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No. 1

SIN,
MAN'S GREATEST
ENEMY

Adult and Young People's
Quarterly

INTRODUCTION

We live in the age when men are desirous of giving acceptance to the multitude of religious teachings in the world, paying little heed to their worth or their true spiritual foundation. It is very necessary that we, as the people of God, make sure that we are building our Christian structure upon the solid Rock. Therefore, we are presenting this group of lessons with a sincere desire to give the student the true teachings of the Word as revealed by the Lord Jesus. In this quarter we are dealing with the subject of sin. It is most needful that we consider this subject since the average religious organization has resigned itself to the conclusion that sin is a part of the life of a Christian, and he need not ever expect to be free from it in this time world. Consequently, there is no strong voice today crying out against this great enemy of mankind; and, as a result, it is increasing in our nation and in all the world, both in quantity and intensity. Sin is never desirable in the life of any man. It always leaves ugly inroads in its victims.

We expect to set forth the correct understanding of this great enemy of man and to inspire the reader and student to arm himself against it. Thus, these lessons are both evangelistic and doctrinal. After giving a revelation of the malady of sin, we deeply desire to offer the perfect cure. This, as we all know, is in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ by His atoning blood. We hope that the students will give this course of lessons the most careful consideration and study with the purpose in mind of making the subject matter a part of their everyday lives and not just a mass of stored knowledge.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE

LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR JANUARY 2

THE BIBLE—GOD'S WORD

Scriptures: Hebrews 4:12; John 1:1; Mark 4:36-41; Psalm 119:89, 105; II Timothy 3:15, 16.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Mark 4:36 And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships.

37 And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full.

38 And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish?

39 And he arose, and rebuked the wind,

and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

40 And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?

41 And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?

Psalm 119:89 For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.

105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

II Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

Memory Verse: For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.—Hebrews 4:12.

Aim: To create a deep respect and love for God's Word.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	John 1	Thursday	Psalm 119:33-72
Tuesday	II Timothy 3	Friday	Psalm 119:73-112
Wednesday	Psalm 119:1-32	Saturday	Mark 4

INTRODUCTION

“The Bible is composed of sixty-six distinct books, written by at least thirty-six different authors, during a period covering sixteen centuries. These books are not only many in number, but great in variety. Some of them are poetry, some are prose; some are books of law, some are historical writings; some are prophecy and symbols, others are simple epistles. The writers wrote under a variety of circumstances, in many countries, to different peoples, for different purposes, about different subjects, in various conditions, and moved by different influences.

“Being written under such conditions, it is altogether improbable that there should be any unity or agreement in the Bible. No other book pretending to unity was ever written under such unfavorable circumstances. And yet the Bible, though composed of sixty-six distinct books, is one book. Though it has not less than thirty-six different human writers, it bears all the marks of being the work of one mind. It has a single subject throughout—the history of the redemption of men through Christ. The same spirit pervades all its books. Their one aim is to lead men to salvation through Christ.

“The only adequate way to account for such unity is to allow that it is what it claims and appears to be—the work of one superintending and inspiring Mind. ... As the different parts of a great temple are wrought by numerous workmen, in many places, and under different conditions, yet when brought together they all fit in one great whole because all designed by the single mind of the architect, so the book of revelation, though wrought by many minds, yet has unity and harmony because of the superintendence of the master mind of its Divine Architect.”—R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*, Pages 148, 149.

MEDITATIONS

THE AMAZING WORD—Hebrews 4:12—Quick and powerful—The two-edged sword in the days of Paul (supposedly the writer of Hebrews) was a mighty and fearful weapon. Knowing the power of God’s Word, he sought to inform his readers that there was something to be feared more than the deadly two-edged sword. The Word of God does something that nothing else can do. It searches the deep recesses of the hearts of men. Be sure—known to God are all the doings of man, yea, the very thoughts and intents of the heart.

THE WORD IS DIVINE—John 1:1—The Word was God—The beginning, in this verse, refers to the beginning of time and the earth’s creation. God and His Word know no beginning. The written Word conveys to man the mind and will of God. It is an offense of the greatest degree when any man puts the wrong interpretation upon the Word of God. To interpret the Word of God wrongly is to misrepresent God Himself; and if God is wrongly represented, someone is in danger of being misled.

THE WORD AT WORK—Mark 4:36—As he was—Jesus had been earnestly ministering to the needs of the multitude. Without rest or any adjustment of any kind, He took ship to face new tasks.

MEETING THE UNEXPECTED—Mark 4:37—Arose a great storm—Unexpectedly the forces of nature can disrupt carefully laid plans and necessitate a strong hold on the Word of God for survival. Fierce natures in the spiritual world threaten to sweep us from our moorings, but reliance on the Word of God brings the faithful through.

NO STORM CAN DISTURB CHRIST, THE WORD—Mark 4:38
—**Asleep**—The disciples were disturbed, but not the Master; He slept peacefully. Weak in faith and experience, the disciples had only one alternative if they were to survive, and that was to wake the Master.
Carest thou not?—They were not able to understand how Jesus could be so calm in so great a storm. Let us each one draw a lesson from this example of Jesus and give to the world a like testimony of life's unexpected visitations. Storms are permitted so that we may develop spiritual strength in riding them out.

PERFECT CONTROL—Mark 4:39—A great calm—Christ the Word is Master of all things, both spiritual and natural. In John 14:12 we read that the things which Christ did, we who believe shall do also. The Christian is a member of a great and renowned family, doers of miracles, skillful soldiers, ardent worshipers. May our Father sustain us all so that not one will lower the standard!

A SLIGHT REBUKE—Mark 4:40—Why are ye so fearful?—The Word has granted to all men perfect peace if we believe. ("Great peace have they which love thy law."—Psalm 119:165.) Jesus, being fully conscious of the power of God's Word and its never-failing comfort, was, of course, grieved by their fear. Faith is fast disappearing from the earth, and men are trying to build security around material things; consequently, when material things crumble, fear follows.

STRANGERS TO THE WORLD—Mark 4:41—What manner of man—Anyone who is not acquainted with the Lord and His Word is certain to show great surprise and even fear when the Word operates in answer to prayer. Christians should never be found fearful when the Word moves miraculously, but be found rejoicing victoriously.

GOD'S WORD ETERNAL—Psalm 119:89—For ever ... settled—Having spoken truth only, coupled with the greatest wisdom, God has no need of ever changing His Word. The dazzling purity of the character of God makes it impossible for Him to speak in such a way that He would later need to make a restatement. Heaven is the location of the throne of God, so it is only natural that the Word should issue from there and also have its execution from there.

THE WORD, A MORAL LIGHT—Psalm 119:105—A lamp unto my feet—Just as a man is sure to stumble among obstacles in darkness, so are men sure to stumble spiritually if they have not the light of God's holy truth on their pathway. In our age Satan has so cleverly placed his stumblingblocks that millions are tripping and falling.

II Timothy 3:15—Make thee wise unto salvation—It is within the power of the Word of God to convert the soul of everyone who will believe. It is a most excellent practice to fill the minds of the youth with the Word of God.

II Timothy 3:16—Profitable for doctrine—There is nothing the soul needs that cannot be supplied by the Word of God. Therefore, we should make it our constant companion, becoming better acquainted with it each day. Jesus used the Word very successfully in defeating the devil. It will help us, also, in every one of his attacks.

CONCLUSION

We are prone to think of the Word of God as being just the writing, word by word, line by line, as we look upon it in our Bible. But this is not the truth. The Word of God is an invisible, powerful force, skillfully hidden away in the writings of the Bible and can be grasped and made evident only by the Spirit of God Himself. It is because of this that many men read the Bible and never see the Word of God at all. They write down many interpretations which are contradictory one to another because such are the products of their own thinking and reasoning power. In their compilation they always have the ready assistance of the devil, who has no book of moral laws except as he distorts and misinterprets the Word of God, subtly declaring it to be pure truth. Therefore, in the study and interpretation of the Word of God, it is necessary, and I should add, necessary to the point of indispensability, that we have the guidance of the Holy Spirit. According to David, the Word of God is a lamp and light to our feet and path. A false interpretation cannot be; such is certain to produce darkness, loudly proclaimed as light.

It is very evident from the study of this lesson that modern man is rapidly drifting away from a knowledge and practice of the Word of God. Even though men lose sight of God and His Word, its force and power remain unchanged, and every transgression shall face it with all its power in the judgment day. It is very necessary, then, that we who know God and His Word labor diligently to turn men back to God and His Word. It is forever settled in heaven; it will not hastily be changed in the last day to accommodate careless, indifferent, sinful men. Now is the day of salvation, and all men everywhere are called upon to repent, turning away from their sins.

Dear Reader, if you are not a Christian, you will gain nothing by further delay, and there is great danger that you will be cut off suddenly. Accept Christ now while opportunity is yours.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Make comment on St. John 1:14.
2. What is the first need of the man who undertakes to study the Word of God?
3. Why did Paul compare the Word to a two-edged sword?
4. Consider the difference between man's word and the Word of God.

5. Name some of the things that the Word of God will do or has done. (Examine Hebrews 11:3.)
 6. What authority has the Word in physical healing?
 7. Why are spiritual storms allowed to cross our path?
 8. Why was Christ able to sleep in the midst of the storm?
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LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR JANUARY 9

THE DEFINITION OF SIN

Scriptures: Matthew 4:4; Deuteronomy 30:15, 16; Romans 4:15; I John 5:17; I John 3:4; Romans 14:23.

Matthew 4:4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Deuteronomy 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

16 In that I command thee this day to love the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the Lord thy God shall bless thee in the land whither

thou goest to possess it.

Romans 4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, there is no transgression.

I John 5:17 All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.

I John 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Romans 14:23 And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.

Memory Verse: Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.—I John 3:4.

Aim: To present a clear understanding of what sin is.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Romans 14	Thursday	Romans 4
Tuesday	I John 3	Friday	Romans 5
Wednesday	I John 5	Saturday	I Peter 2

INTRODUCTION

Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words says the word *sin* means: “a missing of the mark.”

The New Ungers Bible Dictionary says sin is “a falling away from or missing the right path. ... The underlying idea of sin is that of law and of a lawgiver. The lawgiver is God. Hence sin is everything in the disposition and purpose and conduct of God’s moral creatures that is contrary to the express will of God. ...

