
Vol. 79

January—February—March, 2027

No. 1

Lessons from the Book of Philippians

**ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
QUARTERLY**

INTRODUCTION

Paul was on his second missionary journey when he saw a vision in the night, "There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9). Paul felt sure that the vision and call was of God, so Paul, Silas, Timothy, and probably Luke took ship at Troas, and crossed over to Samothracia, then traveled to Neapolis and on to Philippi.

Paul's first contact was not with a man, but with some women who had gone out of the city to a riverside for a prayer meeting. Among the women was one by the name of Lydia, a seller of purple, whose heart the Lord opened. She accepted what Paul presented to them, and she was baptized, she and her household. She is called Paul's first convert in Europe. She insisted that Paul and his company come to her house to abide there.

"Paul's contact with Lydia and her group marks the beginning of the church there. The story of Lydia's conversion, the salvation of the girl possessed with a spirit of divination, the imprisonment of Paul and Silas, the conversion of the jailer [and his household], and other significant things are recorded in Acts. With the planting of the church here, Christianity began its march westward."—Adam W. Miller, *Brief Introduction to the New Testament*, Warner Press, Copyright 1959.

The letter to the saints in Philippi is the most tender and loving you will find in the New Testament. There was a special bond between the apostle and the saints there. Though they were poor, yet they sent support to Paul on different occasions, even while he was in prison in Rome. It is believed that Paul visited them at least twice after his first visit.

This quarter's lessons are based on this epistle, and as you study them we trust they will be a real blessing to you.

THE WAY OF TRUTH

P. O. Box 88—Hagerstown, Maryland 21741—U. S. A.

PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE

LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR JANUARY 3

ORIGIN OF THE PHILIPPIAN CHURCH

Scriptures: Philippians 1:1-3, 6; Acts 16:9-15, 25-32, 40.

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.

11 Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis;

12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended

unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

25 And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them.

26 And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed.

27 And the keeper of the prison awaking out of his sleep, and seeing the prison doors open, he drew out his sword, and would have killed himself, supposing that the prisoners had been fled.

28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, saying, Do thyself no harm: for we are all here.

29 Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas,

30 And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31 And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32 And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

40 And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.

Memory Verse: Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.—Philippians 1:6.

Aim: To establish Paul's connection to the Church of God at Philippi.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Philippians 1
Tuesday Acts 16:1-15
Wednesday Acts 16:16-40

Thursday Acts 20
Friday I Thessalonians 2
Saturday II Peter 3

INTRODUCTION

Paul, Barnabas, and others were ministering to the congregation at Antioch, Syria when the Holy Spirit said, "Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them" (Acts 13:2). After the saints had fasted and prayed, they laid hands on them, and sent them on their journey. They first traveled to the island of Cyprus, Barnabas' birthplace. The Lord began to work miracles through these men, especially Paul—Saul's Gentile name. Later returning to the mainland of Asia Minor, they continued their missionary journey, not only to the Jews but also among the Gentiles, for the Lord had told Paul at the time of his conversion that He was sending him to preach to the Gentiles.

Their travels took them to various cities of Asia Minor where a number of congregations were established. Then they returned to Antioch where they gave a report of their work. Later it was suggested that they go to visit the congregations that had been established during their first trip. On his second journey, Paul chose Silas to go with him.

After visiting the various congregations, Paul desired to go into some new areas, but the Holy Spirit forbid them to do so. Then they came to Troas, where Paul had a vision of a man calling for them to come to Macedonia. Now Macedonia was on the European continent, and Paul concluded that that was where they should go.

MEDITATIONS

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI—Philippians 1:1, 2—Paul wrote this letter of love to the saints in Philippi while he was in prison in Rome, around the year A.D. 62. Timothy was in Rome with Paul, and he had also visited Philippi with Paul on two occasions, so his name is included in the greeting.

I THANK GOD FOR YOU—Philippians 1:3, 6—Epaphroditus had arrived in Rome with an offering from the saints in Philippi. They had sent him offerings at different times to help him in his work, so Paul is expressing thanks for their evidence of love for him, as well as their fellowship through the years. Epaphroditus fell sick while there, and after his recovery, Paul requested he would return to Philippi. It is possible that he carried this letter from Paul to them.

A VISION APPEARED TO PAUL—Acts 16:9, 10—Paul, Silas, and Timothy had visited various congregations in Asia Minor but were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to go to new places, so Paul and company had come to Troas. It is thought that Luke joined them there. While waiting there for the leading of the Lord, a vision was given to Paul—a man of Macedonia saying, "Come over into Macedonia and help us." In other words, come and preach the gospel to us. After see-

ing the vision, Paul was convinced that God had called them to go there. Macedonia was in Europe.

CROSSING THE SEA—Acts 16:11, 12—Troas was on the coast of the Aegean Sea, so Paul and his party took ship and crossed the sea, landing at Samothracia. The next day they traveled to Neapolis. From there they went to Philippi, the chief city of that part of Macedonia. Macedonia was a Roman province in the days of Paul.

ON THE SABBATH—Acts 16:13, 14—Paul and the others went out of the city to a riverside, where prayer was “want to be made.” The prayer meeting was being conducted by some women, and so Paul and party joined them. Among the women was one named Lydia, a seller of purple. This Gentile woman, it would seem, was a proselyte to the Jewish religion, as were possibly the others as well. The Lord opened her heart to receive the message Paul had to give them.

CONVERTED AND BAPTIZED—Acts 16:15—Not only did Lydia open her heart and receive Christ as her Savior, but her “household” as well! It is evident that she had a good influence on all of her household, for all were converted and baptized.

Lydia was a woman of some means, for she “constrained” Paul and the others to come into her house to abide while they were there.

AT MIDNIGHT PAUL AND SILAS PRAYED—Acts 16:25, 26—As Paul and others went to prayer, a certain woman possessed with a spirit of divination, which brought her masters much gain by sooth-saying, met and followed them saying, “These men are the servants of the most high God, which show us the way of salvation.”

