failure to provide this item. This should be protected in an envelope taped to the back of the entry; the name of the student and his/her school should be written on the envelope.

Category 13: Wood Furniture and Cabinetmaking

1. Entries such as tables, chairs, chests, cabinets, bookcases, and other furniture/casework items are appropriate for this category. Pieces shaped or created using artisanal techniques such as pens or bowls should be entered in other appropriate categories such as sculpture (carving) or crafts. An entry does not fit this category simply because it is made of wood. It must fit this description and include the required elements (see "Required Elements" in the judging form section of website).
2. The design must be original. The student must submit a simple mechanical drawing *and* must provide photos or explanatory text as necessary to document the production process, including details such as joinery techniques.
3. In the construction of the project, the competitor must use at least ten of the required elements from the list on the Required Elements Documentation. Submit the completed Required Elements Documentation with other paperwork for the project.
4. All production procedures (sawing, mitering, routing, assembling, and finishing) must be done by the student himself; the work may be done under adult supervision.-The use of CNC machines is not allowed.
5. The maximum size is 40 cubic feet.
6. No kits are permitted.
7. Standalone objects turned on a lathe that do not display any basic carpentry skills will be considered a sculpture because it is formed through subtraction.

Category 14: Mixed Media

The key idea to mixed media is the blending of multiple forms of artmaking to create textures, layers, and effects that one medium alone cannot achieve. Mixed media almost always has some relief elements that create some dimension and texture that is a little more than two-dimensional.

1. Mixed Media includes predominantly two-dimensional artwork plus included relief elements, which combines two or more mediums including the use of paint, ink, pencil, chalk, oil paints, tempera paints, sand, collage, and printmaking. Using two or more drawing media would be considered a monochromatic or polychromatic drawing category.
2. Adhesives and glazes such as glues, fixatives, etc., are allowed in the assembling and finishing processes. Photographs not taken by the student may be used as long as the portion used cannot be recognized as part of the original picture.
3. Materials must be created by the student, with the exception that parts not made by the student should total no more than 20% of the overall work. These should not be the dominant feature of the piece.

General Rules for Photography

1. The print may not have obvious touch-up work. Good retouching, whether digital or analog, cannot be detected.
 - a. Retouching work should be limited to enhancements and modification that improve the presentation of the image, but do not change the truth of the original story. The photographer may not add or replace elements in an image. Red-eye removal and spot editing are permitted.
 - b. Retouching may only include the use of corrective functions to improve the natural appearance (for example: levels, contrast, brightness, curves, intensity, tone, hue, saturation, color balance, etc.).
 - c. Artistic filters may *not* be used. Using a filter to blur a background is image manipulation (rather than retouching) and is not allowed. The photographer should use the proper aperture to get depth of field effect.
 - d. Retouching is part of the creative process. Good retouching cannot be seen, and poor retouching will be graded against; therefore, graphics and text must not be included.
2. The print will be judged based on composition, aesthetic appeal, and originality.
3. The name of the student, the school, and the school address must be on a label in the top center location on the back of the print.
4. The minimum print size is 7 x 10 inches.
5. Photos must be matted and *may not* be framed. White or off-white mats are required for this category. Photos may be double matted, but decorative elements (such as scrolling) on the mat are not permitted.
6. Photography must be accompanied by *Photography Artist's Idea Statement*.
7. Note: Not every photograph will fit one of these categories. To be entered in this competition, a photograph must fit one of the listed categories.

Category 15: Still Life and Macro Photography

1. The photograph must be a single black-and-white or color image of a still life, macro photograph, or design.
2. Still Life photography is a grouping of small objects placed in arrangement by human design in a pleasing composition.
3. Macro photography is an extreme close-up of a subject at a magnification of life-size or larger.

Category 16: Landscapes and Architecture Photography

1. The photograph must be a single black-and-white or color image of a landscape or architecture.
2. Landscape photography is an expanse of scenery that is extensive and can be seen from a single viewpoint, such as a picture representing natural inland or coastal scenery.
3. Architecture photography is of manmade buildings and structures that capture the entire construction or only a portion.

Category 17: People and Animal Photography

1. The photograph must be a single black-and-white or color image of people or animals. Although judged in the same category, see definitions of people and animal photography below:
2. People photography is of an individual or group that is the main subject in the composition. It may be posed or candid.
3. Animal photography is of animals in their captive or natural setting. The animal photography category includes any living thing that is not human or a plant.

General Rules for Culinary Art – Category 18, Category 19, Category 20, and Category 21

1. Each entry requires an Artist Idea Statement with all attachments included. Failure to include the AIS and attachments with judging forms will result in disqualification.
2. Entries may not use commercially prepared or pre-mixed products. All entries should be “made from scratch” and considered home-made.
3. Loaves and cookies should be presented creatively. Although the competition itself is based on flavor and technique, the presentation of the entry is part of the creative process that adds to the overall quality of the entry. Student identification should be on any presentation platters, and students should pick up platters following adjudication. Host school will not mail platters to students.
4. All entries must be baked.
5. Students should not expect to have any baked entries returned after adjudication.
6. Students should not bring bread cutting utensils or cutting boards. The event coordinators will supply these to the judges.

Category 18: Culinary Art – Bread Loaf

1. Each entry should be in the shape of a bread loaf.
2. The recipe should include yeast for this category.
3. Bread loaf should be presented without any post-bake cuts made to the loaf. Post-bake cuts made to the loaf will incur a five-point penalty.

Category 19: Culinary Art – Sourdough Loaf

1. Each entry should be in the shape of a bread loaf as intended by the recipe.
2. The entry should include the process of fermenting the dough for the distinct sourdough flavor.
3. Bread loaf should be presented without any post-bake cuts made to the loaf. Post-bake cuts made to the loaf will incur a five-point penalty.

Category 20: Culinary Art – Quick Bread Loaf

1. Each entry should be in the shape of a bread loaf.
2. The recipe and AIS should include an intended flavor and be limited to one flavor.
3. Bread loaf should be presented without any post-bake cuts made to the loaf. Post-bake cuts made to the loaf will incur a five-point penalty.

Category 21: Culinary Art – Cookies

1. Each entry is limited to only one recipe per entry.
2. Each entry should include 12 uniform, consistently textured cookies.
3. Entries should be limited to three descriptions of cookies:
 - a. Drop cookies – Once ingredients are mixed, the dough is dropped onto baking sheets.
 - b. Rolled cookies – Once ingredients are mixed, the dough is rolled and cut using different cutters.
 - c. Shaped cookies – Once ingredients are mixed, the dough is molded by hand or piped.
4. Each cookie should be at least 2” in diameter.
5. Frosted décor is acceptable when applied to rolled and/or shaped cookies. All designs and themes should follow guidelines on page 40 (see #1 and #2 rules).

Division 2: Group Art Categories for Senior High Only

General Rules for Group Videography Categories

1. A videography entry may be prepared by an individual student or by a group of students. When an entry is prepared by a group of students, not all students in the group must be in grades 9–12. If planning to compete nationally, AACS does require all students to be in SH. For purposes of Limitation of Contestants, both videography categories will be considered group events; schools may submit two group entries per category. There is no limit to the number of contestants that may comprise a group.
2. Tasks that must be performed by contestants include, but are not necessarily limited to, the following: video or still image capture, directing, acting, voice over, lighting, script writing, set design and construction, costume design and construction, computer graphics and animation, sound effects, special effects, and video editing. When a group of students prepares an entry, the group must supply a list that includes the name of each participant, the grade in school of each participant, and the task, or tasks, performed by each participant in the production of the entry.
3. Acceptable subject matter includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following: fiction, historical fiction, documentary, biography, commentary, humor, and persuasion. Sacred themes are encouraged but not required. In all cases, entries must comply with the theme selection guidelines listed in the General Rules for all Art categories.
4. The use of music is encouraged but not required. When music is used, the contestant or group must provide documentation demonstrating that the music used is in the public domain, that the contestant or group has permission from the copyright owner, or that the music is the original composition of the contestant or group. All music must comply with the selection criteria listed in the General Rules for Music competition. The legal right to use other media such as photography, newsreel footage, animation clips, etc., must also be documented.
5. Each entry must have a running time of no less than 1 minute and no more than 5 minutes. Entries that are outside the time constraints will be penalized using the same procedure that is used for Music and Speech entries. Credits may be included in the video, but time used for credits will be counted in the overall running time.
6. The student or group must obtain a release form from each participant and/or subject of the video whose image and/or voice is used in the video. A sample release form is included with the judging forms in this manual.
7. Each entry must be submitted online by February 15. Students must upload the video to YouTube and send a link to the state office by February 15. Included in the email should be a PDF of the script with necessary citations plus completed required documentation. If requested, students need to be prepared to send a digital file of the video to the state office.
8. Late entries will not be accepted.
9. Required paperwork includes Artist's Idea Statement with signed Statement of Originality, music/media documentation, list of contestants and tasks performed, release forms, and Videography judging forms.