“The sinfulness of sin lies in the fact that it is against God, even when the wrong we do is to others or ourselves.

“The being and law of God are perfectly harmonious, for ‘God is love.’ The sum of all the commandments likewise is love; sin in its nature is egotism and selfishness. Self is put in the place of God. ... Selfishness (not pure self-love or the exaggeration of it, but in opposition to it) is at the bottom of all disobedience, and it becomes hostility to God when it collides with His law.

“All sin therefore has a positive character, and the distinction between sins of commission and those of omission is only on the surface. In both cases, sin is actual disobedience.”

Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary says:

“Sin is not represented in the Bible as the absence of good, or as an illusion that stems from our human limitations. Sin is portrayed as a real and positive evil. Sin is more than unwise, inexpedient, calamitous behavior that produces sorrow and distress. It is rebellion against God’s law—the standard of righteousness (Psalm 119:160).

“Since God demands righteousness, sin must be defined in terms of mankind’s relation to God. Sin is thus the faithless rebellion of the creature against the just authority of his Creator.”

MEDITATIONS

THE WORD, GOD’S LAW—Matthew 4:4—Live by—Sin in its primary sense is a want of conformity to law. It is the opposite of holiness, which is the result of conforming to divine law. The eternal God created this world. He created man and He gave man His Word, His law, to live by. To fail to obey the known commands of God is to sin.

LOVE GOD—Deuteronomy 30:15, 16—Walk in his ways—God is just and right in all His ways; He does not condemn one for truth he does not know. His Word clearly teaches that we are to love Him and the way we show we love Him is by obeying His Word. To knowingly disobey His Word is to commit imputed sin, for imputed sin reveals a rebellious attitude of heart toward God, and thus is the way of death and not life. If we really love Him we will walk in His ways.

THE LAW DISCLOSES SIN—Romans 4:15—Where no law is—Sin is made known by the law that God has given. God does not leave His creation in the dark, but lightens the faith of men by His Word. Many are not informed or walking in the light of the Word because they have turned their backs upon it. There is no one so blind as he who does not want to see. Unto others who know not because they have not heard (such as the unlearned in heathen lands) their conscience becomes their law (Romans 2:14). If such break the law taught by nature, they are guilty before God.

SIN, THE OPPOSITE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS—I John 5:17—All unrighteousness is sin—There is a difference between the righteousness of the law and the righteousness of faith. Merely to

keep the law to the letter and do right is not what God is looking for. Paul said, concerning the law he was blameless, but still he was not in favor with God. It is only after regeneration through the blood of Christ that we can have favor with God. It is faith in His atoning blood that delivers from the power of sin and imparts power to live victoriously over sin. So what some people call right is wrong and what some call wrong is right. Some say it is unrighteous to eat pork (and a sin), but God said that every creature of God is good. So, we need the constant guidance of the Spirit of God to be able to live rightly and divide the Word, rejecting the unrighteous (sin) and clinging to the right.

TO BREAK GOD'S LAW IS SIN—I John 3:4—Transgression of the law—Stealing, taking God's name in vain, worshiping idols, committing adultery, etc., are forbidden by the law of God. Why? Because they destroy the moral fiber of the soul and undermine the health of the body. By the coming of Christ in our hearts we receive a heart of flesh (tenderness and compassion), and we have an aversion to transgression of the law. However, at times the devil does tempt the Christian, giving a false desire, and bringing a great pressure against him, but this is not sin; sin results from the yielding of our members as servants of transgression (Romans 6:16). Christ, at His death, did bring an end to the Old Covenant, but the New Covenant has laws, and these laws actually hold a higher standard than the Old Covenant. At least in some respects, this law must be fulfilled in the life of each child of God (Romans 8:4).

UNCERTAINTY IS DANGEROUS—Romans 14:23—He that doubteth—The Christian religion is not a hope-so or a guess-so religion; it is a know-so religion. We must not allow men to deceive us with vain words, which is happening to many. The way is so plain, Isaiah said "the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." If there is a doubt about anything, we should not do it.

CONCLUSION

With all our improvements in the system of education, still little emphasis is laid upon the subject of sin, about which it is most needful that everyone be informed. Sin is increasing, and it is now evident everywhere, it seems, that the masses of people consider it as a necessary evil and are trying to adjust themselves to living with it rather than driving it from their midst by the good old gospel route. When God created all things, He made laws to govern their operation. This included man and his relationship with his fellowmen. To disregard or break any of these established laws of God is sin; and since God, in His infinite wisdom and power, so created man that transgression always produces a harmful and destructive reaction, it is necessary that we know what sin is and how man can by force of will, curb sin, avoid it.

However, I would add that it is impossible for anyone to escape from it completely in his own strength. No educational system can free him from it. Its power is of such great strength that only the Lord Jesus Christ can master it and give deliverance from it. He does this for everyone who seeks deliverance with all his heart. No man can be permitted to retain even one sinful practice. Christ delivers from all or none.

Men everywhere are wondering what is wrong in the world today since there is so much unrest and fear. They seem to be unable to grasp the fact that sin is the sole cause of all that is wrong in the world today, as well as it was in all ages that are past. Sin is the transgression of the law of God, which brings death. Obedience to the law of God always gives peace and life. If the world would turn to Christ today, our troubles would end at once. We have the example of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. It seems this should awaken men to the seriousness of sin, but the unfortunate part about our present situation is that men are not giving time to the study of the Word; consequently, they are not mindful of the Bible standards and the penalty of sin. For all of you who know the truth, it is our duty to impress everyone possible with the undesirability of sin. Sin to the soul is what cancer is to the body. If left alone, it will produce death.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Can education eventually bring an end to sin in the human family?
2. What was it that Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden that was pronounced sin?
3. Why did God give the law?
4. What great work does the law do?
5. What is the difference between the righteousness of the law and of faith?
6. If a man is confronted with a strong temptation to do wrong, is it sin?
7. What is the danger of uncertainty?
8. What is wrong with our generation?

LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR JANUARY 16

THE ORIGIN OF SIN

Scriptures: Genesis 2:8, 9, 15-17; 3:1-6; James 1:13-16.

Genesis 2:8 And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

15 And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

James 1:13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

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

16 Do not err, my beloved brethren.

Memory Verse: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

—James 1:14, 15.

Aim: To show that sin begins with disobedience to the commands of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Genesis 2**
Tuesday **Genesis 3**
Wednesday **James 1**

Thursday **I Samuel 15**
Friday **James 4**
Saturday **Matthew 15:1-20**

INTRODUCTION

This lesson has somewhat of a historical character, and we cannot trace sin back farther than our first parents. However, we do know that the devil is called by the Scriptures (I John 3:8) a sinner, and sin is the transgression of the law. How far back in eternity Satan first transgressed the law of God we do not know. At any rate, we know

that sin originates with the devil, and we also know its origin in the family of man. The consequences of man's fall are so evident in human nature that its reality is commonly recognized. The fall of Adam and Eve was by deliberate, intentional violation of the divine commandment. Though the act of eating the forbidden fruit may have been insignificant in itself, yet its consequences were of incomparable importance. Their act implied a flagrant rejection of their Creator, contempt for His good law, and a love of things and self more than of God.

Man was not created with a sinful heart; he came from the hand of God pure and clean. God cannot sin; so it follows that the wickedness in the world came from an evil personality, and the human family was infested by obedience to him.

MEDITATIONS

GOD PROVIDES FOR MAN—Genesis 2:8—God planted—It is an evidence of great ignorance for anyone to say that the natural world just came into existence by the process of evolution, leaving the powerful, all-wise, invisible God out. Be sure, God exercised great care in creation, having the welfare of man in mind. After God created the world, then He planted a garden in the area of the world called Eden, thus we have the Garden of Eden. In this beautiful garden God placed the man whom He had formed.

THE EVIL TREE—Genesis 2:9—Knowledge of good and evil—The fruit of this tree was good for food and was pleasant to look at. The fruit within itself had no power to harm the soul of man; it was the disobedience to the command of God that injured the soul. Before they ate of the tree, Adam and Eve knew nothing about evil. The one transgression brought upon them and all their offspring the terrible deluge of the whole panorama of sin.

LABOR IS HONORABLE AND NOT EVIL—Genesis 2:15—To dress it—At this time the earth had not been cursed with thorns and thistles; nevertheless, it was necessary to do some work to keep the garden in order, pruning and keeping legitimate things in their proper places. Labor has always been a blessing to mankind, and early in life its value should be learned by every man.

THE ONE LAW IN THE GARDEN—Genesis 2:16, 17—Thou shalt not eat—God speaks no idle words. Let every man know that God means every word He says; so let life be ordered accordingly. Could not God have created man and put him in the lovely garden without this or any other command? He could not carry out His plan, that of having a creation with a free will and, consequently, a tried people. God gets glory and pleasure to Himself when anyone by appropriation of His power says no to sin. He who says no to sin has defeated and disappointed Satan.

SATAN'S ATTACK—Genesis 3:1—Hath God said—Satan has never been known to be on the side of right; and if he does appear to be, it is most necessary that we very carefully examine the situation, for he is a master at deception and a skillful counterfeiter. Notice his first attack was on the “weaker vessel.” Woman is not, however, a weak vessel, but weaker than the man. Satan, by his words, desired to confuse the woman and inject doubt concerning the words God had spoken.

THE WOMAN HAD NOT FORGOTTEN—Genesis 3:2—We may eat—She was in full possession of the command of God, but she was making a grave mistake, which many souls have done and are doing. No man should ever give ear to Satan. God says, “Neither give place to the devil” (Ephesians 4:27). He often makes his approach with such mildness, coupled with a degree of reasonableness, seemingly, but you may be sure that if he gains attention, swiftly will come a second attack more deadly in nature. **Verse 3—Lest ye die—**The woman understood God perfectly. God does not leave us in a cloudy atmosphere, such is always the work of Satan. She knew well that death would follow disobedience. It is still true today that every sin carries with it the death penalty, be it large or small (Romans 6:23).