This went on for several days until Paul got tired of it, so he turned and said to the spirit, “I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ come out of her.” And he came out the same hour. When her masters saw that she had lost her power to carry on her evil work for them, they caught Paul and Silas and brought them before the magistrates and the people. The magistrates commanded that they be beaten and put into jail. Instead of moaning and groaning, Paul and Silas sang and prayed. God sent an earthquake, and their bands were loosed.

THE KEEPER OF THE PRISON—Acts 16:27, 28—Each jailer was responsible for his prisoner. He was to suffer the same penalty as the prisoner himself. In this case, the jailer, awaking out of sleep and finding the prison doors open, assumed all the prisoners had escaped. He drew out his sword to kill himself, for it was customary among heathens, when they found death inevitable, to take their own lives.

THE JAILER CONVERTED—Acts 16:29-32—The jailer, being assured the prisoners had not escaped, put down his sword, got a light, rushed in trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, asking, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They said, “Believe on the

Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.” How much he knew at that point we are not sure, but verse 32 tells us that the way was explained unto him. Later, after he washed their wounds and took them to his house and fed them, the way of salvation was explained to his family, and they were all converted and baptized.

THEY WENT OUT OF THE PRISON—Acts 16:40—After the jailer had been saved, Paul said to him, “Now let us return to the prison!” So when morning came, the magistrates sent the sergeants to tell them they were free to go, but Paul said, “Not so, we are Roman citizens, beaten openly without being condemned—which was against the Roman law—you let them come themselves and bring us out.”

The sergeants conveyed that message to the magistrates, and they with fear came and brought them out and desired them to depart out of the city. Paul had a reputation to guard, and he had rights under the Roman law which these men had broken, and they knew it. After they were led out of the prison in sight of the people, they went to Lydia’s house “and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.”

CONCLUSION

When Paul and his co-laborers left Philippi, they left a small Church of God congregation in the city. It continued to grow and was visited by Paul, Timothy, and others who helped them in their efforts to win others to the Lord.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was Paul forbidden to go to other places in Asia minor?
2. Why was the demon-possessed woman no longer able to do her work?
3. Where did Paul have his first convert in Europe?
4. Why were Paul and Silas beaten and put in jail?
5. Why did Paul, Silas, Timothy, and Luke leave Philippi?

LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR JANUARY 10

STRIVING TOGETHER

Scriptures: Philippians 1:27-30; I Corinthians 1:10; Ephesians 4:1-3; John 17:20-22; II Corinthians 13:11.

Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

I Corinthians 1:10 Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner

of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

3 Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

John 17:20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one.

II Corinthians 13:11 Finally, brethren, farewell. Be perfect, be of good comfort, be of one mind, live in peace; and the God of love and peace shall be with you.

Memory Verse: Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.—Philippians 1:27.

Aim: To impress upon the student the necessity of striving together with other true saints of God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	John 17	Thursday	I Corinthians 3
Tuesday	Ephesians 4:1-16	Friday	Romans 16
Wednesday	I Corinthians 1	Saturday	Nehemiah 4

INTRODUCTION

The person who contends for division or seeks to justify division among the people of God is opposing every principle of truth on this subject revealed in the New Testament. Everywhere we find this same glorious standard of unity. One purpose of Christ's death was that "he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad" (John 11:52). Jesus Himself said, "Other sheep I have [Gentiles], which are not of this [Jewish] fold: them also I must bring,

and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold [flock], and one shepherd” (John 10:16).

MEDITATIONS

HOW SAINTS ARE TO LIVE—Philippians 1:27—The word *conversation* means, our “manner of living.” Here Paul instructs the saints at Philippi that their manner of living was to conform to the gospel of Christ. Nowhere does the gospel of Christ teach that the saints of God are to be divided into various religious groups. Paul wanted to hear that they were standing fast in one spirit, with one mind. The Holy Spirit never divides saints of God! Division is caused by another spirit.

SALVATION OF GOD—Philippians 1:28—There are adversaries to the truth on every hand, but if you “stand fast” in the salvation of God, there is no evil power that will be able to overcome you. God has promised His people power over all the power of the enemy. **Verse 29**—That is not to say that there will be no battles or trials, for there will be, and there may be some suffering along the way, but God’s grace will be sufficient for each test.

PAUL AND HIS SUFFERING—Philippians 1:30—Outside of the Son of God Himself, it seems that Paul suffered more than any of the other apostles. He was shipwrecked, stoned, beaten, etc. You can read of his sufferings in II Corinthians 11:22-28, but we find him saying, “None of these things move me.”

THE CHURCH AT CORINTH—I Corinthians 1:10—Paul spent as much or more time at Corinth than he did at any other place in his missionary journeys, and I think we would be safe in saying he dealt with more problems there than with any other congregations. One of the problems he dealt with was a spirit of division—some saying, “I am of Paul,” some saying, “I am Apollos,” some saying, “I am of Peter,” and some saying, “I am of Christ”—that is what they all should have been saying! “Is Christ divided?”

Paul instructed them to all speak the same thing and that there be no division among them. They were to have the same mind. If all will let the Spirit teach and lead, all will be of the same mind, and there will be no division among the body.

WALK WORTHY—Ephesians 4:1-3—Paul taught the same holy truth wherever he went. Ephesus was another place that he spent much time. Here he is instructing them to walk worthy of the vocation they were called to. All are called to live a holy life and “to walk humbly with thy God” (Micah 6:8). Forbearing one another and loving one another is the way to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of

peace. We must keep the “unity of the Spirit” if we are ever to come to “the unity of the faith.”

UNITY BETWEEN GOD THE FATHER AND GOD THE SON—John 17:21, 22—All will agree there is no division among the members of the Godhead, but to get the religious world to accept the fact that the same is possible among members of the body of Christ is a near impossibility; yet that is the very thing Jesus prayed for. The reason He wanted this unity to be a reality among His disciples was so “that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” Satan realizes that true unity is a powerful testimony to the world as to the reality of the Son of God and His teachings.

It is said that a bishop of a certain Protestant church was talking to Ghandi in India about Christ, and Ghandi is supposed to have said, “I would like to have your Christ but not your Christianity”! That was the result of division and the lack of true unity. How many others have been affected in the same way?