Category 1: Live Action Videography (SH only)

1. Live Action is the production of a video using video images of real-world settings and/or of real people.

2. Computer graphics, animation, and/or still shots may be incorporated into a Live Action entry, but these may comprise no more than 20% of the total running time.

Category 2: Animation Videography (SH only)

1. Animation is the production of a video using animation techniques such as hand-drawn animation, stop motion, or computer-generated imagery.
2. The use of real-world images may be incorporated into an Animation entry, but these may comprise no more than 20% of the total running time.

AREA FIVE: ACADEMICS for Junior and Senior High

Junior High Testing Categories

Category 1:	English	Category 6:	Expository Writing: Essay
Category 2:	General Math (7 th only)	Category 7:	Creative Writing: Poetry
Category 3:	Pre-Algebra (8 th only)	Category 8:	Spelling
Category 4:	Geography/History	Category 9:	Chess
Category 5:	Science		

Bible Testing options are found in the area of Bible

The junior high will follow the guidelines listed under the senior high section, but tests will be on a level for grades 7-8 and will not include all material as listed under that section.

Senior High Testing Categories

Category 1:	English	Category 10:	Spanish
Category 2:	Algebra 1 (9 th only)	Category 11:	Home Economics
Category 3:	Algebra 2/Geometry	Category 12:	Political Science/Economics
Category 4:	Advanced Math	Category 13:	Music Theory
Category 5:	World History/Geography	Category 14:	Accounting
Category 6:	US History/Geography	Category 15:	Chess
Category 7:	Biology	Category 16:	Spelling
Category 8:	Physics	Category 17:	Creative Writing: Poetry
Category 9:	Chemistry	Category 18:	Expository Writing: Essay

Bible Testing options are found in the area of Bible

General Rules:

1. Online academic testing will generally be held at each individual school in February. The test window will be determined by GSACS and test dates within the window will be selected by each participating school.
2. All categories above except for spelling and chess will follow the format of either online or written tests taken within the test window established by GSACS.
3. Prior to these testing days, schools will pre-order online at www.testpoint.net the exact number of tests in each category they plan to administer.
4. If schools wish to participate in the writing competition, they will pre-order through the GSACS state office. These writing tests are not conducted online but will have a similar testing window as the online tests. All written compositions for the competition will be sent to the GSACS State Office.

5. Students may take as many tests as they wish.
6. All test orders must be prepaid. Test fees will be determined annually by GSACS.
7. Testpoint must receive pre-paid orders paid by credit card before the ordering window closes for a school to be eligible to take tests online.
8. The GSACS office will email the topics for the writing competition prior to the start of the testing window and if the test fees have been paid.
9. The top three winners in each category will receive ribbons at the Academic and Fine Arts Competition if the scores show effort and adequate knowledge of the material (i.e., a score of 30% may not constitute a score that is eligible for a ribbon).
10. In general, the student scoring the highest cumulative score will be declared the winner. A second online test may be necessary in order to break a tie.
11. The proctor may assist and clarify when there is a mistake on the test and should notify the testing program coordinator at TestPoint.

DIVISION 1: ONLINE ACADEMIC TESTING

All Categories except Writing, Spelling, and Chess

Testing Procedures for On-line Testing

1. Testing Coordinators will be given a school code, and students will enter this master school code when entering their names and selecting the tests they will take.
2. For a school participating for the first time, they should log in to www.testpoint.net and register as a member school under GSACS. Testpoint will then send information for ordering and proctoring. Note: the emails go to the person the schools lists as coordinator.
3. When the student sits down to take a certain test, that student will enter his name and grade before taking the test. (This is for grading purposes on the back-end.) Since the student is taking a test under that school's master code, his name and that test will already be linked to that school.
4. Non-programmable scientific calculators (without graphing capabilities) are permitted for the following categories that may require math computation: Chemistry, Physics, Accounting. Scientific or graphing calculators are permitted for Algebra, Geometry, and Advanced Math. Phone or other electronic device-based calculators are not permitted.
5. No Bibles, reference materials, notes, or study guides will be allowed during testing.
6. While the program is designed for PC's or Mac's (desktop or laptop) in a computer lab, if a school can maintain secure testing procedures, students may test with approved tablets.
 - Students must complete each test in one sitting. Each test has a 60-90-minute time limit.
 - All test categories must be taken during the same day.
 - For example, all third grade math tests would be taken on a Monday. Another third grader would not be able to take the same test on a Tuesday. All third grade math tests must be taken in the same day.
7. Tiebreakers
 - If, for example, an Algebra test has 25 questions, we are adding 5-10 additional questions at the end of the test that would be tiebreaker questions. These questions are not marked in any way and will appear to the students as regular questions. The results of these questions

would be needed (in the results section) only if multiple students score the same on the first 25 questions.

- Every student will be tested on these questions, but the answers to these questions will be used and recorded in the results *only* if that student tied with someone else (in ranking 1-3) in that association's testing database.
- If the top 3 scoring students are still tied after Tiebreaker #1, a second tiebreaker test (and a third, if needed) will be used. An email will be sent to the testing coordinator of any students who tie. This email will list the student(s)' name(s) and instructions for taking the second (and third, if needed) tiebreaker tests. Tiebreaker test #2 and #3 will be taken online.

Expected Content for SH Online Testing

Please note that not all categories are listed below as some are self-explanatory or not provided by national office.

Category 1: English

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Grammar and usage: eight parts of speech, phrases, clauses, agreement, etc.
 - b. Vocabulary in context and spelling recognition
 - c. Mechanics: capitalization and punctuation
 - d. Library: research techniques, bibliography, footnote forms
 - e. Diagramming
2. No composition will be required.
3. No questions pertaining to literature will be asked.

Category 2/3: Algebra/Geometry

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Algebra 1
 - b. Algebra 2
 - c. Geometry

Category 4: Advanced Mathematics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Trigonometry
 - b. Analytical Geometry
 - c. Permutations, Combinations, and Probability
 - d. Pre-Calculus
 - e. Theory of Equations
 - f. Sequences and Series
 - g. Statistics
 - h. Limits
 - i. Advanced Algebra
 - j. Function Analysis
 - k. Matrix Algebra
 - l. Vectors
 - m. Complex Numbers

Category 7: Biology

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Cells
 - b. Protozoa
 - c. Algae and Fungi
 - d. Plants
 - e. Genetics
 - f. Vertebrate and Invertebrate Physiology
 - g. Human Anatomy
 - h. Fossils

Category 8: Physics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Motion and Energy
 - b. Metric Units
 - c. Light
 - d. Electricity
 - e. Heat
 - f. Magnetism
 - g. Physics Laws
 - h. Sound

Category 9: Chemistry

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Matter and Energy
 - b. Atoms
 - c. Formulas and Equations
 - d. Gases, Liquids, and Solids
 - e. Periodic Table Families
 - f. Equilibrium
 - g. Chemistry Laws
 - h. Acids and Bases
 - i. Metric Units
 - j. Scientific Methods
 - k. Chemical Bonding

Category 11: Home Economics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Food and Nutrition
 - b. Clothing
 - c. Housing and Home Furnishings

Category 12: Political Science/Economics

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - b. General principles of political science, including the nature and historical development of the various types or forms of governments in the world

- c. The nature and historical development of the United States government
- d. General principles of free enterprise economic theory

Category 13: Music Theory

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Major and Minor Key Signatures
 - b. Major and Minor Scales
 - c. Harmony
 - d. Part-writing
 - e. Figured Bass
 - f. Cadences
 - g. Rhythm and Time Signatures
2. The test does not include melodic dictation or aural recognition.

Category 14: Accounting

1. The examination will center upon terminology, theory, and short problems.
2. A calculator is needed. See academic testing general rules regarding allowable calculators.
3. The examination will consist of questions which may be drawn from any of these topics.
 - a. Accounting systems: journal entries including basic entries, adjusting entries (accruals and deferrals), and closing entries; subsidiary ledgers; generally accepted accounting principles.
 - b. Financial statements: classification of accounts, preparation of statements, financial/ratio analysis, basic auditing concepts.
 - c. Assets: cash and bank reconciliations, receivables and bad debts, inventory and cost of goods sold, fixed assets and depreciation, cost principle.
 - d. Liabilities and owners' equity (proprietorships, corporations): purchases on credit, issuance of stock, retained earnings.
 - e. Revenues/gains and expenses/losses: realization principle, matching principle.

Category 15: Spanish

1. The examination will consist of questions covering:
 - a. Grammar and Usage
 - b. Vocabulary
 - c. Conjugation and Agreement
 - d. Spanish to English translation and English to Spanish translation

DIVISION 2: WRITING TESTS

JH Category 6 and 7 / SH Category 17 and 18

Testing Procedure for Essay and Poetry Competitions

1. Each student must submit three judging sheets (with top portion completed) when he submits his composition.
2. Legibility is a requirement for evaluation.
3. Students may type or write the final draft. If written, the final draft should be written in blue or

black ink on lined paper. If typed, the final draft should have 1” margins, font size 12, and DS.