SATAN'S SECOND EFFORT—Genesis 3:4—Not surely die—There can be no doubt here that the devil had direct reference to the fact that they would not die physically were they to eat of the tree. This is similar to the temptation Satan laid before Jesus when he said, quoting scripture, that if He fell, the angels would bear Him up. True enough, God had given His angels charge concerning Christ and us, but we cannot expect to jump from a pinnacle, as Christ was tempted to do, and receive protection from God. **Verse 5—Be as gods—**The devil moves upon the desires to explore the unknown, to satisfy the lust of inquisitiveness. To know evil for the sake of evil has never been a benefit to man.

YIELDING TO TEMPTATION—Genesis 3:6—And did eat—The devil overpowered the woman with his reasoning. Had she resisted the devil at the start, he would not have gained the advantage. Yielding to temptation brought sin, spiritual death, or separation from God. The same is still true today, so we need not be critical of our first parents. That awful effect did not stop with Eve. At once she became a tool in the devil's hand to the destruction of her husband. The first false prophet used by the devil was a snake, because Satan had no human to use.

TEMPTATION NOT FROM GOD—James 1:13, 14—Neither tempteth he—Temptation comes from Satan, and we overcome by resisting it. The flesh may have desires upon which the devil moves

but our activities are always to be kept within the limitations of the Word of God by His power. Satan would love for us to dwell upon the thought of improper use of the flesh, for his evil work is well under way when he gets us to dwell in thought on the wrong thing. God tells us where to place our thoughts in Philippians 4:8.

GIVING PLACE TO EVIL DESIRES PRODUCES SIN—James 1:15—Bringeth forth sin—Dwelling too long on the wrong thoughts reduces moral strength beyond the point of resistance, and sin is the immediate result. Paul said to flee fornication (I Corinthians 6:18). Do not draw nigh to sin, but keep as far from it as possible.

OBEY GOD—James 1:16—Do not err—Sin is always wrong and God is always right. To be sure you never err, obey willingly and gladly all the known commands of the New Covenant.

CONCLUSION

We all, perhaps, have wondered what kind of world this would be had not Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden and had each succeeding person remained pure. Had this been true that no one ever sinned, no one ever would have known the joy of being delivered from the power of sin. Greatness in the light of eternity does not lie in the fact that we have not sinned, but in the fact that our souls have risen in arms against temptation and subsequent sin.

But Adam and Eve did transgress, and we find ourselves in a world of sin. So now the only thing that we can do is to follow closely the map of life as given by God Himself, empowered by the sacrifice of His Son. Every man when he comes to the knowledge of himself finds that he is bound by the fetters of sin; but, thank God, everyone is invited to take God's appointed way out. The blood of Jesus Christ has within it the power to restore our souls to the original, sinless, spiritual purity that was our foreparents' as they came from the creative hand of God, but our bodies must wait unredeemed until the second coming of Christ when they also shall be vested with immortality.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is sin?
2. With whom does it originate?
3. What are the common approaches that the devil uses to cause man to sin?
4. Was there anything evil about the forbidden tree in Eden?
5. Wherein did the sin lie?
6. What is the way to overcome temptation?
7. With whom does temptation originate?
8. What does the blood of Jesus Christ do for the man who receives it?

LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR JANUARY 23

THE POWER OF SIN

Scriptures: II Kings 5:20-27.

II Kings 5:20 But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

21 So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from his chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well?

22 And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

23 And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them

before him.

24 And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed.

25 But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither.

26 And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants?

27 The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed forever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.

Memory Verse: Be sure your sin will find you out.—Numbers 32:23b.

Aim: To show what sin does to us.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday II Kings 5
Tuesday II Samuel 11
Wednesday Romans 6

Thursday Romans 7
Friday Romans 8
Saturday Joshua 7

INTRODUCTION

Sad is the story of millions of earthly pilgrims who have felt the awful power of sin as it has blighted bright prospects of happiness in life, melted away buoyant health, brought nations to ruin and spread the horror of death from one end of the world to the other. No man has the power to break the bands of sin! Often men and women have wailed, "I am a hopeless slave to the cigarette habit, the drink habit, the gambling habit," etc. Sin originates with the devil, who seeks to impose it upon every soul who lands on the shores of time. Let us remember that the power of Satan exceeds, tremendously, the power of any man, and we are helpless before him, taken captive at his will. It is only as we call upon the Almighty power, the true and living God, that Satan and the power of sin is broken. It is a wonderful thought that God cares for you and me and never does He turn away the hon-

est cry of the penitent sinner. The same power that saves from sin, also, if we trust in God, keeps us from again entering into the bondage of sin. Life can find full and complete expression only when sin has been mastered.

MEDITATIONS

POWER OF COVETOUSNESS—II Kings 5:20—Take somewhat—Gehazi's heart became lustful as he beheld the wealth of gifts that Naaman had brought to bestow upon Elisha, the same which he had rejected. He was covetous, and covetousness is idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Satan tempted him through his eyes. Had he turned from this, thinking of honest things, etc., he would not have yielded. In our great age today there is much to entice the soul through the eye. As Paul said, we must keep our bodies in subjection to the Spirit (I Corinthians 9:27).

YIELDING TO TEMPTATION—II Kings 5:21—Running after him—The mind of Gehazi was fully occupied with the thought of receiving this ill-gotten gain, and no room was allowed for meditation upon the result of sin or its power over the flesh. Naaman, though interested in the sudden appearance of Elisha's servant, knew nothing of his infamy.

ONE SIN CALLS FOR ANOTHER—II Kings 5:22—My Master hath sent me—To satisfy the covetousness that possessed him fully, he had to resort to the sin of lying. Sin is powerful and merciless, driving its victim relentlessly. Sin is not consistent with life; therefore, sooner or later, it will come to light. "Be sure your sin will find you out." A talent is about \$1,000. Having seen such a display of wealth, the temptation became great. The love of money is the root of all evil (I Timothy 6:10).

TAKING PAY PERSONALLY FOR THE WORK GOD DID—II Kings 5:23—He urged him—Naaman was grateful and happy for the blessings of renewed health received directly from the hand of God. So glad was he that in his appreciation he urged Gehazi to take not just one talent of silver, which he had asked, but two. The servant had nothing in the healing at all, but his covetous spirit was his powerful master. No one could derive true joy from the use of such ill-gotten gain.

COVERING SIN—II Kings 5:24—Bestowed them—Sin must be kept covered; so after Gehazi had returned home with his loot, it had to be hidden away. He could hide it from men, but there was one eye from which he could not hide it. He was not conscious of this eye because he was so thoroughly blinded by sin.

A SLAVE TO SIN—II Kings 5:25—Went no whither—He dared not let it be known what he had so recently done. He was now spiritu-

ally sick, and his sickness was now eating deeper and deeper into his soul. So it is with every soul who is under the power of sin. For Gehazi there was no way out; he must go deeper in sin or else confess his sins. To confess he had neither the courage nor will to do.

SIN UNCOVERED—II Kings 5:26—Is it a time—How finite is the mind of man! If man would only trust God fully with all things! There will always be a proper time to receive money. God did not aim to receive any money from Naaman. Gehazi could not, or would not, resist temptation; thus he disrupted God's plan, which was serious indeed. Not always, by any means, does God uncover sin as He did here, but even though He does not uncover it, He still is just as conscious of it, and it merits the same penalty.

SIN'S PENALTY—II Kings 5:27—Shall cleave unto thee—How helpless is the man who meets the displeasure and wrath of God! We do not know what happened to the goods the servant had gotten, but we do know that he was smitten with leprosy with the judgment that it would never depart from his house. We hope that he repented and his soul was saved in the end, but of this we know nothing. Let this be a warning to all concerning the power that lies in sin. Many seem to escape the immediate penalty of sin, but no sinner will escape when the great Judge sits upon His throne in the last day.

CONCLUSION

It is the devil's business to minimize the power and penalty of sin and to blanket its consequences. In doing this, he has been very successful, as is evidenced by the great majority of mankind who are held in its power. The only way that the human race can be awakened to the awful situation is by the strong preaching of the truth concerning sin. No one can truthfully deny that there is pleasure in sin, but it's not a pleasure that satisfies. It must be followed by more of the same character. But the pleasure to be found in God's kingdom has no evil effects and completely satisfies.

There is only one thing that will counteract the power of sin, and that is the blood of Jesus. The blood will both break the power of sin and keep one from its power.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Wherein does the power of sin lie?
2. How can the power of sin be broken?
3. What is the nature of the pleasures of sin?
4. What are the steps the devil uses in bringing men under the power of sin?
5. Why do people cover their sin, as Gehazi did?
6. What is the present and future penalty for sin?
7. Why is it that sin is sure to be uncovered?

LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR JANUARY 30

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN

Scriptures: Matthew 12:31, 32; John 8:3-11.

Matthew 12:31 Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men.

32 And whosoever speaketh a word against the son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,

4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.

5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

6 This they said, tempting him, that they

might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.

9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.

10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

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

—I John 1:9.

Aim: To show God's attitude toward sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Matthew 12**
Tuesday **John 8**
Wednesday **I John 1**

Thursday **II Samuel 12**
Friday **Psalms 78:1-39**
Saturday **Psalms 78:40-72**

INTRODUCTION

It is said of Jesus that He did no sin, which is absolutely true. In other words, He never transgressed the law of His Father. Neither has God transgressed His own law. He will never allow a sinner to enter heaven or a Christian to go to hell, for to do so would be a transgression of His Word. Sin is absolutely contrary to the nature of God, repulsive to Him, and originates with His great enemy, the devil. So we can expect God to hate it with the greatest of hatred and to punish those who fail to repent of it, and destroy it whenever a penitent sinner turns sin over to Him. God loves His creation and knows what sin does for it; so we know, at once, how God would look upon sin that brings sorrow, suffering, and death to the work of His hands. When

any man is born of the Spirit of God, he becomes a member of the family of God; so it will follow that the children of God will have the same attitude toward sin that God has.