GOD SHALL BE WITH YOU—II Corinthians 13:11—In coming near the end of his second letter to the Church of God at Corinth, Paul makes a statement that should be a challenge to every Christian. First, Paul instructs them to be mature—not babes—to be of one mind, to live in peace; and Paul assures them if they will do what he is instructing them, “the God of love and peace shall be with you.” We conclude from this last statement, if we do not live as he has said, God will not be with us. Living in peace, having the same mind, having unity, then, is of the utmost importance.

CONCLUSION

“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (II Timothy 3:16, 17). All teachings found in the inspired Word of God are important, but possibly we would could say unity among true believers is one of the most important, and Jesus prayed earnestly for it.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How many bodies is Christ the head of?
2. How many unities are taught in Ephesians 4, and what are they?
3. Why is there so much division in the religious world?
4. What is the cause of the division?
5. Are Christians to have unity with just anyone who professes Christianity?

LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR JANUARY 17

PROPER ATTITUDES

Scriptures: Philippians 2:1-4; Romans 12:3-10; Ephesians 4:32.

Philippians 2:1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

4 For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office:

5 So we, being many, are one body in

Christ, and every one members one of another.

6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

9 Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.

Ephesians 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Memory Verse: Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

—Philippians 2:3.

Aim: To emphasize the need of keeping the proper attitude.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Philippians 2**

Tuesday **Romans 12**

Wednesday **Ephesians 4:17-32**

Thursday **Isaiah 57**

Friday **Proverbs 29**

Saturday **I Peter 5**

INTRODUCTION

“The pure and holy life of Jesus was one constant exhibition of humility. In the great plan of salvation by grace is purposed and provided that the divine character be implanted in the character of man. Jesus would have us to wear the grace of humility in our hearts; therefore he says, ‘Come, learn of me; for I am meek and lowly at heart.’”—C. E. Orr.

Humility is not all there is to keeping the proper attitude, but it will go a long way in helping one show a proper attitude. Some of the explanations of the word *attitude*: “The position or posture assumed by the body in connection with an action, feeling, mood, etc, [to kneel

in an attitude of prayer] and manner of acting, feeling, or thinking that shows one's disposition, opinion, etc. [a friendly attitude]."

One of the most needful is showing the right attitude toward others even under stress.

MEDITATIONS

EXHORTATION TO YOU—Philippians 2:1—The word translated *consolation* here is translated *exhortation* in other verses. So the apostle Paul was expressing out of a heart of love his desire that they have the same love for one another that he had for them, and that their relationship be by and through their being made partakers of the Holy Spirit. **Verse 2**—Fulfil my joy by having the same love to God, His work, and me as I have to Him and His cause.

ESTEEM OTHERS—Philippians 2:3—The work of the Lord has suffered much through the years because of strife among those who profess to be Christ's disciples. Such is not the fruit of the Spirit. One who is seeking glory for himself is not seeking to glorify God! The answer to the above is "lowliness of mind [and] let each esteem other better than themselves." That is not so easy to do, but when we die to self it can be done.

BE CONCERNED FOR OTHERS—Philippians 2:4—Do nothing with a selfish motive. Do not look for others to put you up on a pedestal. Labor for the glory of God. Have a love and concern for others. As Paul said in I Corinthians 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." That will benefit the body of saints.

THINK SOBERLY—Romans 12:3—A feeling of importance has been a problem down through the ages, and the church has not escaped the problem. The apostle John had to deal with it as recorded in III John: "I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not." Paul tells the Roman brethren they are to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

ONE BODY—Romans 12:4, 5—Every Christian is a member of the body of Christ, and none of us can say we do not need one another. See I Corinthians 12:18-23.

ONE BODY BUT DIFFERENT PLACES TO FILL—Romans 12:6-8—The gifts of the Spirit are very important to the progress of the work of the Lord. But let all remember it is the Spirit that gives the gift, and it is given for the profit of all, not for one person to benefit. Not all are preachers, not all are teachers, not all have the gift of exhortation, not all have the gift of giving, "he that giveth, let him do

it with simplicity.” Remember, the poor widow gave more than all the rest. “He that ruleth, with diligence.” This is an area where there is a great need of one’s showing a proper attitude. Jesus strongly condemned the spirit of being a lord over God’s heritage. “He that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness.” Surely God’s way is a beautiful way, but it takes a spirit of humility to show to the world this beautiful way. A bad attitude will not win the lost to Christ.

A PROPER ATTITUDE—Romans 12:9, 10—Let love be real, not hypocritical, and not pretense. This kind of love will produce a proper attitude toward all. Hate that which is evil, hold fast to that which is good. The more you hate evil, the more you will love that which is good. Kindness is part of being a true disciple of Christ, and brotherly love is what holds the body of Christ together. Honoring and preferring one another is the mark of a humble and meek spirit, which is in God’s sight of great price.

FORGIVING ONE ANOTHER—Ephesians 4:32—Be kind, be tenderhearted, forgive one another. Yes, even among saints there are things that happen where there is the need of forgiving one another, but when we think of all that God has forgiven us of, it should not be hard for us to forgive one another.

CONCLUSION

When we think of attitudes, we often think of wrong attitudes, but there is a right and proper attitude, and Paul, in the scriptures we have in our lesson today, has given some very sound instructions about having the right kind of attitude. When we have a spirit of humility, when we don’t think more highly of ourselves than we ought, when we love one another with a pure heart fervently, when we are kind, and honor others as we should, then we will be showing a true Christian attitude.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the spiritual state of one who is continually showing wrong attitudes?
2. Is there ever room in the body of Christ for one to be jealous of another’s position in the body?
3. If every member of the congregation shows a proper attitude, will there ever be any problems?

LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR JANUARY 24

HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST

Scriptures: Philippians 2:5-11; I Corinthians 2:16; Romans 12:2; Hebrews 8:10; II Timothy 1:7; Colossians 3:12; II Thessalonians 2:2.

Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I Corinthians 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct

him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Hebrews 8:10 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:

II Timothy 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering.

II Thessalonians 2:2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Memory Verse: For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

—I Corinthians 2:16.

Aim: To show that salvation produces a Christlike mind.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday I Corinthians 2

Tuesday Hebrews 8

Wednesday II Thessalonians 2

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Colossians 3

II Timothy 1

Romans 8

INTRODUCTION

The mind is an amazing organ in the human body! The definition for mind is (in part): “the human consciousness that originates in the brain and manifested especially in thought, perception, emotion, will, memory, and imagination; the collective conscious and unconscious processes in a sentient organism that direct and influence mental and physical behavior; the faculty of thinking, reasoning, and applying knowledge.”

It is through the mind that Satan makes many of his ungodly attacks. We hear the expression, that person's mind is "a cesspool of iniquity." Paul, in his letter to the Roman saints, said, "To be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace" (8:6). Paul told them that they should not be "highminded" (Romans 11:20). Peter, in his second epistle, said, "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance" (3:1). Thank the Lord that through salvation we can have a pure mind.

MEDITATIONS

THE MIND OF CHRIST—Philippians 2:5—The mind of Christ was to do all that He did for the glory of the Father and also for the good of the family of man. He said He came to do the will of the Father, and He also said He came to seek and to save the lost. Shortly before He returned to the Father, He said He had done the work the Father had given Him to do. This is the kind of mind Paul said we should have.

GOD THE ETERNAL WORD—Philippians 2:6—John informs us that the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Isaiah said a virgin shall bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel, which means, "God with us." **Verse 7**—He did not come to set up an earthly kingdom, He did not come seeking earthly fame, but He took upon Himself the form of a servant. Behold, what manner of love!

HE HUMBLLED HIMSELF—Philippians 2:8—Jesus had to lay aside the glory He had with the Father, the worship of the heavenly angels, to be found in fashion as a man, but He did it not for Himself but for us, even the death on the cross. **Verse 9**—Jesus paid our debt on Calvary, and He rose again on the third day. God has indeed highly exalted Him, and given Him a name above every name. Worthy is the Lamb!

EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW—Philippians 2:10, 11—Multitudes refuse to recognize Him now, refuse to accept His offer of salvation, but the time is coming when every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. It will be too late then as far as salvation is concerned—today is the day of salvation.

WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST—I Corinthians 2:16—In verse 14 Paul says "the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God." He goes on to say they are foolishness unto him, and they are spiritually discerned. So it takes someone who is spiritually minded to be able to discern, or in other words, to have the mind of Christ.

TRANSFORMED—Romans 12:2—Be not conformed to the world—Do not pattern your life after the sinful world, but be trans-

formed, be a true child of God, have a renewed mind and thus prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. God has a will for everyone, but only the redeemed are allowing Him to accomplish it in their lives.

LAW IN THEIR MIND—Hebrews 8:10—The law of the Old Covenant, in part, was written on stone, but the Lord promised a new covenant, and it would be written in their minds and in their hearts. God would be real to them, and they would be His people.

A SPIRIT OF POWER—II Timothy 1:7—Fear brings torment! God gives power over all the power of the enemy. The Holy Spirit sheds abroad in our hearts a spirit of love and a sound mind. This sound mind means more than just common sense; it means we have clear understanding of truth. We are able to think, speak, and act aright at all times.

PUT ON—Colossians 3:12—Salvation is a gift from God, but we have a work to do. We are to grow in grace, so Paul says put on, or live out, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind [God hates a proud look.], meekness, longsuffering.

BE STEADFAST—II Thessalonians 2:2—Some thought Christ would return in their lifetime, but Paul informs them that a lot of things would take place before that happened. Therefore, their faith was not to be shaken, nor were they to be troubled because He did not come when they expected. There would be false prophets, false teachers who, in reality, would be opposing God and His truth.

CONCLUSION

Salvation does indeed produce a Christlike mind. Salvation delivers from a life of sin. It brings peace of mind, peace to the troubled soul, and it makes you a member of the family of God, the church of the living God, with your name written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and you have eternal life.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does it mean to have the mind of Christ?
2. How does one obtain the mind of Christ?
3. What kind of fruit will one bear who has the mind of Christ?
4. What did Paul mean when he said Christ did not think it was robbery "to be equal with God"?
5. When will every one confess "that Jesus Christ is Lord"?

LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR JANUARY 31

WORKING OUT YOUR SALVATION

Scriptures: Philippians 2:12, 13; Hebrews 2:1-3; John 9:4; I Corinthians 15:58; John 6:27-29.

Philippians 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Hebrews 2:1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward;

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.

John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

I Corinthians 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

Memory Verse: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.—Philippians 2:12.

Aim: To impress the student that one must not neglect his salvation.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Hebrews 2	Thursday	John 6
Tuesday	John 9	Friday	James 2
Wednesday	I Corinthians 15:31-58	Saturday	Nehemiah 4

INTRODUCTION

There are two opposing views in regard to salvation. Some seem to think all you need do is believe on the Lord Jesus Christ; the other is that you must do certain works to be saved. Paul had a problem with Jews following him around, or coming after him, telling the people they must be circumcised after the manner of Moses, and possibly do some other things, otherwise they could not be saved. (See Acts 15:1.) In Galatians 3:11 Paul said, "But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith."

It is true that salvation is not of works lest any man should boast, but there is something an unsaved person must do to be saved in addition to believing in his heart that Jesus Christ is the Savior. After the

lame man had been healed at the gate Beautiful, Peter told the people, “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out” (Acts 3:19). After that, they needed to be baptized and to make their wrongs right. Then they needed to work out their salvation. Salvation is not of works, but works follow salvation.

MEDITATIONS

WORK OUT YOUR SALVATION—Philippians 2:12—In our first lesson, we studied about how the congregation was established in Philippi. Since that time Paul and others had visited them to further establish them in the faith. Now in this letter the apostle is entreating them to continue to live out the truths they had been taught. According to this verse of scripture, they had been doing that, not only when Paul was present, but when he was not. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Fear here is not a fear of torment, but a carefulness of watching, guarding against enemies and the difficult times that would come. **Verse 13**—What a privilege it is to be a vessel for God to work in and through.