4. There is no time limit except the testing window itself. Schools will be sent the topic before the testing window begins to give to student at the start of the testing window. The student may write without a proctor present, but he must write when on school grounds and must affirm the statement of originality (rule 5). The student may create and refine his entry within the limits of the allotted contest period, but the work must be strictly his own. The student may reference a dictionary and a thesaurus.
5. Artificial intelligence tools or software may not be used at any stage of the process except for pre-writing research. In pre-writing research, the writing prompt/topic may not be entered into AI software for any purpose. AI tools or software may not be used to generate ideas in writing to suggest edits or revisions, or for any other purpose. From beginning to end, except for pre-writing research, the submission must be entirely the original work of the student. The competitor *and* the school proctor will both be required to sign this statement as part of the statement of originality: “I certify that this submission is entirely my original work and that I received no help in completing this project other than general instruction and supervision. Except for pre-writing research, I did not use any AI tools or software to create my writing submission. I did not enter the writing prompt in AI software to assist me. When writing, I followed conscientiously the instructions regarding the use, limitations, or prohibition of AI tools.”

Category 18 – Creative Writing: Poetry

1. Previously written poems will not be acceptable.
2. The entry must follow the prescribed format.
 - a. Page 1 must include the student’s name, school, city, state. It must include a signed Statement of Originality.
 - b. Statement of Originality: I certify that this submission is entirely my original work and that I received no help in completing this project other than general instruction and supervision. Except for pre-writing research, I did not use any AI tools or software to create my writing submission. I did not enter the writing prompt in AI software to assist me. When writing, I followed conscientiously the instructions regarding Prohibition of AI Writing Tools in the general rules.
 - c. The student may sign the Statement of Originality by typing his name beneath the statement or by using a digital signature.
 - d. Page 2 and following will include the student’s entry.
3. The entry will be judged according to the criteria on the Creative Writing: Poetry judging form from this manual.

Category 19 – Creative Writing: Essay

1. Previously written essays will not be acceptable.
2. The entry must follow the prescribed format.
 - a. Page 1 must include the student’s name, school, city, state. It must include a signed Statement of Originality.
 - b. Statement of Originality: I certify that this submission is entirely my original work and that I received no help in completing this project other than general instruction and supervision. Except for pre-writing research, I did not use any AI tools or software to create my writing submission. I did not enter the writing prompt in AI software to assist me. When writing, I

followed conscientiously the instructions regarding Prohibition of AI Writing Tools in the general rules.

- c. The student may sign the Statement of Originality by typing his name beneath the statement or by using a digital signature.
- d. Page 2 and following will include the student's entry.
3. An essay will be defined as a written expression of the author's opinion:
 - a. Stated in a thesis in the first paragraph.
 - b. Supported and proven in three to four paragraphs in the body, each introduced by topic sentences that relate directly to the topic but each providing a different argument or fact.
 - c. Concluded with a summarizing paragraph which restates the thesis.
 - d. The essay must be the student's original work. This is an essay, not a research paper. Students may review the topic, but no statistics or other quotations requiring source citations are allowed.
4. The essay is not to exceed 1,000 words.
5. Essays may not make use of either first person or second person. Essays written in either first person or second person will be disqualified. However, essays that contain occasional or infrequent first or second person pronouns will receive a point deduction. Points or a fraction of a point will be deducted which will prevent an otherwise first-place winner from placing first, a second-place winner from placing second, or a third-place winner from placing third.
6. The entry will be judged according to the criteria on the Expository Writing: Essay judging form from this manual.

Please Note: This category of writing competition is different from the AACS writing contests offered to 4-8th graders that concludes in December of each year. See www.aacs.org for details.

DIVISION 3: ONSITE TESTING

JH and SH Spelling (Categories 8 and 16) and Chess (Categories 9 and 15)

Rules for Spelling:

1. Spelling will be conducted in the traditional spelling bee format in a single elimination fashion.
 - d. Information regarding the spelling lists is available on the GSACS and AACS website.
 - e. The dictionary specified in the current spelling bee information will be the final authority in determining correctness of spelling and pronunciation.
 - f. **Note:** Rules of other national spelling competitions are not necessarily the same as the AACS National Competition spelling rules.
 - g. The competition will be recorded for judges' use only.
 - e. Capitalization of a word (whether omitted or added) shall not constitute an error.
 - f. Students are not required to provide judging forms for Spelling.
2. Spelling Bee procedures:
 - a. All students will form a single line facing the spelling master.
 - b. Words will be given to students from left to right.
 - c. A student will be disqualified upon one spelling error.

- d. Words will be chosen from the current spelling bee list. If the spelling master decides that additional words are necessary, the words will be chosen from the dictionary specified in the official spelling bee rules. This will be done at the beginning of a new round.
- e. Pronunciation will be according to the diacritical markings in the specified dictionary.
- f. With the approval of the judges, the spelling master may give a fuller explanation of the meaning of the word to supplement the dictionary definition(s) quoted.
- g. During competition, after the spelling master gives the student a word, the student may also choose to pronounce the word before spelling it.
- h. The student may request the spelling master to re-pronounce the word, define it, give its part of speech, use it in a sentence, or give its language origin. The master will grant the requests until the judges agree that the word has been made clear to the student. Judges may call an error against any student who ignores a request to begin spelling.
- i. After receiving the requested help in 2.h., the student will have fifteen seconds to spell the word. Timing will begin at the student's repeating the word or at the commencement of the spelling of the word.
- j. Having begun to spell a word, a student may stop and begin again, retracing the spelling from the beginning; but in the retracing, there can be no change of letters or their sequence from those first spelled. If letters or their sequences are changed in the respelling, the speller will be declared in error.
- k. The correct spelling of any incorrectly spelled word will always be given except when only two students remain. The next word on the master's official competition list will then be given to the next student, whether or not elimination occurs.
- l. When the students are reduced to two, the elimination procedure changes, but not before the completion of the current round. At that point, when one student misspells a word, the other student will be given an opportunity to spell that same word. If the second student spells that word correctly, plus the next word on the pronouncer's list, then the second student shall be declared champion.
 - The intent of the rule is to ensure that the remaining competitors have correctly spelled the same number of words as eliminated competitors before changing the procedure, so the current round must be completed before the procedure changes. If, at the completion of a round, only one competitor remains who has not misspelled a word, that competitor is the first-place winner and the two-person elimination procedure outlined in this rule does not occur. All others eliminated within that round will start a new round to determine second- and third-place winners. If, at the completion of a round, only two competitors remain, the elimination procedure outlined in this rule is employed to finish the contest and third place is awarded to the last competitor eliminated in the previous round. If, at the conclusion of a round, all competitors have been eliminated, the contest must resume as things were at the beginning of that round—all competitors who were still in the contest at the beginning of that round are restored and a new round begins with those competitors spelling in the original order.
- m. If one of the last two spellers misses and the other, after correcting the error, misspells the new word submitted to him, then the misspelled new word will be referred to the first speller. If the first speller then succeeds in correcting the error and correctly spells the next word on the pronouncer's list, then he will be declared champion.

- n. If both spellers misspell the same word, both will continue in the contest; and the one who first misspelled the word will be given a new word to spell. The contest will then continue under rules 2.l. and 2.m.
- o. Any question relating to the spelling of a word will be referred to the judges immediately. Only a student speller may lodge a protest. The deadline for lodging a protest will be before the affected student would have received his next word had he not been eliminated. No protest will be entertained after a contested word has been given to another speller. When only two spellers remain, a protest must be made immediately, i.e., before the second speller has begun to spell the word, or, if both have missed the same word, before the correct spelling is given.
- p. The judges have complete authority and control. Their decision will be final in any dispute.

Rules for Chess:

1. Students will be arranged in double-elimination brackets.
2. The game will be played according to the International Chess Federation Rules with a stopcock arrangement to control the time between moves.
3. The stopcock is controlled by the students. When one student stops his clock, his opponent's clock automatically starts. The stopcocks measure the exact amount of time each student uses during the game to make his moves.
4. Each student's clock shall be set for 10 minutes. Therefore, no game will exceed 20 minutes. In the final game, each clock will be set for 15 minutes.
5. The game begins when the judge starts the white contestant's clock. Only the judge can stop both clocks or authorize the students to stop them. The judge may do this when resolving a conflict regarding rules or procedure. The judge is not required to do every time he answers a question: the judge may use his own discretion.
6. After moving a piece, each student stops his clock by pushing its button. This starts his opponent's clock. The button must be pushed with the same hand that moves the piece.
7. It is each student's responsibility to stop his own clock. The clock cannot be reset once the game has begun.
8. The game is won when one student checkmates the other.
9. Any student whose clock runs out of time automatically loses and his opponent is declared to be the winner. It is the winner's responsibility to observe and declare that his opponent has run out of time.
10. A stalemate (draw) can be declared by mutual consent of the students, or by the judge when checkmate cannot occur. A game where checkmate is impossible will not be required to be played until a student's clock runs out of time.
11. The judge's decisions shall be final in the interpretation and implementation of these rules.