MEDITATIONS

GOD WILLING TO FORGIVE CONFESSED SIN—Matthew 12:31—Shall be forgiven unto men—Man is at a disadvantage just as soon as he realizes he is lost, because he is guilty and there is nothing he can do in himself to remedy his state. But he does not need to stay in this state, for God, in love, has made the promise that all kinds of sin shall be forgiven men, except the one sin of blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. To attribute willfully the work of the Spirit of God to the devil will not be forgiven. **Verse 32—Shall not be forgiven**—God the Father and God the Son dwell in our hearts through the Spirit. The Spirit came not to speak of Himself, but of the Father. To say anything against Him is an unpardonable sin. All other sins, regardless of what they be—murder, war, stealing, devil possession, sectism, etc.—if confessed and forsaken, will be blotted out by God.

RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY—John 8:3—Scribes and Pharisees—Of all people, these two classes should have known the import of the Scriptures. Their study had been under the hand of man, and they had learned only man's wisdom. If they had been led of God, they would have known the truth of the Scriptures and would have recognized Jesus as the Son of God. They were at all times intent upon carrying out the letter of the law, but disregarded the spirit of the law. **Verse 4—Taken in adultery**—The evidence was conclusive, but these religious zealots had no knowledge of the forgiving grace of God. They would have rigidly applied the penalty of the law. The attitude of God was different. Mercy required that He forgive.

THE LAW MERCILESS—John 8:5—Law commanded—Jesus bore the penalty of the law in His own body, thus delivering every man from death on the condition that he believe on the name of Jesus. Without Christ, there could be no setting aside of the law. **Verse 6—Wrote on the ground**—Jesus knew what was in the hearts of each of her accusers and could, if He desired, write their besetting sin on the ground. Jesus displayed marvelous wisdom always in His actions. Who is it who can stand before Him? Only the redeemed.

EVERY SIN CARRIES THE DEATH PENALTY—John 8:7—He that is without sin—Man has, in his thinking, marked some sins as being worse than others, setting different penalties upon them, but God has a different attitude toward sin. He has set the death penalty upon sin, be it large or small in the estimation of man. One of the very smallest sins unrepented of will damn a soul in hell for the whole of eternity. Any man who is guilty of the least sin is in no position to crit-

icize or condemn a man, even though he be guilty of the greatest sin. When Jesus spoke on this occasion, the Pharisees were compelled to recall their own sinful doings. **Verse 8—Again he stooped down—**No doubt, He further exposed their sins, thus fully awakening them to their transgression. Knowing their ages, He convicted the eldest first and then on down to the youngest. Being as guilty as the woman and convinced of it, they were unable to condemn her further; so, as we see in verse 9, everyone departed. Evidently, the woman, who was also convicted, was sorry and truly penitent for she did not depart, but waited for the One, and only One, who could erase the guilt of sin.

THE ACCUSED WOMAN ACQUITTED—John 8:10—Hath no man condemned thee?—No doubt a heavy load was lifted from this woman, for the law demanded death, and she was justly accused, but the gracious words of Jesus had defeated every accuser. Though once guilty, she now stood uncondemned.

PUTTING AWAY SIN—John 8:11—Sin no more—Jesus gladly and fully forgave this sinful woman. It was now as though there had been no transgression. However, Jesus commanded one thing of her, that she should sin no more! Thus it is with everyone He forgives. He must now live a life of sinlessness by the grace of the living God. He who has power to forgive sin has also the power to enable one to abstain from sin.

CONCLUSION

The very fact that Jesus required this woman to go and sin no more proves definitely that God does not consider sin something that cannot be completely eradicated from the soul of man. How foolish it would be for God to ask the impossible! Sin can never be condoned in the heart of man by God. Any man who sins is a sinner and stands in need of the new birth; and let us bear in mind that even the least sin, as rated by man, carries the death penalty and if not repented of will deal destruction eternally to its victim. God is always glad to forgive and cleanse the vilest sinner if he comes to Him.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What penalty does all imputed sin carry?
2. What will happen to the moral man who has rejected Christ?
3. Under what conditions will God forgive the most wicked man?
4. How do the children of God look upon sin?
5. When man first awakens to his moral condition, what is his state?
6. Why did the Pharisees bring the woman to Jesus?
7. Why did the Pharisees depart from the presence of Jesus without condemning the woman?
8. Does Jesus allow for sin in the life of a Christian?

LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR FEBRUARY 6

THE SIN OF COMMISSION

Scriptures: Matthew 26:47-50; 27:3-5; Galatians 5:16-21.

Matthew 26:47 And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people.

48 Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast.

49 And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him.

50 And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.

Matthew 27:3 Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,

4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that.

5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in

the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Memory Verse: 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.

—I John 3:8.

Aim: To show that when we do that which is contrary to a known law of God, we are guilty of the sin of commission.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Matt. 26:47-50; 27:3-5	Thursday	Joshua 7
Tuesday	Galatians 5	Friday	Jeremiah 17
Wednesday	I John 3	Saturday	I John 2

INTRODUCTION

First, let me point out that imputed sin involves a person's will. Contrary to what some people may teach in regard to predestination, mankind has the responsibility of choosing, and he then must give an account of the decisions he makes.

Joshua instructed the children of Israel:

“Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth: and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other

side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:14, 15).

It is said of Moses:

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; choosing rather to suffer afflictions with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward” (Hebrews 11:24-26).

Sin is of two types: committed and inherited. In a later quarter we will present inherited sin, but in this lesson we desire to impress upon the student the truth in regard to the sin which man is guilty of and responsible for. When a soul comes to the place where he knows and understands right and wrong, and by this we mean what is right and wrong according to the teachings of God’s Word, and he chooses to do wrong, then he commits an imputed sin. The known transgression of the law of God is sin, and every sin carries the death penalty.

Imputed sin involves the will. Once a soul has chosen sin he becomes a sinner and a servant to sin. Then he may voluntarily, and often involuntarily, do things that are contrary to the Word of God. Therefore, we see the urgency of clearly pointing out the truth concerning the committed sins and seeking to warn every soul we can against them.

MEDITATIONS

HISTORY’S ASTONISHING CRIME—Matthew 26:47—A great multitude—The people in general were, without doubt, acquainted with the fact that Jesus had been able to escape mysteriously from the hands of those who sought to capture Him. Therefore, they gathered together a multitude intent upon the purpose of making sure he did not escape this time. They gave little attention to the seriousness of the sin they were about to commit.

SIN OF DECEIT—Matthew 26:48—I shall kiss—Judas posed as a friend of Jesus yet was His enemy. All through history, this sin has caused the human family great trouble. Judas was well-acquainted with the miraculous power of Jesus. Just what he expected when the mob laid hold on Him we cannot tell. That he expected something is evidenced by the statement of Judas when he said to hold Him fast.

A PROPER GREETING—Matthew 26:49—Hail, Master—Psalm 103:19 declares that God has prepared His throne in the heav-

ens, and His kingdom ruleth over all. True, He was the Master of Judas and of the situation in which He found Himself. He did not, at this time, administer judgment and rewards, but in due time He will. All who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus will be properly and justly rewarded. Many millions today are trampling the blood of Christ underfoot and denying the Lord Jesus Christ. Judgment is deferred, but be sure of this: the time is coming when every man shall be rewarded according to his deeds.

FALSE FRIENDS—Matthew 26:50—Friend—Jesus had always been a true Friend to Judas, as He has been to all of us. Only the hateful, ungodly spirit of the devil compelling a man could cause him to do such a thing as Judas did in betraying Christ.

REPENTANCE, BUT TOO LATE—Matthew 27:3—Repented himself—Jesus was now condemned, but what could Judas do about it? He had set in motion something that could not be stopped. What good could money do anyone who had cut himself off from the favor and good will of the Lord Jesus?

HATRED DEEP-SEATED—Matthew 27:4—What is that to us?—Little did they care about the innocence of Jesus. His holy teachings were a rebuke to their ungodly lives and false religious conceptions; therefore, they viciously gave vent to their depraved natures.

A PITIFUL END—Matthew 27:5—Hanged himself—The pitiful state of the man who has so conducted himself that the best he can see in life is self-destruction is not describable by the human tongue. The sinner does not know how soon he may be led by his master, the devil, into a like situation. Therefore, when any man awakens to the fact that he is the servant of sin, he should at once seek deliverance at the hand of Jesus.

THE PATH OF SAFETY—Galatians 5:16—Walk in the Spirit—If the Holy Ghost, the great and eternal Spirit of the living God, is permitted to guide our steps, we shall ever be found walking in the paths of righteousness. The lust of the flesh shall not dominate.

THE INWARD WARFARE—Galatians 5:17—Contrary the one to the other—All activities of the flesh, though legal, may be perverted, and this the devil seeks to do, thus hindering and eventually completely destroying the spiritual life. The Word of God outlines the proper use of the flesh, and departure from the divine instruction results in sickness, loss, and death.

ESCAPE FROM THE LAW—Galatians 5:18—If ye be led—If the Spirit is permitted to lead us, He will lead us in a path that does not break the law of God. Thus, we do not come under the law; it has no power over us. If we follow the lusts of the flesh, we are certain to transgress the law of God and, consequently, come under its penalty.

PERVERTED FLESHLY ACTIVITIES—Galatians 5:19-21—
Works of the flesh—Committed sins. **Adultery and fornication**—The wrong use of the sexual powers. These are destructive to the soul and body. Sexual powers used as directed by God are pure and holy and beneficial. **Uncleanness**—Carelessness in spiritual and physical living. **Lasciviousness**—Lewdness, unclean thinking and action. **Idolatry**—Improper worship of images or real things. We are permitted to worship God only! **Witchcraft**—Doing supernatural things by the power of Satan. Supernatural things are permissible only in the name of Jesus. **Hatred**—Intense dislike for anyone who may have given offense. Hatred is permitted by God only against sin and the devil. **Variance**—Taking an opposite viewpoint in scriptural or everyday matters, gendering strife and division. We must all be at variance with evil and Satan. **Wrath**—Excessive anger manifest in the trying scenes of life. Wrath may be exhibited against the devil and his angels (Paul smote a servant of Satan with blindness). **Heresies**—The wrong interpretation and application of the Scriptures. This is done to get disciples or to cover up and allow for sin in the hearts of men. **Murders**—Murders are committed to satisfy the lusts of the flesh and in no case are permissible in a physical sense. **Drunkenness**—Under no condition is intoxicating liquor to be taken into the human body. It is destructive to the body and punishable by death. **Revellings**—Excessive lightness in the flesh. To revel in the Spirit and to rejoice in the love of God is permissible. He who gives his flesh over to any of the above practices shuts himself out of the kingdom of God.