GIVE HEED—Hebrews 2:1—Therefore, because it is possible to drift away from the truth, even though you may have once been established in it, give earnest heed, hold on to the things which you have been taught. There are those who teach “once saved, always saved,” but the writer of Hebrews did not believe that.

THE WORD IS STEADFAST—Hebrews 2:2, 3—God did send angels to earth, especially in Old Testament times, and the message they brought to man was always true and dependable. Various times their message was not heeded, so every act of disobedience and transgression received a just reward. That being true, “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?” This was spoken, not by angels, but by the Lord Himself and was passed on to us by those who heard Him.

I MUST WORK—John 9:4—One of the works that Jesus came to do was to heal the sick, so He healed the man who was born blind, though He was found fault with because it was the Sabbath. If we are going to work for the Lord, we must do it before our “night” comes.

YOUR LABOR IS NOT IN VAIN—I Corinthians 15:58—Be steadfast, unmoveable, do not allow anyone, or anything, move you from the truth. There are many forces at work in the world that are arrayed against the truth. Thank God, there are those who are standing for it. God’s grace is able to keep all who will submit themselves to Him. Remember, the reward is for those who endure to the end. Your labor is not in vain as long as it is for the Lord.

LABOR NOT—John 6:27—Jesus is not condemning a person for laboring to provide for the needful things of life. He is saying for us to

labor for those things that will enable us to “work out our own salvation.” Those who labor only for the material things of life will never enter in to the kingdom of God and will never obtain eternal life.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?—John 6:28—The question these were asking Jesus was how they could work the works of God, or what they must do to please God. **Verse 29**—Jesus responded that they should have faith in the one that God had sent into the world, and, of course, that One was Jesus Himself. Without faith it is impossible to please God. They that come to God “must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

It is not always easy to manifest faith! A sinner cannot be saved unless he believes God forgives him when he repents and asks for forgiveness. A justified person must believe that God will give him the Holy Spirit when he meets the conditions for sanctification. A sick person needs to have faith when he calls for the elders to anoint him and the elders need to pray the “prayer of faith” to see the sick one healed. The child of God must have faith to walk the narrow way day by day. The just must walk by his faith; no one else can do it for him.

CONCLUSION

Whatever we must do to work out our salvation, it is “worth it all to be His child.” Our souls are our most valuable possession, and God showed that this is true by giving His only begotten Son to redeem us.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does Paul mean by saying we should work out our own salvation?
2. Can salvation be obtained by good works?
3. Why is it so important to take heed to the truth we have heard?
4. What does it mean to “drift away”?
5. What is the work we must do?

LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR FEBRUARY 7

SHINING FOR CHRIST

Scriptures: Philippians 2:14-16; Luke 12:35; Proverbs 4:18; II Corinthians 4:6; II Peter 1:19; I John 2:8-10.

Philippians 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;

16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

Luke 12:35 Let your loins be girded about, and your lights burning.

Proverbs 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

II Corinthians 4:6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the

knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

II Peter 1:19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.

I John 2:8 Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth.

9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

Memory Verse: But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.—Proverbs 4:18.

Aim: To inspire the student to shine as a light in this dark world.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday

Luke 12

Thursday

II Peter 1

Tuesday

Proverbs 4

Friday

I John 2

Wednesday

II Corinthians 4

Saturday

Matthew 5

INTRODUCTION

When God created the earth, there was what we would call total darkness. The earth was covered with water, and the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the water. Then God said, "Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night" (Genesis 1:4, 5). On the fourth day of creation "God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night" (verse 14). We are told the speed of light is approximately 186,282 miles per second.

There is another kind of light and darkness! Through the years light has come to represent truth, and darkness has come to represent sin and false religion. While Jesus was here on earth, He told His disciples that He was the Light of the world. Before He returned to the Father, He told them they were the light of the world. So, in the

Scriptures, the word *light* is used in different ways. Today's lesson deals with the kind of light we are to manifest.

MEDITATIONS

DO ALL THINGS—Philippians 2:14—Do all things without murmurings. God did a marvelous work for the children of Israel when He brought them out of the land of Egypt; but it was not so very long after that until they were murmuring against God and also against Moses and Aaron. Such conduct was very displeasing to almighty God. Again, certain ones murmured against Moses, accusing him of thinking he and Aaron were the only holy ones among them. This murmuring proved to be very costly! (See Numbers 16.)

The word *dispute*, or *disputing*, means, in part, “to question the truth of; to oppose in any way; resist, to quarrel.” Such conduct is not becoming the saints of God and will certainly hurt the testimony of anyone who is guilty of it.

THAT YOU MAY BE BLAMELESS—Philippians 2:15—The Word of God teaches a high standard of living, and if we are going to shine for Christ, here are some ways to do it. Live a blameless, holy life, and in doing so you will not do anything intentionally to harm any one else. Christians are called the sons of God—what a wonderful privilege and blessing that is! The apostle John said, “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not” (I John 3:1).

We are to live this kind of life in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation. Surely, as John said, “The whole world lies in wickedness.” One of the worst manifestations of wickedness is false religion that teaches people that they must live in sin while professing Christianity. Even so, the child of God is to shine as a light in the world.

HOLDING FORTH—Philippians 2:16—Christians holding forth the light of the gospel will help others to see the light and may be able to win them to Christ. He that winneth souls is wise. Paul certainly held forth the light, and he did not run in vain or labor in vain. None of us is a Paul, but we have the opportunity to hold forth the light in the area where we live. “Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16).

YOUR LIGHTS BURNING—Luke 12:35—Paul, in speaking of the armor we are to put on, said we were to have our loins girt about with truth. Truth is light and light is truth, so if you have your loins girt about with truth your light will be shining.

Think of Gideon. After his army was cut down to three hundred, he armed them with trumpets and empty pitchers, in which they put

“lamps.” They were to break the pitchers so the enemy could see the light. “And the three companies [one hundred in each of the three groups] blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and all the host ran, and cried, and fled” (Judges 7:20, 21). The light of truth will still defeat all enemies.