AREA SIX: SCIENCE FAIR for Junior and Senior High

Category 1: Biological Sciences

Category 2: Physical Sciences

General Rules:

1. Science Fair projects will be displayed during the competition in the specific location announced by the Competition Director.
2. Science Fair projects are to be individual projects, not group projects.
3. Competition will be held in two distinct areas with the student responsible to choose one specific topic area or subcategory to enter.
4. All science fair projects must follow the scientific method and be experimental in design. Models or displays must show results of experimentation.
5. Consumer science projects should not be submitted for this competition. Although consumer science is a viable area for experiment, this competition is limited to the categories of biological or physical sciences.
6. STEM projects may be entered, but they must meet all science fair regulations and requirements.
7. Each student must submit three judging sheets when displaying his project.
8. Each student must be available during competition to be present before judges to answer questions in defense of his project. Each student must provide contact information on judging form so that judges can contact the student for the window of time to be present to answer questions. Failure to show up within the window of time will result in loss of points.
9. Artificial intelligence tools or software may be used for pre-writing research. In pre-writing and experimental research, the student's exact hypothesis may not be entered into AI software for any purpose. AI tools or software may not be used to generate ideas *in the writing and reporting process* to suggest edits or revisions, or for any other purpose. AI tools may be used to summarize or aggregate data when the student has provided all his own data and information.
10. A student who wishes to enter his project in the AACS National Competition must fulfill the specific requirements of the AACS National Manual.

Biological Sciences

- a) Biochemistry
- b) Botany
- c) Zoology
- d) Health and Medicine
- e) Microbiology
- f) Behavioral and Social Sciences
- g) Marine Biology
- h) Environmental Biology

Physical Sciences

- a) Chemistry
- b) Physics
- c) Engineering
- d) Mathematics
- e) Computer Science
- f) Earth Science
- g) Environmental Science
- h) Technology

Criteria for judging experimental projects:

Scientific Thought (40) points

- *Problem*: A statement of a numerical/measurable question/problem you have investigated.
- *Report*: A research paper about the topic chosen and the experiments performed.
 - JH Length = 750 words (approximately 3 pages)
 - SH Length = 1,000 words (approximately 4 pages)
 - Other requirements: Typed, DS, MLA-formatted citations, and organized in thought.
- *Hypothesis*: A concise statement answering a question (an educated guess).
- *Relevance*: An experiment that aids in the stewardship of creation or for the benefit of mankind.

Experiment: (40 points)

- *Observation*: A statement or statements describing what the student observed during investigation process. The student's observation should be recorded in a journal. The collection of information should be available for review by judges or points will be deducted.
- *Analysis of data*: The student needs to be able to display and/or explain data in the form of pictures, charts, graphs, etc. Students should be able to properly explain the results in a measurable way.
- *Control/Variables*: The student should state the control used when applicable. All variables and controls should be defined properly.
- *Conclusion*: What is the outcome of the experiment as compared to the hypothesis stated by the student? Students should be able to explain the interpretation of results and what they mean. Other questions students may answer: Does it raise further questions based on results? What did I learn from the process?

Presentation: (20 points)

- *Neatness*: Check for cleanliness, neatly cut paper, smudge marks, alignment of labels, neatness of titles and headings.
- *Descriptions*: Check for proper syntax, grammar, and clarity in descriptions of events.
- *Creativity*: Check for creative use of materials, attractiveness of display, artistic qualities, etc.
- *Organization of Thought*: Check for flow of thought (elements and results of experiment) within display.
- *Oral Defense*: Be present and able to defend the process of observing and experimenting, aggregation of data, and conclusions.

Appendix A

Debate Rules

Topics are determined each year by AACCS. They can be found at www.aacs.org.

DEBATE

Please note guidelines for artificial intelligence and laptop/internet use in general rules found within the Speech Division categories.

TIME LIMITS:

1 st Aff. Constructive speech	8 minutes
1 st Aff. is questioned by Neg. speaker	3 minutes
1 st Neg. Constructive speech	8 minutes
1 st Neg. is questioned by an Aff. speaker	3 minutes
2 nd Aff. Constructive speech	8 minutes
2 nd Aff. Is questioned by the other Neg. speaker	3 minutes
2 nd Neg. Constructive speech	8 minutes
2 nd Neg. is questioned by the other Aff. speaker	3 minutes
1 st Neg. Rebuttal	5 minutes
1 st Aff. Rebuttal	5 minutes
2 nd Neg. Rebuttal	5 minutes
2 nd Aff. Rebuttal	5 minutes

DEBATE PREP TIME (per team)5 MINUTES

PROCEDURE:

Debate Procedure: Each speaker shall have eight minutes for constructive argument, alternating affirmative to negative. Following each constructive speech, one opponent shall cross-examine the speaker for three minutes. The questioner shall control the use of the time and may interrupt the respondent, but may not comment on the answers or make any statement of his/her own views. Each debater shall question one opponent. Following the four constructive speeches and questioning, each speaker shall have five minutes for rebuttal, alternating negative to affirmative.

Tournament Procedure: Each team will participate in preliminary rounds. The four teams with the best records (wins) in the preliminary rounds will be named as semifinalists. If there is a tie between two or more teams in the number of wins, the team(s) with the highest total of speaker points will be named as a semifinalist. Judge panels will judge every round.

TIMING:

At the expiration of time, the timekeeper shall stand and remain standing for the judges to note the overtime, but that shall not disqualify the debater.

CROSS-EXAMINATION:

Cross-examination is more than the art of debate. All the essential elements of good debate are necessary: a strong case, good adaptation to the audience, adequate evidence, and skillful delivery. Good cross-examination demands, in addition, a quick wit and facile tongue.

General:

1. **Purpose of Cross-Examination:** To clarify an obscure point in an opponent's case, to expose factual error or unsupported assertion, or to obtain damaging admissions are the purposes of cross-examination. It should not be used (as it is in law) to attack the witness' personal integrity.
2. **Attitudes of Questioner and Witness:** Both should appear to be reasonable, cooperative and eager to please. Either one should be "marked down" for unpalatable sarcasm, obvious "stalling," or appearing to browbeat his opponent.
3. **Relation to Case:** The virtue of a cross-examination decreases unless the results are tied to later speeches. The cross-examination should be an integral part of the debate, not a sideshow.
4. **Delivery:** Both speakers must talk to the audience. Cross-examination takes the form of an exchange between two debaters, but basically, it is for the benefit of the listeners. In public debates it is vital that both speakers face the audience while questioning or responding.

THE QUESTIONER:

1. Controls the time, and may interrupt the witness to request shorter or more direct answers, or to indicate that the answer he has given is insufficient.
2. Must ask fair and relevant questions. He should neither comment on the answers, argue with the witness, nor make speeches. He should use his time for questioning alone, not for either constructive argument or summary. In fact, a conclusion is all the more effective if the audience reaches it without the questioner's help.
3. Should have considerable scope in the questions he asks. Since the time is his, he may waste time if he wants to. The witness should answer even if the significance or relevance of the question is not immediately apparent to him.
4. Should begin with common ground on which agreement may be expected, and proceed to areas in which disagreement develops or the witness makes significant admissions. The questioner may well begin with the questions which reveal his purpose: "Do you maintain that the Nationalist Chinese Army stands as a bulwark against Communism in Asia?" "Yes." "And do you further maintain that recognition of Red China would weaken or destroy this bulwark?" "Yes." Agreement on such questions is almost certain, and the questioner clearly indicates the direction of his inquiry.
5. Should develop his attack along the lines of his basic case. He should limit the number of objectives he tries to reach. A series of at least five questions, probing a single issue of the debate thoroughly and following up the leads which the witness' answers provide, is preferable to a miscellaneous assortment of questions lacking interrelation and adaptation to the witness' answers.
6. May not insist on a simple "Yes" or "No" answer unless his question is simple, direct and factual. Questions about why something is true are necessarily complicated and the

questioner cannot expect the witness to answer them briefly. Factual questions are best, and the questioner can ask them in enough different ways to lend variety to the cross-examination.

7. Should phrase questions with the verb first, then the subject, and finally the object or modifying phrase: e.g. "Do you admit that Joseph R. McCarthy is the junior senator from Wisconsin?" He should avoid negative questions or any phrasing with "not": "Do you not know that there have been thirty-seven violations of the Korean truce by the Red Chinese?" The answer to this can only be confusing.
8. May remind the audience and the witness of relevant fact by beginning the question: "Are you aware that ..." or "Are you familiar with ..." However, the questioner's motive in putting such questions should be to put the witness on record concerning the statement involved, and not to present materials of his own.
9. Should summarize a series of questions on an issue by repeating an opening question: "Do you still consider, in light of these facts, that the Chinese Nationalist Army stands as a bulwark against Communism in Asia?" This calls for a "Yes" or "No" answer, clearly indicates the Questioner has concluded that particular approach, and allows the members of the audience to draw their own conclusions.