CONCLUSION

It is the devil's business to induce men and women, by every power at his command, to indulge the flesh in the above forbidden practices. It becomes our duty as Christians to influence people, by every means possible, not to yield their bodies to these practices. Religion, in many instances, has degenerated to such a low plane that many of these things are condoned. This does not in any way soften the penalty that awaits the offender; so we who know the truth must be more earnest and faithful in warning people and preaching and living the truth.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What are the two types of sin?
2. Why was a multitude brought to take captive the Man, Jesus?
3. When Judas kissed Jesus, of what sin was he guilty?
4. In what sense was Jesus Judas' master?
5. Why did Judas kill himself?
6. What is one of the benefits derived from walking in the Spirit?
7. What is the inward warfare?
8. How do we escape from the power of the law?

LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR FEBRUARY 13

THE SIN OF OMISSION

Scriptures: Matthew 23:23; 25:43; Jonah 1:1-3, 10-13.

Matthew 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Matthew 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Jonah 1:1 Now the word of the Lord came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying,

2 Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me.

3 But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord, and went down to Joppa; and he found a ship going to Tarshish: so he paid the fare thereof, and

went down into it, to go with them unto Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

10 Then were the men exceedingly afraid, and said unto him, Why hast thou done this? For the men knew that he fled from the presence of the Lord, because he had told them.

11 Then said they unto him, What shall we do unto thee, that the sea may be calm unto us? for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous.

12 And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

13 Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring it to the land; but they could not: for the sea wrought, and was tempestuous against them.

Memory Verse: Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.—James 4:17.

Aim: To show that when we fail to keep a known law of God, we are guilty of the sin of omission.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Jonah 1	Thursday	Matthew 25:31-46
Tuesday	Matthew 23	Friday	Luke 11:37-54
Wednesday	Matthew 25:1-30	Saturday	Romans 2

INTRODUCTION

If the devil cannot succeed in getting man to commit sin, he then will try with equal fervor to get man to leave undone the things that should be done. The Christian life is one of progress; so indifference or laziness cannot be tolerated. Joy comes to the Christian's heart through overcoming Satan and defeating him on the battlefield of life. Therefore, we must not leave undone one thing that will contribute to the prosperity of the kingdom of God. When we pray we should ask God to help us do the things that we should do.

MEDITATIONS

NEGLECTING THE ESSENTIALS—Matthew 23:23—Have omitted—Many can tithe and still have an abundance for them-

selves. It is often difficult for them to give the poor and the unfortunate their just dues. It is not uncommon for the rich to impose upon the poor, demonstrating the abuse of mercy in their lives. This is not Christian and is sin. In Jesus' time, men gave publicly, sometimes sounding a trumpet as they did so. They had their reward then and there because they received praise from men.

Matthew 25:43—Took me not in—One of the outstanding marks of Christian character is the concern about the welfare of others. All creation belongs to God, and anyone who ministers to His creation is ministering to God. To neglect any of God's creation willfully is a direct offense to God and a sin. Great is the selfishness and depraved nature in general of the person who will impose upon the poor and destitute to better his own personal position. So, it becomes necessary for every soldier of the cross not only to avoid entanglement in the committed sins, but also to devote himself to the task of kindness and benevolence among his fellowmen.

JONAH RUNS FROM DUTY—Jonah 1:1—Word of the Lord—God does not speak idle words, neither does He indulge in an array of words. Therefore, when He speaks, we should listen and obey instantly. He may not speak again on that subject. It is a great honor to have God speak to us. He does so only for our own good.

A PEOPLE IN NEED—Jonah 1:2—That great city—If people are allowed to drift, they will become more and more wicked. There is a need for a strong voice in every group of people lifting up the standard of holiness. God was concerned about Nineveh and wanted Jonah to warn them of their immediate danger. Today the world is drifting, and we need to warn men everywhere of the awful danger ahead.

RUNNING FROM GOD—Jonah 1:3—From the presence—To go from the presence of the Lord is to go from the presence of light. The farther the departure, the greater the darkness. If an about-face is not made, the backsliding soul will very soon be lost, separated from God. There is always plenty of cooperation close at hand to help a soul wander away from God. To avoid backsliding, each soul needs to be always climbing up in the things of God.

AFFECTING OTHERS—Jonah 1:10—Exceedingly afraid—To fail to do as we should not only affects our lives but, as we see here, seriously jeopardizes the lives and well-being of others. These men were sinners but condemned Jonah for running from God. We have no right to do those things that interfere with the well-being and safety of others.

CORRECTING THE SITUATION—Jonah 1:11—What shall we do?—These men did not know just what to do under such a circum-

stance. The sea was exceedingly rough. Only seamen know the great hazard the angry waters bring to a ship at sea.

REWARD OF UNFAITHFULNESS—Jonah 1:12—Into the sea—God certainly had done some reprimanding of Jonah after he had boarded the boat and the storm came upon them. It seems that already Jonah had done some repenting since he was willing to tell the true situation and to be cast into a raging sea. Surely, if nature took its course, death was in line for Jonah; and we suppose that in an effort to preserve his own life, he swam with all his might in trying to escape the whale.

COMMENDABLE CONDUCT—Jonah 1:13—Rowed hard—These hard seamen hesitated to throw Jonah overboard and tried hard to bring the boat to safety. Doubtless, their faithfulness was a rebuke to the unfaithfulness of Jonah. Every Christian should draw a lesson from this and seek to obey the still small voice of God more eagerly. We do not know the greatness of the end of the small thing that God may call us to do nor the awful outcome of failure to do the small thing.

CONCLUSION

The great mind of God is able to see the end from the beginning, and in His great plan He builds every life that comes into the earth. To fail to do as we should will disrupt the plan of God. This we should earnestly try to avoid, for the things we do, as in the case of Jonah, are certain to have a far-reaching effect on others easily enough to the point of disaster. We have seen the great disaster that results from the failure to close a railroad switch or to stop for a stop sign or to do many commonplace things in life, but it is certain that to fail to do the things we should in the spiritual realm will result in far greater disaster. So, we can see clearly that when we know to do good and do it not, we sin.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. If the devil cannot get men to transgress the law of God outright, why does he try to get them to leave undone the things they should do?
2. What is wrong with a man who will tithe, yet neglect the poor?
3. When men neglect the poor, how can it be said that they have neglected God?
4. Why is it an honor to have God speak to us?
5. Consider the possible result of failing to do what God asks.
6. What was the purpose of Jonah's going from the presence of God?
7. Do we have any right to leave undone the things that will endanger the welfare of others?
8. How do you account for the way the sinners on the boat acted after they learned about Jonah's failure to do as he should?

LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR FEBRUARY 20

THE SIN OF UNBELIEF

Scriptures: Numbers 13:30-33; 14:22-24; Matthew 13:58; Romans 3:3; Hebrews 4:6-8, 10, 11.

Numbers 13:30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.

31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.

32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Numbers 14:22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I sware unto their fathers, neither shall any of them that provoked me see it:

24 But my servant Caleb, because he

had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it.

Matthew 13:58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Romans 3:3 For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect?

Hebrews 4:6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

11 Let us labor therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

Memory Verse: He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.—Mark 16:16.

Aim: To show that unbelief is sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Numbers 13
Tuesday Numbers 14
Wednesday Hebrews 4

Thursday Romans 3
Friday Matthew 13:53-58
Saturday Matthew 7:15-28

INTRODUCTION

To grasp the awfulness of unbelief it is necessary to get an insight into the greatness of the power of God and a vision of the purity of the nature of God. Of course, to disbelieve God is to make Him out a liar and to give comfort and pleasure to the devil, who viciously declares that God is not true. Since most men explore only the physical world,

because it can be touched and felt by the natural man, they give little credit to the spirit world, which escapes the natural eye and touch. But the spirit world is eternal, and the natural world is temporal; therefore, we must put forth great effort to bring men to a realization of the awfulness of unbelief. Jesus said that he who believeth on Him, the works that He did shall he do also. Of course, it follows that unbelief will prohibit men from doing the things that Jesus did, thus accounting for the fact that we see few miracles today.

Please understand that we are not saying a Christian is guilty of the sin of unbelief if he is unable to work miracles. God has given gifts in the body, the Church, and among these gifts is the gift of miracles, the gifts of healing, and the gift of faith. Not every one in the body is going to have these gifts. Those who do have them, doubtless, will be able to manifest more faith than those who do not have them.

In this lesson we are speaking of that spirit of unbelief that denies the miracle-working power of God, not some Christian that is doing all he knows to do to believe and obey God.

MEDITATIONS

FAITH EVIDENT—Numbers 13:30—We are well able—Close walking to God imparts strength. When men drift from God, they can see only their own strength, so they are certain to draw back from any situation that seems to exceed their own strength. To evidence little faith in God is to tell the world we are not close to God.

GLARING UNBELIEF—Numbers 13:31—We be not able—It seems impossible that they who had seen such a marvelous deliverance from Egypt's army should express now their inability to enter Canaan. Our contact with God must be kept constant, for each day will bring new trials.

ENEMIES GREAT IN CANAAN—Numbers 13:32—Of a great stature—It would seem from this that the enemies hindering entrance into Canaan were greater than those who hindered departure from Egypt, but there is no enemy greater than the power of God, and He will never fail the man who puts his faith in Him.

PENALTY FOR UNBELIEF—Numbers 14:22—Have seen—There was no excuse for this display of unbelief. They had seen enough to convince them of the love and power of God. They had given themselves over to an evil heart of unbelief. **Verse 23—Shall not see—**There is no other God than the great "I Am." It is from Him that all life issues. If men provoke Him, to whom can they turn? If God says men shall not see His glory, who can intercede for them? There is none to help, and men will abide by the consequence of their decisions. Therefore, let us be quick to believe and act upon every Word that comes from God.

FAITH REWARDED—Numbers 14:24—Followed me fully—Caleb saw the giants as well as the others, but the sight of them could not cause him to lose sight of God. If we maintain a close walk with God, unbelief cannot possess us.