THE PATH OF THE JUST—Proverbs 4:18—It is the pathway of the just that is shining. The pathway of the sinner is a dark way indeed. Just as the literal sun seems to get brighter as it rises in the sky, so the light of truth shines brighter and brighter as we walk in it. Not only so, but the light we are able to radiate gets brighter as we walk in it.

GOD COMMANDED THE LIGHT—II Corinthians 4:6—As mentioned in the introduction of this lesson, the earth was filled with darkness until God commanded the light to shine, but this verse of scripture is speaking of a different kind of light shining in our hearts. We were in darkness while living in sin, but when we surrendered our hearts and lives to God, He shone the light in our hearts and gave us knowledge of Him. He did so in order that we can share the knowledge of truth with others.

A MORE SURE WORD—II Peter 1:19—We have the Word of God which is forever settled in heaven, given not only by the prophets but by the Lord Himself. Therefore, we do well to take heed and walk in the light as the Lord shines it on our pathway.

THE DARKNESS IS PAST—I John 2:8—“The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up” (Matthew 4:16). For around 400 years there was no open vision, but when Jesus, the Light of the world, came, light did indeed shine. Not every one was willing to accept it, but it was there.

HE THAT SAITH—I John 2:9—It is one thing to say you are a Christian—in the light—it is another to really live it. No one can have the light of life while at the same time having hatred in his heart for another. John says such a one is still in darkness.

ABIDING IN THE LIGHT—I John 2:10—When we receive and accept the light, we need to do all that is required to remain in it. “If we walk in the light as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:7).

CONCLUSION

To have Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the greatest blessing that anyone can have. To be delivered from the prison house of sin, free from Satan and his evil works and ways, is what it means to have Christ ruling and reigning in your heart.

*Since Jesus gave His life for me
Should I not give Him mine?
I'm consecrated, Lord, to thee,
I shall be wholly thine.*

*My life, O Lord, I give to thee,
My talents, time and all;
I'll serve thee, Lord, and faithful be,
I'll hear thy faintest call.*

—Mildred E. Howard

The apostle Paul wrote to the saints at Corinth, “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16). Also, “What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). Therefore, we need to shine as a light in this dark world.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Is it possible for a person to live holy and blameless in this present world?
2. Were you influenced by the life of a Christian in becoming a child of God?
3. Why can we say the Word of God is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path?
4. Why do men love darkness rather than light?

LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR FEBRUARY 14

CONSECRATION

Scriptures: Philippians 3:7-10; Esther 4:16; I Chronicles 29:5; Matthew 16:24; Mark 10:28; Romans 12:1.

Philippians 3:7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

Esther 4:16 Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the

king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

I Chronicles 29:5 The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.

Mark 10:28 Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee.

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Memory Verse: But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.—Philippians 3:7.

Aim: To challenge the student to consecrate his all to Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Philippians 3**
Tuesday **Esther 4**
Wednesday **I Chronicles 29**

Thursday **Matthew 16**
Friday **Mark 10**
Saturday **Exodus 29**

INTRODUCTION

“The earth is the Lord’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” We are His people and the sheep of His pasture. It is in Him that we live and have our being. He gives to all life and breath, yea and all things. Without Him we can do nothing. “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.”

“By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction 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 recompence of the reward.” “He hath showed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.”

In light of what is stated above, it behooves all of us to consecrate ourselves a living sacrifice to fulfill the will of God for our lives. The word *consecrate* means, in part, “to devote anything to God’s worship and service; to hallow, or sanctify whether persons or things”—*Crudens*. *Consecrate* also means, “an act by which a person or thing is dedicated to the service and worship of God.” It is a translation of several Hebrew and Greek words which mean, “separate; to be set apart; set apart from that which is common or unclean.”

The aim of this lesson is to challenge the student to consecrate his all to Christ.

MEDITATIONS

BUT WHAT THINGS WERE GAIN TO ME—Philippians 3:7—

Paul stood high in the religion of the Pharisees, greatly respected and very zealous for the law. But when he met Jesus, the Savior of the world, he came to realize all of his works did not mean salvation for his soul, for salvation was through the shed blood of the Lamb of God.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST JESUS—Philippians 3:8—

Not only was his standing with the Jews worthless to his soul, but he was ready to forsake all things, whatever they were, to gain the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus his Lord. He was willing to “sell all” to buy the pearl of great price. The things he was giving up were no more to him than “dung” that he would “win Christ.” The word *dung* is to be understood as the vilest dross or refuse of anything.

BE FOUND IN HIM—Philippians 3:9—

How many people are depending on their own righteousness to get them to heaven? The Scriptures inform us that our own righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God. It is the righteousness of God that we must have, and this is not obtained by our good works but by faith in the true and living God.

THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION—Philippians 3:10—

It is possible for everyone to know Him, for He tasted death for every man. It seems that Paul is speaking of the end of time when he speaks of the resurrection that will come for all, the saved and the

unsaved. I would point out that the “first resurrection” is when a person who is dead in sin is saved and resurrected from the dead state of sin to life in Christ.

AN EXAMPLE OF CONSECRATION—Esther 4:16—Esther was living in a foreign land. It appears she had been reared by her uncle Mordecai. Both were Jewish. Mordecai refused to bow to a government official by the name of Haman. This made Haman very angry, so he plotted to have all Jews in the kingdom killed on a certain day. Esther had been chosen queen, and Mordecai wanted her to seek the king’s help in sparing them, but the king had not called for her for thirty days. To go into his presence without being called for could mean death! Mordecai gave her to understand she must speak to the king, so she requested a fast be held for three days. Esther said she would go in after the fast, and declared, “If I perish, I perish.” This was indeed an act of consecration. The Lord gave her favor as she went in and stood near the door. The king raised his golden scepter, giving her permission to come to him on his throne. Again, God gave favor, and she and her people were spared.