THE WITNESS:

1. Must answer directly and briefly any legitimate question. He should not question the questioner (except in using a rhetorical question as an answer), nor should he engage in "stalling" tactics.
2. May refuse to answer a tricky or unfair question – "When did you stop beating your wife?" – if he states a good reason for doing so.
3. May ask questions to clarify a question possibly giving his reasons for considering the question obscure, or may ask the questioner to stop making speeches and to continue his questioning.
4. May clarify a question, if to do so is appropriate. He should state the qualification before his answer. "Do you believe in the desirability of democratic elections?" "For people educated in the tradition and practice of democracy, yes."
5. Can exercise some control over the question period by controlling the timing of his answers. If he feels that the questioner is dragging out the question period, he can answer rapidly, exposing the questioner's ineptitude.
6. Should not be afraid to admit ignorance if the question demands knowledge of an obscure fact.
7. Must answer without consulting his colleague or receiving help from him.

JUDGING GUIDELINES

1. A Decision is Not to Be Based Upon:
 - a. The merits of the question. The judge should not be influenced by prejudices in favor of or against the proposition.
 - b. Partiality. The judge should not be influenced by the reputation of or show partiality for or against either of the competing teams, their schools, or coaches.
 - c. Preconceived notions on arguments. The judge should not allow his idea of what the best affirmative or negative arguments or cases may be to influence his decision.
 - d. Personal preferences on debating style. A judge should not penalize a team if its style differs, either in case construction or delivery, from that which he personally prefers; but the judge should evaluate all styles on the basis of effectiveness in winning the conviction.

2. A Decision Should Be Based Upon:
 - a. Skill in analysis. This includes not only the analysis of the proposition, but also analysis of the debate as it progresses.
 - b. Use of evidence. This includes the use of sufficient evidence and proper reference to its source.
 - c. Validity of argument. This includes reasoning and conclusions drawn from the evidence presented.
 - d. Clarity of organization. This includes clear outlining of constructive arguments and easily followed handling of refutation.
 - e. Effectiveness of delivery. This includes all matters pertaining to oral presentation with special emphasis upon extempore abilities.

3. A Team Should Be Penalized For:
 - a. An unfair interpretation. If the interpretation is disputed by the negative, it shall rest with the judge whether or not the affirmative is supporting a tenable position.
 - b. Discourtesy toward opponents. Discourtesy should be penalized according to the seriousness of the offense.
 - c. Falsification of evidence. If a team falsifies evidence in support of a point, it shall lose the point, and if the falsification is obviously deliberate, the judge shall impose an additional penalty according to the seriousness of the falsification.
 - d. Misconstruing an opponent's arguments. A speaker who misconstrues an argument unintentionally should not be penalized more than the time wasted. If it is intentional, the team should, in addition, forfeit the argument.
 - e. Introducing new arguments into rebuttal. The judges shall disregard new arguments introduced in rebuttal. This does not include the introduction of new evidence in support of points already advanced or the answering of arguments introduced by opponents.
 - f. Speaking overtime. When a speaker's time is up, the judge shall disregard anything beyond a closing statement.

ADDITIONAL GUIDELINES

- A. **Interpretation:** Judges should regard no interpretation of the question as official, unless the National Wording Committee issues an official interpretation and labels it as such.
- B. **Technicalities:** The team shall debate the basic principles underlying the proposition. Too much emphasis should not be placed upon a technicality.

- C. **Burden of proof:** A debate team need not destroy all opposing argument. It need only show that the preponderance of argument and evidence rests on its side.
- D. **Affirmative burden:** An affirmative team need not destroy all negative argument. It need only show that the preponderance of argument and evidence rests on its side. This holds true equally for the negative team.
- E. **Questions:** A team need answer questions only when they are shown to be pertinent and consequential to the debate. During the questioning periods, the time belongs to the debater asking the questions. The questions should be brief and the answers short and specific. The person answering the questions should not be permitted to refute, but should be limited to simply answering the questions. The questioner should not be permitted to comment on the answers.
- F. **Irrelevant arguments.** Arguments as to whether the proposition is constitutional, or whether it will be adopted are irrelevant.
- G. **Direct clash.** The negative team is primarily responsible for a direct clash, providing the affirmative team is not evading the proposition. The affirmative team is responsible for a clash on arguments advanced by the negative as evils in the proposition.
- H. **Delayed replies.** An argument introduced in constructive cases should be replied to by the opponents in time to give the team which advanced the argument an opportunity to reply.
- I. **Adaptation.** A high premium should be placed upon adaptive extempore debating. This should not excuse a team for lack of clarity in organization or for errors in the use of English.
- J. **Persuasion.** A premium should be placed upon the ability of the debaters to utilize human interest and accepted premises. Fallacies committed in an attempt to gain persuasive power should be treated the same as other fallacies.
- K. **Fallacies.** A judge should not discredit an argument as fallacious, unless the fallacy is exposed by the opposition, except in the closing affirmative rebuttal, when the judge shall discredit it upon discovering the fallacy.
- L. **Constructive solution.** Credit should be given to the team which most nearly approximates a constructive solution to the problems.
- M. **Point of order.** The negative team shall not be denied the right to rise to a point of order after the closing affirmative rebuttal. However, if they argue the point instead of stating the point, they shall be heavily penalized on the point. In this contingency, final disposition of the matter shall rest entirely with the judge. In general, this practice is to be discouraged.

Appendix B

Scripture Memory

Cycle Years

2025–2026	God’s Promises
2026–2027	The Wisdom of God
2027–2028	Soul-winning
2028–2029	The Triune God
2029–2030	Sin and Salvation
2030–2031	Prayer

2025–2026: God’s Promises

I. God has expressed His promises in clear, simple language.

- A. God’s promises are recorded in the Scriptures (Romans 1:2).
(Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)
- B. God’s promises are backed by His faithfulness (Deuteronomy 7:9).
Know therefore that the LORD thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations;
- C. God has confirmed His faithfulness by an oath (Hebrews 6:17–18).
Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:
- D. God’s promises are to motivate His children to duty and holiness (2 Corinthians 6:17–18; 7:1).
Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.
Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
- E. Although not all promises are made to the Christian, all are for our edification (Romans 15:4).
For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.
- F. God’s promises have been confirmed and fulfilled in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:19–20).
For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.
- G. Man does not know God’s timetable for the fulfillment of His promises (2 Peter 3:9).
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- H. God’s promises are obtained or possessed through faith (Romans 4:16; Hebrews 6:12).
Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all,
That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

II. Scripture describes God’s promises in several terms.

- A. God’s promise is called good (1 Kings 8:56).
Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant.
- B. God’s promise is called holy (Psalm 105:42).
For he remembered his holy promise, and Abraham his servant.
- C. God’s promises are called great and precious (2 Peter 1:4).
Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

III. God has given promises concerning the physical welfare of His children.

- A. God has promised longer life for obedience to Him (Proverbs 3:1–2).
My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

- B. God has promised longer life for honoring parents (Ephesians 6:2–3).
Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.
- C. God has promised peace and comfort in fear (John 14:27; Philippians 4:7).
Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.
And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
- D. God has promised help in illness (Psalm 41:3).
The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.
- E. God has promised the rest of sweet sleep (Proverbs 3:24).
When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.
- F. God has promised both afflictions and delivery in those afflictions (1 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 50:15).
That no man should be moved by these afflictions: for yourselves know that we are appointed thereunto.
And call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me.
- G. God has promised to dry our tears (Revelation 7:17).
For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.
- H. God has promised renewal of strength (Isaiah 40:31).
But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.
- I. God has promised that nothing shall happen by chance (Proverbs 16:33).
The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.
- J. God has promised children as His heritage (Psalm 127:3).
Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward.
- K. God has promised a blessed home life (Proverbs 3:33).
The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.
- L. God has promised preservation of orphans and widows (Jeremiah 49:11).
Leave thy fatherless children, I will preserve them alive; and let thy widows trust in me.
- M. God has promised blessings upon the children of godly parents (Psalm 112:1–2; Proverbs 20:7).
Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed. The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
- N. God has promised our basic needs of food, drink, and clothing (Matthew 6:31–32).
Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- O. God has promised to meet our every need (Philippians 4:19; Matthew 6:33).
But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.
But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

IV. God has given spiritual promises to those who are saved.

- A. God has promised abundant life (John 10:10).
The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.
- B. God has promised eternal life (1 John 2:25).
And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