UNBELIEF STOPS HEALING—Matthew 13:58—Not many mighty—It is a great honor and blessing to have the mighty hand of God working in our midst. But often religious bigotry completely eliminates the Spirit of God! Formality and unbelief have driven God far from the modern churches.

THE WORD STILL THE SAME—Romans 3:3—Some did not believe—Even though the Israelites who came out of Egypt and the Jews of Christ's time were filled with unbelief, this did not change the Word of God. Neither do the unbelieving church members today make divine healing and divers miracles things of the past. God will reward the believer as quickly today as He ever would.

SHUT OUT—Hebrews 4:6—Entered not in—How sad for anyone to rebel against God or disbelieve any of His Word, which is forever settled in heaven! The only result possible of such a stand is failure. Our decisions are very far-reaching and affect not only this short life, but also the whole of eternity. **Verse 7—Harden not—**To disregard the Word of God brings darkness and hardness of heart. So soon the lost soul is so blinded that the Word of God becomes unreal and vague.

BELIEF GIVES REST—Hebrews 4:8—Given them rest—There are two kinds of rest—soul rest and rest from all labor. He who has accepted Christ has rest of soul, regardless of the religious turmoil and spiritual warfare that confront him. From the toils of earth he shall not rest until he leaves this world. **Verse 10—He that is entered—**That is, he who has run a successful Christian race and gone beyond the reach of temptation by the way of death, is at rest.

RUN WITH PATIENCE—Hebrews 4:11—Labor ... to enter in—We are to run with patience the race that is set before us, disregarding the heat and cold, weariness and fatigue. He that endureth unto the end shall be saved.

CONCLUSION

These scriptures set before us very plainly the awful penalty of unbelief. Therefore, we feel the urgency of striving to believe all the Word of God and assisting as many as possible to believe. The world is sorely afflicted with unbelief today, and to make the situation worse, men at the same time are professing Christianity. They have sought to take this kind of Christianity to all the world, and the result has been disastrous. Being so surrounded by false prophets and false

teachings, it is the more necessary that we who worship God in Spirit and in truth be very vigilant and careful in our Christian lives. More often must we call upon God to keep us in the strait and narrow way.

It is not our purpose to bring any sincere saint under condemnation. If you are striving the best you know how to believe God, to believe His precious promises, and your faith is weak, keep pressing the battle on, asking God to help you. There is a vast difference in a saint of God who believes God is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6), and those who have a rebellious spirit as was manifest by the ten spies, who so influenced the rest of the people so that they were ready to stone those who believed God. Their rebellion was so great “the Lord appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel. And the Lord said unto Moses, How long will this people provoke me? and how long will it be ere they believe me, for all the signs which I have shewed among them? I will smite them with the pestilence, and disinherit them, and will make of thee a greater nation and mightier than they” (Numbers 14:11, 12).

Moses pled with the Lord to spare them, which He did, but the Lord let Moses know none of them would enter the promised land.

The Hebrew writer exhorts us: “Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God” (Hebrews 3:12).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Define unbelief.
2. Why is unbelief so dangerous?
3. How can we keep away from unbelief?
4. What was Caleb’s reward for faithfulness?
5. Why was Jesus unable to do many mighty works at one place?
6. Does the unbelief of men affect the power of the Word?
7. How do men harden their hearts?
8. What are the labors that a Christian must perform to enter into eternal rest?

LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR FEBRUARY 27

THE SIN OF INDIFFERENCE

Scriptures: Matthew 7:21-23; 21:28-31; Revelation 3:16.

Matthew 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Matthew 21:28 But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in

my vineyard.

29 He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

30 And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not.

31 Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.

Revelation 3:16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

Memory Verse: Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.—Matthew 7:21.

Aim: To bring to light the tendency of being half-hearted in Christian endeavor.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday

Matthew 7

Thursday

Matthew 25:31-46

Tuesday

Matthew 21

Friday

Matthew 16:21-28

Wednesday

Revelation 3

Saturday

I John 5

INTRODUCTION

The apostle Paul informs us that in the last days perilous times would come. Many may think Paul was speaking primarily of peril to physical life. But as we read his words in II Timothy 3, we see that he speaks of people putting their own selfish interests first, being proud, children disobeying their parents, people who would not keep their word, even despising those that are good, and yet having a form of godliness.

It is made clear in the last verse of our scripture text that God will not tolerate careless, lazy, half-hearted devotion to the cause of Christianity. A man of this description very soon will find that all the grace of God has leaked out of his heart, and that Christ has taken His departure. There are two distinct families in the earth, and be sure there is no neutral ground. We all are of one camp or the other. The cause of Christ deserves the very best that we can put into it. Therefore, let us go the limit in our generation with our time, our talents, and our substance in pressing the fight against sin.

MEDITATIONS

SINCERITY REQUIRED—Matthew 7:21—Saith, Lord, Lord—We have a multitude of people including preachers, who today say, “Lord, Lord,” but do not do the will of the Father. They are very forward in their saying that holiness is an impossibility. Then there are those who are working a work of insincerity by using the power of the devil. None of these will be able to make it through.

THE DEVIL AS AN ANGEL OF LIGHT—Matthew 7:22—In thy name—The devil has nothing that corresponds to the Bible; so he uses the Bible, appearing as an angel of light (II Corinthians 11:12-14), thus deceiving millions. He even uses the name of Christ in the performance of his works. Jesus said to beware of false prophets and that by their fruits we would know them. Their words may not reveal their identity, but the lives that they live will.

CHRIST NOT DECEIVED—Matthew 7:23—Profess unto them—God is not mocked. He knows who the true and false are, and the false if not uncovered in this world will be at the judgment. They will try to stand on their works, but Christ will say, “Depart; I know you not.”

RESPONSIBILITY TO CHILDREN—Matthew 21:28—Go, work—If we would have our children to grow to be trustworthy, diligent citizens, we must train them to work. The mind and the hands must be kept busy in order to exclude indifference and wickedness.

A CHANGE OF HEART—Matthew 21:29—Repented and went—The flesh rebelled against the thought of labor, but this son had enough moral character to bring the flesh in line with just principles, and he turned in his path and did that which he should.

IRRESPONSIBILITY—Matthew 21:30—And went not—Here is seen a vast difference in two characters from the same family. The thought of labor became very repulsive to this son as he considered it, and he cared not what the consequences might be. Therefore, he decided not to go. His condition, resulting from indifference, was much more deplorable than that of the first.

JEWISH INDIFFERENCE—Matthew 21:31—Go into the kingdom—The Jews thought far more of the traditions of the fathers than they did of the life-giving words of the Lord Jesus. Thus, their indifference shut them out of the kingdom.

REJECTED BY GOD—Revelation 3:16—Thou art lukewarm—We find people putting forth the greatest effort in trying to get that which they esteem the highest. So it is evident that the words of Jesus in our day are little esteemed, for few people, comparatively speaking, are treasuring His words in their hearts. True, they have a

form of godliness, but deny the power thereof. No one can be truly serious in the matter of this Christ and be found dividing his time on Sunday between church services and the movies, or any other of the evils of this world. If men are indifferent about their God, He will separate Himself from their company.

CONCLUSION

Jesus said, "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. 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?" (Matthew 16:24-26).

It would be far better to be deprived of every earthly ambition, if need be, as the result of serving God and go to heaven, than to enjoy the best that the earth can give and be lost for eternity. To obtain the "Pearl of Great Price," it is necessary that we "sell" all that we have, for it takes all to be able to get it. Some view the Christian life as being drab and lifeless, but anyone who submits without reservation to the leadership of God, in the person of the Holy Ghost, will live the most thrilling, invigorating life of any. A life lived on the surface is a life of indifference and void of any true pleasure.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Describe the condition of a person who is hot or cold religiously.
2. What will very soon happen to the indifferent Christian?
3. What two families are there in the earth?
4. Is there a middle or neutral ground?
5. How can we avoid the sin of indifference?
6. What is the responsibility of parents to children in regard to work?
7. Are all the miraculous works done today the work of Christ?
8. Why should the harlots enter the kingdom of God ahead of the Pharisees?

LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR MARCH 6

THE SIN OF DISOBEDIENCE

Scriptures: Genesis 19:15-26.

Genesis 19:15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do anything till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

Memory Verse: But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.—Genesis 19:26.

Aim: To show the result of disobedience to God's commands.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Genesis 19**
Tuesday **Titus 2**
Wednesday **Hebrews 5**

Thursday **Philippians 2**
Friday **I Kings 13**
Saturday **Titus 1**

INTRODUCTION

The love of the world with its gossip, pride, and lust has appealed to many eternity-bound souls; and often, when awakened to their lost condition, some people will be found turning for a time to the charming voice of the Master, but so soon again they are enticed by the love of the lust of the flesh, which is gratified by the things the world has to offer. Lot's wife, though headed in the right direction for a time, sought to gratify her flesh by one more look at the moral filth and depravity that she was escaping, and it proved to be fatal. We have only one soul to save; therefore, we cannot be too diligent in our effort to keep ourselves clean from the world. Remember Lot's wife. Our time requires more diligence than in times past, since the world has

so many more attractions to offer. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world."

MEDITATIONS

WAGES OF SIN—DEATH—Genesis 19:15—Consumed in the iniquity—The sin of this city had become so great that God could see no good in letting Sodom continue; therefore, He must destroy it. However, before He destroyed it, He sought to provide escape for all who would take it.

URGENCY REQUIRED—Genesis 19:16—Brought him forth—There did not seem to be great conviction here that God was going to do as He said. But the prayers of Abraham followed his nephew, Lot, into the wicked city, and God honored his prayers by expelling Lot from the doomed place.

DIVINE DIRECTION ALWAYS BEST—Genesis 19:17—Escape for thy life—It is always wise to escape as far as possible from the awful leprosy of sin. He who lingers close will soon be found caught in its snare.

LOT REMONSTRATES—Genesis 19:18—Not so—It was Lot's own decision and choice that got him into the trouble that he was now in. Even so, he again sought to dictate the course he should take. God does sometimes listen to our plea, but always God's way is the best way, and we should learn early to satisfy ourselves with His way.