DAVID GIVES MATERIAL FOR THE BUILDING OF THE TEMPLE—I Chronicles 29:5—After the Ark of the Covenant had been brought into Jerusalem, David housed it in a tent, but he did not feel good about that as he was living in a nice palace. So he spoke to the prophet Nathan about it, who told him to build it. However, the Lord told Nathan to tell David he could not build the temple for the Ark. The reason: “Thou shalt not build an house for my name, because thou hast been a man of war, and hast shed blood.” The Lord promised David He would give his son Solomon a reign of peace, and he would build the temple. David still wanted to help, so starting with verse three we read what David gave. After listing all he gave, then he asked “Who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?” Consecration is not limited just to the leaders. All true disciples are called to consecrate their all to the Lord and to His service.

IF ANY MAN—Matthew 16:24—Again, it is not just the leaders, but as Jesus has pointed out in this verse, every disciple is to deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow the Lord. You may be assured the Lord will never lead you wrong.

WE HAVE LEFT ALL—Mark 10:28—Peter and others were in the fishing business on the Sea of Galilee. They had at least two boats and were making a good living. One day a man by the name of Jesus came walking by, and He said to Peter, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” Peter left his boat and his nets and followed Jesus. He was a married man, but in following Jesus he was away from home a great deal of the time.

On this particular day a man came running to Jesus and asked, "What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" After Jesus told him, he went away sorrowful, not willing to do what Jesus said, for he had great possessions. Then Peter said, "We have left all, and have followed thee." That is what consecration is.

A LIVING SACRIFICE—Romans 12:1—In Old Testament times, they slew the animal and presented a dead sacrifice to the Lord, but in this New Testament age we are to die to sin, be made alive in Christ, and present ourselves a living sacrifice—a privilege and a reasonable service to God.

CONCLUSION

Some have the idea that the way of the Lord is hard, but they have a wrong conception as to what it means to be a child of God. The Scriptures tell us it is the way of the transgressor that is hard. Jesus said, "My yoke is easy and my burden it light." Some who have a form of godliness may think it is hard, but those who truly know Christ as Lord and Savior are glad to have Him as their Master as well.

*I care not where my Lord directs,
His purpose I'll fulfill;
I know he every one protects
Who does his holy will.*

*My all, O Lord, to thee I give,
Accept it as thine own;
For thee alone I'll ever live,
My heart shall be thy throne.*

—Mildred E. Howard

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is *consecration*?
2. Why does the Lord require us to consecrate our all to Him to be His disciple?
3. Why was Paul's religious profession not enough though he was very zealous for his religion?
4. Why was David not able to build a temple to house the Ark of the Covenant even though he desired to do so?
5. Why did the young man who came running to Jesus asking about eternal life go away sorrowful?

LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR FEBRUARY 21

HOW TO APPROACH CHRISTIAN LIFE

Scriptures: Philippians 3:13-16; Luke 16:16; James 4:7, 8; I Timothy 6:12; Hebrews 3:6; 10:23; Revelation 3:11.

Philippians 3:13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

Luke 16:16 The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee

from you.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

I Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

Hebrews 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised.

Revelation 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Memory Verse: Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

—Philippians 3:13, 14.

Aim: To show the approach to achieve a successful Christian life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Luke 16
Tuesday James 4
Wednesday I Timothy 6

Thursday Hebrews 3
Friday Hebrews 10
Saturday Revelation 3:1-13

INTRODUCTION

To live a successful Christian life, one must start right. If you do not have a sure foundation, you will fail. Jesus gave us a parable of two men who heard His teachings; one was wise and the other was foolish. "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock" (Matthew 7:24). The wise man not only heard, but he put what he heard into practice in his life. The foolish man heard, but he did not take heed and his house fell. Of course, "the house" they began to build represented their lives.

MEDITATIONS

A MESSAGE TO BRETHREN—Philippians 3:13—As great a work as Paul had accomplished, as many gifts as he had been given, he felt the need to press on, not to feel that he had obtained all he could, or should. But this one thing I do—this is my concern, the sole purpose of my life—forgetting those things which are behind, I reach for that which is ahead.

THE PRIZE AWAITS—Philippians 3:14—There is an evil power in the world that is opposed to God and all that will live godly. The Lord did not give us an armor to wear in a dress parade but to protect us and for us to use as we fight the good fight of faith. The prize awaits those who endure to the end. Remember, God's grace is sufficient for every battle.

LET US BE LIKE-MINDED—Philippians 3:15—Perfect here does not mean we are above making mistakes, but we are to be mature, thoroughly grounded in divine things. It is not trusting in a religious profession, not depending on the old law system but in the Lord Jesus Christ. If there be more things we need to know, God will reveal this unto us.

LET US WALK BY THE SAME RULE—Philippians 3:16—Let us not lose that which we have already gained. How many times has Satan suggested to saints that they should give up and start over? If you have run this race for years and have laid up treasures in heaven, and you give up and return to sin, even though you are later reclaimed, you have lost all the reward you had stored in heaven and will have to start over. Let us continue to walk in the "Old Paths" which is the good way. The truth does not change from generation to generation.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD—Luke 16:16—When it comes to true Christians, the subjects in the kingdom of God and the members in the Church of God are one and the same. The idea that the kingdom of God is yet in the future is not supported by the Scriptures; in fact, such teaching is contrary to the Scriptures. This verse clearly states that the law and the prophets were until John—the forerunner of Christ—and since that time the kingdom of God is preached and every man presseth into it. How could people "press into the kingdom" if it did not exist? How could one be born into the kingdom if it did not exist? The Scriptures clearly teach that "flesh and blood" cannot enter the kingdom of God.

SUBMIT YOURSELVES—James 4:7, 8—Often only part of this verse is quoted! "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." But we must do the first part before we will have the power to do the second part. To submit to God is the wisest thing you can do. All of us are ser-

vants! If you yield yourself to God and resist the devil, you have God's promise that the wicked one will flee. That is not to say he will never return to tempt you again. When he does, submit the matter to God and resist him again.