- C. God has promised the indwelling Holy Spirit as the earnest or pledge of His salvation (2 Corinthians 1:22).
Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
- D. God has promised His eternal presence (Hebrews 13:5).
Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
- E. God has promised that He is slow to anger and merciful (Psalm 103:8).
The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.
- F. God has promised to forget only one thing: our sins (Hebrews 10:17).
And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
- G. God has promised salvation from His wrath (Romans 5:9).
Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.
- H. God has promised us sonship (Galatians 4:6–7; John 1:12).
And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father. Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.
But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:
- I. God has promised that we will be His heirs (Galatians 3:29).
And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.
- J. God has promised the advocacy of Jesus Christ (1 John 2:1).
My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:
- K. God has promised that He will never change (James 1:17).
Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
- L. God has promised to hear and answer our prayers (1 John 5:14–15).
And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.
- M. God has promised us victory over spiritual foes (Romans 8:37).
Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- N. God has promised us angelic protection and care (Psalm 34:7; Hebrews 1:14).
The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.
Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?
- O. God has promised that nothing can separate us from His love (Romans 8:38–39).
For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- P. God has promised His enabling to do His calling (1 Thessalonians 5:24).
Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.
- Q. God has promised rewards for our work (Revelation 22:12).
And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.
- R. God has promised that we shall bear life's burdens with His help (Galatians 6:5; Psalm 55:22).
For every man shall bear his own burden.
Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee: he shall never suffer the righteous to be moved.
- S. God has promised us chastisement for disobedience for our profit (Hebrews 12:6, 11).
For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- T. God has promised never to test us beyond our endurance (1 Corinthians 10:13).
There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.
- U. God has promised a spiritual harvest after labor (Galatians 6:9).
And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.
- V. God has promised that He cares for us (1 Peter 5:7).
Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.
- W. God has promised us courage (2 Timothy 1:7).
For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.
- X. God has promised wisdom if we ask (James 1:5).
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- Y. God has promised victory over death (1 Corinthians 15:54–57).
So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

V. God has given promises concerning eternity to the Christian.

- A. God has promised us an eternal home in heaven (1 Peter 1:3–4).
Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,
- B. God has promised that Christ will return for His own (John 14:3).
And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
- C. God has promised to those who die before Christ's return that the soul will have immediate entrance into heaven after death (2 Corinthians 5:8).
We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- D. God has promised that, at Christ's return for His own, the dead in Christ will be bodily resurrected (1 Thessalonians 4:16–17).
For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
- E. God has promised that, whether still living or resurrected, we all shall be changed to immortal beings (1 Corinthians 15:51–52).
Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
- F. God has promised that we shall be like Christ (1 John 3:2).
Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.
- G. God has promised that we must appear before the Judgment Seat for reward or loss for our earthly works (1 Corinthians 3:13–15).

Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

H. God has promised that heaven will be sinless (Revelation 21:27).

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

I. God has promised that there shall be no night in heaven (Revelation 22:5).

And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.

J. God has promised that there will be neither pain nor sorrow in heaven (Revelation 21:4).

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

K. God has promised to dwell with His people for eternity (Revelation 21:3).

And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

2026-2027: The Wisdom of God

I. God alone is the source of wisdom.

- A. Wisdom is with God (Job 12:12–13).
With the ancient is wisdom; and in length of days understanding. With him is wisdom and strength, he hath counsel and understanding.
- B. By wisdom God founded the earth (Proverbs 3:19).
The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.
- C. God's wisdom is beyond man's understanding (Romans 11:33–34).
O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?
- D. The wisdom of God is personified in Christ (1 Corinthians 1:23–24).
But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.
- E. God's wisdom, salvation in Christ, was a mystery before its revelation (1 Corinthians 2:7–8).
But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- F. God's Word gives wisdom (Psalm 119:130).
The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.
- G. God's wisdom is perfect and easily entreated (James 3:17).
But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.
- H. God's wisdom will prevail over man's wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:27–29).
But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.

II. God grants His wisdom to man beginning at salvation and continuing as the Christian seeks it.

- A. Man must reject the world's wisdom and believe God's wisdom at salvation (1 Cor. 1:20–21).
Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.
- B. Wisdom has been revealed to man through the Scriptures by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16).
Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
- C. Wisdom begins with fearing the Lord and departing from evil (Psalm 111:10; Job 28:28).
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.
And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.
- D. Wisdom comes from seeking God (Proverbs 28:5).
Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.
- E. Wisdom comes from desiring and seeking it (Proverbs 18:1).
Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom.
- F. It is God's will that the Christian be filled with wisdom (Colossians 1:9–10).

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

- G. Wisdom should be the principal goal in the life of the Christian (Proverbs 4:7).
Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.
- H. Wisdom may be petitioned from God (James 1:5).
If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.
- I. Wisdom is gained from hearing and receiving instruction (Proverbs 19:20).
Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.
- J. Wisdom proceeds from the Christian's heart to his speech (Proverbs 16:23).
The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.
- K. Wisdom can be forsaken (Proverbs 4:13).
Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

III. True wisdom does not exist apart from God.

- A. Wisdom is not found in human existence (Job 28:12–13).
But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living.
- B. Wisdom of this world is foolishness to God (1 Corinthians 3:19).
For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.
- C. The natural man cannot discern God's wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:14).
But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
- D. God's plan of salvation is foolish in the eyes of man (1 Corinthians 1:18).
For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.
- E. The reasonings of the worldly wise are vain (1 Corinthians 3:20).
And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.
- F. Wisdom is not synonymous with importance or age (Job 32:9).
Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment.
- G. Wisdom apart from God increases grief (Ecclesiastes 1:18).
For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increaseth knowledge increaseth sorrow.
- H. Man's wisdom can pervert him (Isaiah 47:10).
For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me.
- I. Wisdom apart from God will not stand (Proverbs 21:30).
There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.
- J. Wisdom in one's own eyes brings woe (Isaiah 5:21).
Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!
- K. Man's wisdom ends in death (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25).
There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

IV. Wisdom is a God-given possession that shapes a joyous, righteous life.

- A. Wisdom is a preserver of life (Proverbs 2:10–11).
When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul; Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

- B. Wisdom is peace (Proverbs 3:17).
Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
- C. Wisdom is strength (Proverbs 24:5).
A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
- D. Wisdom is stability (Isaiah 33:6).
And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the LORD is his treasure.
- E. Wisdom is a defense (Ecclesiastes 7:12).
For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.
- F. Wisdom is a guide (Ecclesiastes 10:10).
If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.
- G. Wisdom is obedience (Matthew 7:24).
Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:
- H. Wisdom is more valuable than wealth (Proverbs 8:10–11).
Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.
- I. Wisdom is sweet to the soul (Proverbs 24:13–14).
My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.
- J. Wisdom is sincere, yet practical (Matthew 10:16).
Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.
- K. Wisdom is winning souls (Daniel 12:3; Proverbs 11:30).
And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.
The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
- L. Wisdom is living as an example of Christ to the unsaved (Colossians 4:5).
Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.
- M. Wisdom is using our life and time to bring honor to God (Ephesians 5:15–17).
See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
- N. Wisdom is exercising discernment between good and evil, good and better (Philippians 1:9–10; Hebrews 5:14).
And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
- O. Wisdom glories only in the Lord (Jeremiah 9:23–24).
Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches: But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.
- P. Wisdom seeks counsel (Proverbs 1:5).
A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

- Q. Wisdom accepts reproof (Proverbs 17:10).
A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.
- R. Wisdom teaches self-control (Proverbs 11:12).
He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.
- S. Wisdom teaches the foolishness of mischief (Proverbs 10:23).
It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.
- T. Wisdom teaches that humility comes before honor (Proverbs 15:33).
The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.
- U. Wisdom teaches the principle of saving (Proverbs 21:20).
There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.
- V. Wisdom receives commendation (Proverbs 12:8).
A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.
- W. Wisdom promotes health and long life (Proverbs 4:20–22; Proverbs 9:10–11).
My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.
The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.
- X. Wisdom gains favor (Proverbs 13:14–15).
The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.
- Y. Wisdom establishes and furnishes the Christian home (Proverbs 24:3–4).
Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
- Z. Wisdom values eternity (Psalm 90:12).
So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

2027-2028: Soul-Winning

I. The worth of a soul

- A. A soul is worth more than the entire world (Matthew 16:26).
For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?
- B. A soul is worth God's long-suffering (2 Peter 3:9).
The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.
- C. A soul is worth God's love (1 John 4:10).
Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.
- D. A soul is worth Christ's sacrificial death (1 Peter 2:24).
Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.
- E. A soul is worth Christ's humility (Philippians 2:5–8).
Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

II. Separation of the soul from God by sin

- A. Man's nature is sinful (Romans 5:12–14).
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.
- B. All mankind has committed sinful acts (Romans 3:23).
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
- C. Sin separates man from God (Isaiah 59:2).
But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.
- D. Separation from God is darkness (1 Peter 2:9).
But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:
- E. Separation from God is spiritual death (John 5:24).
Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

III. Physical and spiritual death for the unbelievers

- A. Physical death is not the end of man's existence (John 5:28–29).
Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.
- B. Judgment for sins occurs after physical death (Hebrews 9:27).
And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
- C. Hell is referred to as the second or spiritual death (Revelation 21:8).
But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

1. Jesus confirmed the reality of Hell (Luke 16:22–23).
And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.
2. Hell is a place of bodily punishment (Matthew 10:28).
And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.
3. Hell is a place of fire (Mark 9:43–44).
And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.
4. Hell is everlasting (Matthew 25:46).
And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.
5. Hell is the punishment for not believing on Christ (John 3:36).
He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

IV. Physical death and spiritual life for the believer

- A. Physical death for the believer is termed “sleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:13–15).
But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.
- B. Physical death for the believer is merely absence from the body (2 Corinthians 5:6–8).
Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.
- C. The believer shall never experience spiritual death or separation from God (John 11:25–26).
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?
- D. Eternal life for the believer is both physical and spiritual (1 Corinthians 15:42–44).
So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.
- E. Eternal life is the believer’s possession now (1 John 5:11–13).
And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.
- F. Eternal life will be spent with God (John 14:1–6).
Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

V. The imperative of soul-winning

- A. Death is certain (Psalm 89:48).