FAITH WEAK—Genesis 19:19—Some evil take me—It was only by divine providence that he was escaping with his life, and it seems that since God had gone so far as to send an angel to deliver him from the impending danger, that he would have been inspired to trust the providence of God for protection in the mountains.

SEEKING HUMAN PROTECTION—Genesis 19:20—It is a little one—We generally think of the great demonstrations of wickedness being in places of great population; so in this little city there would be less wickedness, and it could be preserved. Here he would have the advantage of the protection afforded by a settlement.

REQUEST GRANTED—Genesis 19:21—I have accepted—God listens to the prayers of His people, and whenever He can without inflicting harm, He grants the desires.

DIVINE JUDGMENT—Genesis 19:24—Fire from the Lord—This was a terrible visitation of divine wrath. No person or thing was spared. Those who declare that God is only a God of love and not a God of wrath will do well to ponder this act of divine visitation.

THE POWER OF GOD—Genesis 19:25—He overthrew—Who is it who can stand when the wrath of God is aroused? At His com-

mand are all the forces of nature and the limitless powers of heaven. Only he who has the holiness of God shall escape the great wrath of God in the last day. There was nothing left of the city but barren waste.

THE REWARD OF DISOBEDIENCE—Genesis 19:26—Looked back—Here is demonstrated the power of sin. The visitation of angels to the household of Lot, it seems, would have created awe in the hearts of all and a deep desire to obey every command. But sin overruled and Lot's wife looked back. Anyone who questions this miracle knows little of the power of God. He, being the Creator of all things, can do whatever His judgment tells Him to, and we need not be surprised at anything. If we would escape His wrath and enjoy His favor, we must be found obedient to His will.

CONCLUSION

Life is dear to all, and everyone seeks to live well. In this lesson we see the manifestation of the wrath of God and its effect upon life. It is of the greatest importance that we stress the fact that the most serious loss to this disobedient woman, Lot's wife, was not being cut off from this earth, but the eternal separation from God. Just as sin can eternally separate us from the life that is in Christ Jesus, so can righteousness unite us with Him eternally. Therefore, let us draw nigh unto God! Let us make real, in our hearts, the first and great commandment, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart."

Before we close the comments on this lesson, we would like to point out that salvation is conditional, that is, there are certain conditions to be met if we are to be forgiven of our sins. In like manner, there are conditions for us to meet to keep saved. Do not be deceived by the false doctrine of "once saved, always saved." The sin of known disobedience will bring death, just as it brought death to Adam and Eve. The prophet Isaiah tells us: "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 1:19, 20).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Name some of the things in the world that capture the affections of men.
2. Why do men return to the things of the world when once delivered?
3. What are the wages of sin?
4. Why did Lot desire to name his place of refuge?
5. What effect does sin have on life?
6. How does God look upon sin?
7. Why did Lot's wife look back?
8. What was her sin?

LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR MARCH 13

MODERN SINS

Scriptures: I Timothy 4:1-3; II Timothy 3:1-5, 7.

I Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

3 Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth.

II Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own

selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Memory Verse: Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

—I John 2:15.

Aim: To reveal the modern practices of sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday I Timothy 4
Tuesday II Timothy 3
Wednesday Ephesians 3

Thursday Colossians 2
Friday Colossians 3
Saturday Colossians 4

INTRODUCTION

Our lesson title is “Modern Sins.” However, the nature of sin has been the same down through the ages. Sin is the transgression of God’s law. That sin fills the world today in great measure is manifested on every hand. In one country it may differ somewhat from another, but throughout the world we find a wild and all-consuming desire for pleasure in modern amusements, such as the various professional sports played before thousands of cheering fans, and many times before millions by way of television. Television carries many shows that are indecent and ungodly. Television, along with the motion picture theater, the stage and many magazines are doing great damage to our moral life. The internet is full of pornography. These modern sins of amusements, along with many others that could be named, are further turning the home away from God, from the house of worship, to the cunningly-devised traps of the devil. The home is our first line of defense against sin; and if its bulwarks are destroyed, what hope have we? All who know Christ need to cry out against the modern sins that are threatening our existence.

MEDITATIONS

THE LAST DAYS—I Timothy 4:1—Giving heed—Generally speaking, the last days, as referred to in the Scriptures, means the gospel age. We are now in the last days of the last days. Characteristic of this time is the turning of men after false spirits and false doctrines. This is an outstanding sin of modern times. Men do not want to face facts and come out and recognize modern Protestantism as the result of false teaching of the gospel. One of the causes of division is the presenting and practicing of different interpretations of the Scriptures. If the Holy Ghost were allowed to lead, there could be no division, but all would see alike and dwell together in peace. From this scripture we see that there are doctrines evolved by the devil himself, which many have embraced.

BLINDING POWER OF SIN—I Timothy 4:2—Conscience seared—When sin is allowed in the life of man, it has a blinding, deadening effect. It becomes easier and easier to do wrong. Only the transforming power of the gospel can restore the tenderness of heart that should be the possession of every man.

FALSE DOCTRINE OUTLINED—I Timothy 4:3—Forbidding to marry—This is a Catholic doctrine and is of the devil. Anyone who defends Catholicism in her error is opposing God and His truth and assisting the devil. Also, everyone who teaches that eating of meat of any kind is a sin is upholding a doctrine of the devil. We are faced with much of this false teaching, which must be vigorously opposed with the truth.

PERILOUS TIMES ARE HERE—II Timothy 3:1—Perilous times shall come—The great peril today is not to life and limb, but to the soul. On all sides we are surrounded by false doctrine that, if received, will damn the soul. However, he who puts his full trust in God shall not fail.

MEN SELF-CENTERED—II Timothy 3:2—Lovers of their own selves—Men who love themselves are certain to be overcome by many sins in their constant effort to gratify their desires. A covetous heart cannot be satisfied. With every conquest there springs up a new desire for further and greater foray. This moral condition is widespread in our nation today. Our society is sick from head to toe. Many in our government have been found appropriating public money to their own personal use.

OPPOSED TO TRUTH—II Timothy 3:3—Despisers—The life of the righteous is always a rebuke to the ungodly. Having no desire to mend their ways, they seek to destroy the righteous by one means or another. He who despises another has a heart full of iniquity and will not hesitate to lie if it will further his ungodly purpose.

LIFE'S ONLY EXPRESSION IN THE FLESH—II Timothy 3:4—Lovers of pleasures—The love of God brings lasting spiritual pleasure with no evil aftereffect. This cannot be said of the man who loves pleasure in the flesh more than God. He who loves pleasure more than God will be found indulging in pleasure that is forbidden in the Word of God. Such pleasure is deadly and will end in sorrow and ruin.

MODERN RELIGION DESCRIBED—II Timothy 3:5—A form of godliness—Professors of modern religion go to church, pay their dues, and then proceed to live like the world. They go to the movies, dance, gamble, and drink and commit other modern sins. The Christian is told to turn away from such.

LEARNING UNDER WRONG INSTRUCTION—II Timothy 3:7—Ever learning—These men and women, it is very evident, are under the instruction of false prophets; for if they were under the instruction of the Holy Ghost, they would very soon come to the knowledge of the truth.

CONCLUSION

The Scriptures were given that we might be warned of the dangers that surround us and run a successful Christian race. Although the Bible was written many centuries ago, the keen eye of divine wisdom was able to pierce the future and forewarn us of the things that would happen in our day and the snares and pitfalls that we would encounter. Here we are with the facts plainly before us, yet men are madly seeking all the pleasures that life can give. Let us not hesitate to lift our voices like a trumpet and tell the people of their sins. The awful doom of lost souls is too terrible for words. Only the power of the gospel can deliver from it. Therefore, we must send forth the truth by personal testimony, by the printed page, the radio, and the internet. Time is short; the need is urgent. Let no Christian sleep at his post.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the sinful heart yearning for today?
2. What will be the end of the life that lives for pleasure only?
3. What is meant by the last days?
4. Name some of the doctrines of the devil.
5. What is the meaning of a seared conscience?
6. What has produced the divided state in modern religion?
7. What is the religious peril of our times?
8. Why do men oppose the truth?

LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR MARCH 20

THE PRESENT RESULTS OF SIN

Scriptures: Genesis 3:7, 8, 14, 16, 18, 19; John 9:31.

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

8 And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden.

14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

16 Unto the woman he said, I will great-

ly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

John 9:31 Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshiper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.

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

—John 9:31.

Aim: To teach that sin brings punishment in this world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Genesis 3	Thursday	Exodus 8
Tuesday	1 Kings 17	Friday	Exodus 9
Wednesday	Exodus 7	Saturday	Exodus 10

INTRODUCTION

The apostle John tells us that sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4). We understand he speaks of the law of the New Covenant. To break the law of God is a very serious matter. God, by Christ, created all things, including the family of man, and God made laws to govern what He made. Some of these laws govern the literal world He made, and some are moral laws to govern the family of man. To break these laws will cause adverse effects. That is why we have wrecks on our highways. That is why we can ruin our own health, and that is why souls are separated from God, which brings spiritual death.

However, spiritual death is not the only “present results of sin”! Broken homes, wrecked lives, children being born out of wedlock, overcrowded prisons, abused wives, molested children, and many, many other things that could be listed are the present results of sin.

If there be any unsaved person studying this lesson, we encourage you to turn away from such a costly, destructive way of living, and enlist in the army of the Lord to “rescue the perishing.”

MEDITATIONS

THE RESULT OF EVE’S TRANSGRESSION—Genesis 3:7—Were opened—Eve’s transgression of the command of God brought upon herself and all her seed the knowledge of evil. She and Adam were at once driven from the lovely garden, and the earth was cursed.

CONDEMNATION COMES—Genesis 3:8—Hid themselves—The excellent and holy nature of God was now very condemning to Adam and his wife, and they sought to hide themselves from the face of God. Any sinner today experiences condemnation when the presence of God is felt. **Verse 14—Thou art cursed**—Animals have no eternal soul, so they will know no existence or suffering in the next world, but that sin brought a curse upon the serpent, the most subtle of all beasts, is very clear. The curse of the serpent was above or greater than that of the remaining beasts. All animals are subject to suffering from disease.