What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? shall he deliver his soul from the hand of the grave? Selah.

- B. Judgment is certain (Romans 2:5–9).
But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life: But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;
- C. A man's earthly future is uncertain (Proverbs 27:1).
Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.
- D. Earthly life is uncertain (James 4:14).
Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- E. We know the terror of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:11).
Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.
- F. Christ, our Example, came to win souls (Luke 19:10).
For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.
- G. Christ commands us to win souls (Matthew 28:19–20).
Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.
- H. To obey Christ's command is our duty and not our choice (Luke 17:10).
So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.
- I. Christ's love constrains us (2 Corinthians 5:14–15).
For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again.
- J. Our love for others should compel us (Mark 12:30–31).
And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.
- K. We are responsible to the lost about us (Romans 1:14).
I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.
- L. It is a sin not to win souls (James 4:17).
Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

VI. Attributes of the soul-winner

- A. The soul-winner is saved (John 15:5).
I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.
- B. The soul-winner is faithful in prayer (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
Pray without ceasing.
- C. The soul-winner's life evidences truth and righteousness (Ephesians 5:8–10).
For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.
- D. The soul-winner exercises wisdom (Colossians 4:5).

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

E. The soul-winner lives in readiness (1 Peter 3:15).

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

F. The soul-winner daily dies to self (Luke 9:23).

And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

G. The soul-winner lives a separated life (1 Thessalonians 5:22).

Abstain from all appearance of evil.

H. The soul-winner practices faith in God's goodness (Matthew 7:11).

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

I. The soul-winner realizes he is but a messenger (Matthew 10:20).

For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you.

J. The soul-winner is filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

K. The soul-winner faithfully reads and studies the Bible (2 Timothy 2:15).

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

L. The soul-winner has been obedient to believer's baptism and church membership (Ac. 2:41, 47).

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

M. The soul-winner practices faithful church attendance (Hebrews 10:25).

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

VII. The plan of salvation

A. We must acknowledge that we are all sinners (Romans 3:10).

As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

B. We must acknowledge that we can do nothing about our sinful condition (Isaiah 64:6).

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

C. The penalty for sin is death (Romans 6:23).

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

D. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin (Romans 5:8).

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

E. Salvation is a gift, nothing we can earn (Ephesians 2:8–9).

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

F. Each person must appropriate God's forgiveness by an act of faith in Christ (Romans 10:9–10).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

2028-2029: The Triune God

I. God the Father

A. His nature

1. God is holy (Psalm 99:9).

Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy hill; for the LORD our God is holy.

2. God is just (Isaiah 45:21).

Tell ye, and bring them near; yea, let them take counsel together: who hath declared this from ancient time? who hath told it from that time? have not I the LORD? and there is no God else beside me; a just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

3. God is love (1 John 4:16).

And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.

4. God is good (Psalm 118:29).

O give thanks unto the LORD; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

5. God is merciful (Psalm 100:5).

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

6. God is long-suffering (2 Peter 3:9).

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

7. God is unchanging (Malachi 3:6).

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

8. God is incorruptible (Romans 1:23).

And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

9. God is faithful (1 Corinthians 10:13).

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

10. God is true (John 7:28).

Then cried Jesus in the temple as he taught, saying, Ye both know me, and ye know whence I am: and I am not come of myself, but he that sent me is true, whom ye know not.

11. God is jealous (Exodus 34:14).

For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

B. His attributes

1. God is invisible, a spirit (John 4:24).

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

2. God is a distinct being (Exodus 3:14).

And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

3. God is eternal (Deuteronomy 33:27).

The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms: and he shall thrust out the enemy from before thee; and shall say, Destroy them.

4. God is immortal (1 Timothy 1:17).

Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

5. God is light (1 John 1:5).

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6. God is life (John 5:26).

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

7. God is glorious (Exodus 15:11).

Who is like unto thee, O LORD, among the gods? who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?

8. God is unique (Isaiah 45:5).

I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me:

9. God is personal (Romans 8:15).

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

10. God is omniscient (1 John 3:20).

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things.

11. God is omnipresent (Jeremiah 23:24).

Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.

12. God is omnipotent (Revelation 19:6).

And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

13. God is a trinity with three personalities (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

II. God the Son

A. His nature

1. Jesus Christ is God incarnate (Colossians 1:13–15; John 8:58).

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

2. Jesus Christ is one with the Father (John 10:30).

I and my Father are one.

3. Jesus Christ was virgin-born (Matthew 1:23).

Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

4. Jesus Christ was man (Hebrews 2:14).

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

5. Jesus Christ was sinless (Hebrews 4:15).

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

6. Jesus Christ's love is characterized by its greatness (John 15:13).
Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

7. Jesus Christ was obedient to the Father (John 4:34).
Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.

8. Jesus Christ was humble (Philippians 2:8).
And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9. Jesus Christ is truth (John 14:6).
Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

10. Jesus Christ is life (John 11:25).
Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

11. Jesus Christ is changeless (Hebrews 13:8).
Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

B. His ministry

1. Jesus Christ is the creator (John 1:3).
All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

2. Jesus Christ is the Word, the expression of God's being (John 1:14).
And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

3. Jesus Christ came to fulfill the Law (Matthew 5:17).
Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

4. Jesus Christ is the Saviour (Titus 2:13).
Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

5. Jesus Christ was the substitutionary lamb, the Atonement (John 1:29).
The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

6. Jesus Christ is the mediator (1 Timothy 2:5).
For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

7. Jesus Christ is our intercessor (Hebrews 7:25).
Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

8. Jesus Christ is our High Priest (Hebrews 8:1).
Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such a high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens;

9. Jesus Christ is the judge (John 5:22).
For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:

10. Jesus Christ is the author and finisher of our faith (Hebrews 12:2).
Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

III. God the Holy Spirit

A. His nature

1. The Holy Spirit is God (2 Corinthians 3:17).
Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

2. The Spirit of God is holy (Ephesians 4:30).
And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

B. His ministry

1. The Holy Spirit imparts life (Job 33:4).
The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.
2. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin (John 16:8).
And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:
3. The Holy Spirit is the author of the new birth (John 3:5; Titus 3:5).
Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;
4. The Holy Spirit indwells every Christian (Romans 8:9).
But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.
5. Through the Holy Spirit we are baptized into the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13).
For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
6. The Holy Spirit is the proof of our salvation (Romans 8:16).
The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:
7. The Holy Spirit is the seal or bond of our eternal salvation (Ephesians 1:13; 2 Cor. 1:22).
In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.
8. The Holy Spirit leads the Christian (Romans 8:14).
For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.
9. The Holy Spirit comforts the Christian (John 14:16).
And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;
10. The Holy Spirit teaches the Christian (John 14:26).
But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.
11. The Holy Spirit is our indwelling intercessor (Romans 8:27).
And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
12. The Holy Spirit glorifies Christ (John 16:14).
He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.
13. The Holy Spirit inspired Scripture (2 Peter 1:21; 2 Timothy 3:16).
For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.
All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:
14. The Holy Spirit bestows spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4, 11).
Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
15. The Holy Spirit controls the submissive Christian (Ephesians 5:18).
And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;
16. The Holy Spirit produces fruit in the Christian (Galatians 5:22–23).
But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

2029-2030: Sin and Salvation

I. Sin is defined Scripturally.

- A. Sin is “missing the mark” or a failure to meet God’s standards (Romans 3:23; James 4:17).
For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.
- B. Sin is transgression of God’s law (1 John 3:4).
Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.
- C. Sin is committed against God (Psalm 51:4).
Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

II. Sin originated in the angelic realm.

- A. The Devil (Lucifer) committed sin (1 John 3:8).
He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
- B. Other angels committed sin (2 Peter 2:4).
For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

III. Sin spread to the human race.

- A. The Devil (Satan) was the chief agent in the Fall of Man (2 Corinthians 11:3).
But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.
- B. Sin entered the world through Adam (Romans 5:12).
Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:
- C. The sinful nature is transmitted to all Adam’s posterity, with the exception of Christ (Romans 5:19; 1 John 1:8).
For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
- D. Sin is perpetuated by mankind because his heart is evil (Jeremiah 17:9; Matthew 15:19).
The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?
For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:

IV. Sin is damaging and degrading to mankind.

- A. Man’s sinful nature has placed him in a state of spiritual death (Ephesians 2:1).
And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;
- B. Sin creates guilt and unrest in man (Isaiah 57:20–21).
But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.
There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.
- C. The sin of one generation affects its posterity (Exodus 20:5).
Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;
- D. Man is in bondage to sin and cannot free himself (John 8:34).
Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.
- E. Sin keeps man in spiritual darkness (John 8:12).

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

F. Sin makes man at enmity against God (Romans 8:7).

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

G. Man's sin repays him with wickedness (Isaiah 3:11; Proverbs 13:2).

Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him.

A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

H. Sin afflicts mankind with pain and anguish (Job 14:1).

Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble.

I. Sin brings death which is inescapable outside Christ (James 1:15).

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

1. The first death is physical, bodily (Hebrews 9:27).

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

2. The second death is spiritual, eternal separation from God, Who is Life (Rev. 21:8).

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

V. Sin and the holiness of God are irreconcilable.

A. God is righteous (Psalm 119:137).

Righteous art thou, O LORD, and upright are thy judgments.

B. God abhors sin (Psalm 5:4–6).

For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee. The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity. Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

C. God knows our sins (Psalm 69:5).

O God, thou knowest my foolishness; and my sins are not hid from thee.

D. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:1–2).

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

E. God judges sin (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.

F. God's judgment is according to truth (Romans 2:2).

But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them which commit such things.

G. The Law was given to condemn man's sins and to show his need for Christ (Galatians 3:24).

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

H. God will not tolerate sin or defilement in Heaven (Revelation 21:27).

And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

VI. Salvation from sin and death is impossible apart from God's plan.

A. Old Testament sacrifices could not take away sin (Hebrews 10:4).

For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

B. The Law cannot give righteousness and life (Galatians 3:21–22).

Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law. But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

C. Works cannot give righteousness and life (Isaiah 64:6).

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.

D. No person or god can provide salvation (Acts 4:12).

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

E. Grace, unmerited favor, came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17).

For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

VII. Salvation from sin and death is made possible by God's plan.

A. Jesus Christ is God Incarnate, sent to redeem us (Galatians 4:4–5).

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

1. The shedding of Christ's blood was necessary for the remission or forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22).

And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.

a. Our sins were imputed or reckoned to Christ's account (1 Peter 2:24).

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

b. Christ was the propitiation or satisfaction for the sins of the world (1 John 2:2).

And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

c. Christ was our substitute on the cross, and now His righteousness has been imputed to us (2 Corinthians 5:21).

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

d. Christ's death reconciles man to God (Romans 5:10).

For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

e. We are justified or declared righteous through faith in Christ's redemptive work (Romans 5:1).

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

f. God has removed our sins from us (Psalm 103:12; John 1:29).

As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

g. God will never remember our sins (Hebrews 10:17).

And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.

h. Condemnation for our sins is no longer possible (Romans 8:1).

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2. Christ's resurrection proved that He is God, with power over death (John 11:25).

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

a. Christ's resurrection was necessary for proof of forgiveness and justification (Romans 4:24–25).

But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.

b. Christ's resurrection proves that the saved shall also rise (1 Cor. 15:20, 23).

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

B. Conversion is a sinner's turning from his sin toward God (Acts 3:19).

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

1. A sinner must repent of his sins (Luke 5:32).

I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

2. A sinner must have faith, or personal trust, in Christ's finished work on the cross (John 1:12; Romans 10:9).

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

3. While the sinner must exercise repentance and faith by his own will, it is God who leads him to both (Romans 2:4; Ephesians 2:8).

Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance? For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

C. Regeneration is being "born again" at conversion, and it is accomplished by God (Titus 3:5).

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

D. Salvation is a gift imparted at conversion (Romans 10:10, 13).

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

1. We are saved from the bondage which makes us continue to sin (1 John 3:9).

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

2. We are saved from sin's penalty and are given eternal life (John 3:36).

He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3. The completion of our salvation will be the sinless glorification of our bodies (Philippians 3:20–21).

For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

E. At salvation, we are sealed with the Holy Spirit as security and indwelt by Him until our final redemption (Ephesians 1:13; 1 Corinthians 6:19).

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

F. At salvation, we are sanctified or set apart in God's eyes from the unsaved world (Heb. 10:10).

By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

G. At salvation, Christ's intercession for us with the Father begins (Hebrews 7:25).

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

2030-2031: Prayer

I. Prayer is verbal expression of our feelings and needs to God.

A. We pray directly to God (Psalm 5:2).

Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

1. We are to pray with humility (Psalm 10:17).

LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

2. We are to pray in Jesus' name (John 16:23).

And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you.

3. We are to pray in the Holy Spirit (Jude 20–21).

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

4. We are to pray truthfully (Psalm 145:18).

The LORD is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

5. We are to pray boldly (Hebrews 10:19–22).

Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

6. We are to pray confidently (1 John 5:14).

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

7. We are to pray about matters persistently, importunately, without shame (Lk. 11:8–10).

I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

B. We are to pray from the heart, expressing our feelings and thoughts (Psalm 62:8).

Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah.

1. Prayer may be audible (Psalm 77:1).

I cried unto God with my voice, even unto God with my voice; and he gave ear unto me.

2. Prayer may be silent because God knows the heart and its thoughts (1 Chronicles 28:9).

And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

C. We are to pray concerning everything (Philippians 4:6).

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

1. Prayer is adoration, expressing praise and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15).

By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.

2. Prayer is supplication, expressing a petition for mercy (Psalm 55:1).

Give ear to my prayer, O God; and hide not thyself from my supplication.

a. We are to confess our sins and seek forgiveness (Matthew 6:12; 1 John 1:9).

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

b. We are to express our needs (Matthew 6:11).

Give us this day our daily bread.

c. We are to express our desires (Psalm 37:4).

Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

3. Prayer is intercession, pleading another's cause (Romans 15:30).

Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;

a. We are to pray for all men (1 Timothy 2:1).

I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;

b. We are to pray for kings and all in authority (1 Timothy 2:2).

For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

c. We are to pray for our persecutors (Matthew 5:44).

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

d. We are to pray for fellow believers (Ephesians 6:18).

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

e. We are to pray for the sick (James 5:14–15).

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

f. We are to pray for the ministers of the Gospel (2 Thessalonians 3:1–2).

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.

II. The Bible clearly states who may pray.

A. Only believers may pray with the assurance that they are heard by God (John 9:31).

Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

B. The prayer for salvation from anyone will be heard by God (Romans 10:9–10, 13).

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

C. All believers share the privilege of prayer. (Matthew 6:6; 1 Timothy 2:8).

But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.

I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.

D. The Bible teaches that Christ continues to intercede for believers (Hebrews 7:25).

Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

E. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit also intercedes for us (Romans 8:26).

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

III. It is wrong for the Christian to fail to pray.

A. Prayer is commanded (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Pray without ceasing.

- B. Prayer is pleasing to God (Psalm 141:2).

Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

- C. We will not have if we do not ask (James 4:2).

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.

IV. The Bible teaches us when to pray.

- A. The believer's heart is to remain in an attitude of continuing prayer and gratitude to God (Romans 12:12; Ephesians 5:20).

Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer;

Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

1. We are to pray at all times (Luke 18:1).

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

2. We are to pray day and night (Psalm 88:1).

O LORD God of my salvation, I have cried day and night before thee:

- B. We are to pray in thankfulness before eating, as exemplified by Christ (Mark 8:6; 1 Tim. 4:4–5).

And he commanded the people to sit down on the ground: and he took the seven loaves, and gave thanks, and brake, and gave to his disciples to set before them; and they did set them before the people.

For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

- C. We are to pray in times of trouble (Psalm 86:6–7).

Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications. In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

- D. We are to pray in times of need (Hebrews 4:16).

Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- E. We are to pray in times of affliction (James 5:13).

Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.

- F. We are to pray when fearful (Psalm 55:5, 16).

Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me.

As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me.

- G. We are to pray for restored fellowship after confession of sin (Psalm 51:10, 12).

Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

V. Answers to prayer may take different forms.

- A. God has promised to answer requests made in His will (1 John 5:14–15).

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

- B. God may answer prayer above our expectations (Ephesians 3:20).

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

- C. God may answer prayer directly and immediately (Matthew 7:7–11).

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will

he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

D. God may delay an answer to prayer (Luke 18:7).

And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

E. God may answer a prayer differently from our request (2 Corinthians 12:7–9).

And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

VI. There are hindrances to answers to prayer which the believer must avoid.

A. God will not answer if there is unconfessed sin in the heart (Psalm 66:18).

If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me:

B. God will not answer prayer if the motive is wrong or selfish (James 4:3).

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

C. God will not answer prayer if it is not made in faith (Matthew 21:22).

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

D. God will not answer prayer from an unforgiving heart (Mark 11:25–26).

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

E. God will not answer prayer made without regard to his will (Matthew 6:10).

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

F. God will not answer prayer from an unthankful heart (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

G. God will not answer prayer from a disobedient heart (1 John 3:20–22).

For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

H. God will not answer prayer from an ungiving heart (Luke 6:38).

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

I. God will not answer prayer from a heart which is not abiding in Him (John 15:7).

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

J. God will not answer prayer from the partners in an inharmonious marriage relationship (1 Peter 3:1, 7).

Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.