THE PENALTY TO ALL WOMEN—Genesis 3:16—In sorrow—Men have sought for years to deliver women from this suffering ordained here by God in childbirth. But here is no escape from this. We see from this scripture that God said He would greatly multiply sorrow in childbirth. But oh the joy when the child is born! Man is trying to decrease and, in some cases, eliminate pain altogether, but pain in childbirth is natural.

THE EFFECTS OF SIN ON NATURE—Genesis 3:18—Thorns also and thistles—The sin of Adam and Eve brought forth a great array of obnoxious plant life that would plague mankind. In all the years that have followed, although they have not been cultivated or protected in any way, weeds have survived and are still very thrifty.

THE MAN’S PENALTY—Genesis 3:19—Sweat of thy face—In verse 17, not in our lesson text, Adam was told the ground would be cursed because of his sin. Hence, man would have to work very hard in order to sustain himself. This was to be his portion for all of life, a present result of sin. Many people consider labor a disgrace, but with sin in the world now, labor is a blessing. **To dust ... return**—It would be quite possible, even though man is made from dust, for God to sustain him indefinitely (Adam lived past the 900-year mark). But with the advent of sin, God declared that man should return to dust from which he was taken.

SINNER’S PRAYERS NOT HEARD—John 9:31—Heareth not—We know that God listens to the prayer of the penitent sinner,

but the thought expressed here is that God does not hear the cry of a sinner if he has no intentions of leaving sin. The immediate present result of sin is the separation of man from God.

CONCLUSION

Sin is a reality, and it is daily making its pernicious inroads in society and the individual lives of men. What is done about it is in the hands of mankind, for God is always ready to furnish the power to escape from sin; and He delights in destroying it and its effects in the lives of mankind. But, when people love sin and roll it under their tongue as a sweet morsel, there is no way possible for them to escape unless a saint of God prays conviction upon them. But now, as in the days of John, the whole world lies in wickedness. No nation is so blessed with material things as America, but, behold how men are using these blessings. The sinful use of things is appalling, and the end of such a course is certain destruction.

Sin cannot receive its full reward until the final judgment, but it is certain that sin has a reward in this present life. The sinner, by his conscience, is sure to be smitten; and, like Cain, in his heart he will cry out that his punishment is more than he can bear. Some physicians say that cancer, doubtless, in many instances, results from the use of tobacco; and ulcers of the stomach are sometimes the result of worry. Paul declared that he who commits fornication sins against his own body. All the suffering in the world, including the horror of war, is a present result of sin. Paul also said that he who "soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting." This is a solemn and certain warning to all. Therefore, let us set our affections on things above and not on the things of this earth. May God help each one to accomplish all he possibly can in hindering the present results of sin.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Name some of the present results of sin.
2. Name the immediate result of sin.
3. Why did Adam and Eve hide from God?
4. What was the penalty brought on the beast life after man sinned?
5. What was the penalty in the vegetable kingdom?
6. What was the special penalty to women?

LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR MARCH 27

THE FUTURE RESULTS OF SIN

Scriptures: Luke 16:19-26; Galatians 6:7, 8; Matthew 13:41, 42.

Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 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;

23 And in hell he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 And Abraham said, Son, remember

that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

Matthew 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Memory Verse: And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.—Revelation 20:15.

Aim: To show the final results of a life of sin.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Luke 16	Thursday	Revelation 20
Tuesday	Galatians 6	Friday	Matthew 13:36-50
Wednesday	Matthew 18:1-9	Saturday	Matthew 22:1-14

INTRODUCTION

Jesus Christ declared, "I will come again" (John 14:3). However, He is not coming to set up a literal kingdom, for the kingdom of God is already a present reality. Paul informs us that God has appointed "a day, in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead" (Acts 17:31). John tells us that when Christ comes, the earth and heaven will flee from His presence, "and there was found no place for them" (Revelation 20:11).

John also informs us that Christ will sit upon a “great white throne” and the “books” shall be opened and mankind will be judged. As many as are not found written in “the book of life” will be “cast into the lake of fire.”

We are not to understand this to be speaking of a literal lake of fire, for all literal things will pass away. There will be no wood, coal, or oil to keep a literal fire burning. But Jude speaks of Sodom and Gomorrah “suffering the vengeance of eternal fire” (Jude 7).

Many have labored themselves very strenuously trying to prove to the quieting of their own and others’ consciences that there is no such thing as a place for the punishment of disobedient men and women, however, agreeably consenting that there is a righteous reward for the obedient. We wish to impress the student with the fact that in every human being is a never-ending soul that must spend eternity somewhere; and since there shall be but two places in eternity, of necessity it will be one or the other. In this lesson we are to show that the final results of sin is to be doomed to an everlasting hell. Jesus said considerable about this awful place, and that should be enough to convince any man who will be honest.

MEDITATIONS

BUILDING A REWARD—Luke 16:19—Fared sumptuously—It is so easy to set the affections upon the things of the world and neglect the weighty matters of the Spirit. This was done by the man in our lesson to an exaggerated degree, because great wealth had fallen into his hands. Riches carry with them great snares, and few people can be trusted with them. Some declare this to be a parable, but that is of little importance, for even if it is, it portrays an actual Bible truth. We conclude that since Jesus said there was a certain rich man, he actually existed, and every one who goes to hell will find him there upon arrival.

THE MERCILESS GRIP OF POVERTY—Luke 16:20—Certain beggar—Lazarus by name. Poverty has dealt much suffering to humanity through the centuries and could all have been avoided if man had humbly obeyed the voice of God. Improper and insufficient nourishment had ravished the body of Lazarus until he was full of sores. **Verse 21—Fed with the crumbs—**This was an extreme case of poverty which the rich man could have relieved with little effort. One of the characteristics of Christianity is that of charity, caring for the unfortunate and needy. No man with the love of Christ in his heart can witness a case like this without helping if it is within his power to do so. This sin was helping to fix the eternal destiny of the unwise rich man.

POVERTY DEFEATED—Luke 16:22—Beggar died—Relieved from the cloak of flesh, the beggar departed for the land of the never-

setting sun, where true riches never fade or deceive. "Abraham's bosom" was a title used by the Jews to signify heaven.

THE RICH MAN TORMENTED IN HELL—Luke 16:23—In hell—The rich man had now reached his destiny. A similar fate awaits everyone who serves sin to the end. **Verse 24—I am tormented**—Note he did not say he was tormented by the flame (which, of course, he was), but in it, which reveals there was a tormentor there who was the devil. No doubt, in life the rich man drank wine and strong drink, but in hell he asked for water, the creation of God for quenching thirst.

MEMORY QUICKENED—Luke 16:25—Son, remember—One of the awful punishments of the lost in hell will be the memory of wasted opportunities. It is not wrong to have good things, but it is decidedly wrong to make improper use of them. For this, every man shall be properly rewarded. Lazarus stayed true to God in the great trial of poverty; the rich man failed in the midst of riches.

HELL OFFERS NO ESCAPE—Luke 16:26—Neither can they pass—Let every man ponder well that the man who dies in his sins has forever settled his bed in hell. While we have life is the time to change our lives and charter our course on the sea of holiness. The rich man offered no argument, for he knew that he had received his just reward.

REAPING ACCORDING TO SOWING—Galatians 6:7, 8—Whatsoever a man soweth—In the material world we plant corn, and we expect to and do harvest corn. It is just as true in the spirit world. If we sow to the flesh, we shall reap of the flesh corruption. God's Word cannot be changed. The great need is that men change their lives to conform to the Word!

INIQUITY'S REWARD—Matthew 13:41—Which do iniquity—All creation belongs to God and composes the universal kingdom of God. In the end, all who have sinned must be gathered out of His universal kingdom and delegated to their proper place. God is not mocked; therefore, not one unjust soul shall be able to escape.

ANGUISH IN THE MIDST OF FIRE—Matthew 13:42—A furnace of fire—All things are possible with God. To describe the true nature of the place of torment is beyond us, but from the revelation this scripture gives we know it is terrible. Everyone should put forth every effort in making sure he avoids such a place. Weeping and wailing will be profuse but of no avail.

CONCLUSION

D. L. Moody is supposed to have said that if men were permitted to know the full extent of the suffering of a lost soul in hell, the frail house of clay would not stand the shock.

Russell Byrum, in his book, *Christian Theology* said:

“To shrink from the idea of future punishment because of its fearful character is human. But to deny the reality of future punishment because of the awfulness is as unreasonable as to shut one’s eyes to the realities of sin, oppression, pain, and misery of this world because of their terribleness ... The doctrine of future punishment is supported by both Scriptural and rational proofs.

“The wicked will be punished after the final judgment. ‘Then shall he say unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels’ (Matthew 25:41). ‘And these shall go away into everlasting punishment’ (verse 46).

“Future punishment is to be regarded in three aspects: (1) the loss of infinite good; (2) the suffering naturally resulting from sin; and (3) positive penal infliction. The loss of good includes the loss of all the good things of the present life, exclusion from the presence of God and the possibility of His spiritual blessings now possible, the withdrawal of the Spirit of God, through whose agency alone salvation is possible, consequent utter reprobation and hopelessness of all good, and especially the loss of the eternal blessedness of heaven. If future punishment consisted only in this loss, it would be infinite. But, it also includes positive suffering. The finally lost will be the slave of his unrestrained sinful passions, will be tormented by the malignity and selfishness of evil associates totally abandoned to wickedness, will suffer the remorse of a guilty conscience, and will be tormented by endless despair.”

Surely no one with any understanding of the gospel would want to go to a place of everlasting punishment, and thank God it is not necessary. Jesus tasted death for everyone, and through Him you can be saved and avoid the future results of sin. If you be unsaved, let us encourage you to surrender your heart and life to Him NOW.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Recall some of the words that Jesus used in regard to eternal punishment.
2. What are the dangers of setting one’s affections on the things of earth?
3. Name two sins that appeared in the life of the rich man, contributing to his eternal punishment.
4. What are the duties of a Christian toward the poor?
5. How was poverty defeated for Lazarus?
6. What part will memory play in the reward of the wicked?
7. Why did the rich man ask for water rather than wine?
8. By what was the rich man tormented in the flame?

Name _____

Class _____

Sin—Man's Greatest Enemy

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE'S

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