FIGHT THE GOOD FIGHT OF FAITH—I Timothy 6:12—When it comes to living the Christian life, we are to do our very best to live at peace with all men, especially among fellow Christians, but when it comes to Satan, that is a different matter. You cannot live the Christian life if you are not willing to fight. However, the weapons of our warfare are not carnal. We do not use literal swords, guns, tanks, planes, missiles, etc., as a literal army would.

Paul tells us, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12). That is quite an "army" arrayed against the children of God. The Lord has provided His soldiers all they need to meet the enemy! See Ephesians 6:14-18.

CHRIST THE HEAD—Hebrews 3:6—Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church of God, and Isaiah said the government is on His shoulders. He said He would build His church and the gates of hell (Hades) would not prevail against it. The thing we must do is hold fast and remain in His church, and Satan will not be able to overcome us. We have a hope! Let us hold on to it firmly unto the end.

HE IS FAITHFUL—Hebrews 10:23—To hold fast to something requires effort, and surely that is true when it comes to holding fast to the faith that was once delivered to the saints. The apostle Jude said he found it necessary to write to the saints and to exhort them to the end that they "should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

The Hebrew writer said, "without wavering." The apostle James said, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord" (James 1:5-7).

"For he is faithful that promised." Again, we quote from Paul: "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Corinthians 10:13).

HOLD FAST TO WHAT YOU HAVE—Revelation 3:11—In this letter to the church in Philadelphia, Jesus said to them, "Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that

dwell upon the earth” (Revelation 3:11). Therefore, hold fast to that you have. Do not let any man, or anything take your crown. We do not want to overstate the fact, but there are many things—false religion, false prophets, false brethren, the alluring things of the world—that Satan is using in an effort to take your crown. Hold fast to what you have and add to it.

CONCLUSION

The Christian life is the only way to live; in fact, you do not have life if you do not have Christ. He that has the Son has life, he that does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I will include here some words by F. G. Smith in his book, *What the Bible Teaches*:

“When we die to the world, we ‘put on Christ.’ Then we can say with the apostle Paul, ‘I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me’ (Galatians 2:20). Our whole desire is to manifest Christ to the world.

“Being risen with Christ, we ‘seek those things which are above’ (Colossians 3:1). We ‘put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering’ (verse 12). The graces of the Spirit implanted within find outward expression in the fruit of the Spirit which is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance’ (Galatians 5).”

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What does it take to become a true Christian?
2. What is the meaning of the word *Christian*?
3. What are some of the things brought out in this lesson as to how we can live the Christian life?
4. What did Paul say he was determined to do?
5. What does it mean to “press toward the mark”?
6. Are you determined to “win the crown”?

LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR FEBRUARY 28

ENEMIES OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST

Scriptures: Philippians 3:17-21; Romans 16:17; II Peter 2:1; I Timothy 1:19, 20; Romans 5:10.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Romans 16:17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divi-

sions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

II Peter 2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

I Timothy 1:19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

Romans 5:10 For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.

Memory Verse: For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ.—Philippians 3:18.

Aim: To make the student aware of those who are enemies of the cross of Christ.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Romans 16**
Tuesday **II Peter 2**
Wednesday **I Timothy 1**

Thursday **Acts 19**
Friday **II Timothy 4**
Saturday **Romans 5**

INTRODUCTION

You cannot study the Word of God without coming to the knowledge that not everyone who professes to be a Christian really is a Christian indeed. Some seem to think the early morning church was free of such problems, but such is not the case. The early morning church, doubtless, was the most victorious of any period. It saw great things accomplished—miracles, healings, raising some from the dead, some of the greatest revivals, missionary work carried on in many countries—but it also had its problems. It had those professing among them who were not really living the life, just as there has been down through the ages.

Of the seven congregations in Revelation two and three, Jesus told five He had something against them. The first one had left its first love; the

third one had in their midst those that held “the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.” They also had them that held “the doctrine of the Nicolaitanes, which thing I hate” (Revelation 2:14, 15). These had loose morals and mixed their teachings with pagans—enemies of the cross indeed. The fourth congregation suffered the woman Jezebel “to teach and seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” Jesus had nothing good to say for the seventh! He told them they were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. He was speaking of their spiritual state.

The church at Corinth had division and was fellowshiping a man who had his father’s wife. The church at Jerusalem had two who lied to the Holy Spirit and dropped dead. There were those who claimed the Gentiles were to be taught they had to be circumcised and keep the law to be saved. All of these and others were enemies of the cross of Christ, and we still have many in the religious world today who are enemies of Christ.

MEDITATIONS

BE FOLLOWERS—Philippians 3:17—Paul followed Christ; therefore, he could say, “follow me.” Some people will pick out some weak brother or sister, who may be doing all they know to do, and use them as an excuse for not following Christ. Why don’t they look at those who are strong, mature Christians, and say, “I want to be like them”? Some who were invited to the supper in the parable Jesus gave made some very foolish excuses for not coming, and the “lord” said of them, “None of them shall eat of my supper.” Excuses will cause one to be lost in a never ending eternity.

Paul goes on to say, “Mark those who walk contrary to the life you see me live.” Many have been saved by watching the godly lives of others, and many have been lost because of those who profess but do not live the Christian life.

WEEPING—Philippians 3:18—Paul had a real burden for souls; he gave himself freely to the Master to use in seeing souls saved and delivered from the bondage of sin. But it brought great sadness to his heart to see people professing to belong to Christ, when in reality, they were enemies. Christ said, “If you are not for me, then you are against me.” There is no middle ground; either you are for Him or you are against Him. No man can serve two masters.

WHOSE END IS DESTRUCTION—Philippians 3:19—What is to be gained by professing to be living for Christ when you are not? In fact, you are adding sin to sin, and such a state is worse than that of one who does not claim to be a child of God. Jesus said, “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? And then will I [say] unto them, I knew you not: depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:22, 23). We see from this statement by the Lord Jesus that it is not just the laity who are enemies of the cross of Christ, but it includes preachers as well—the blind leading the blind, and they both will fall in the ditch.

Whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things—this sounds like what was said about the Nicolaitans, whom the Lord hated.

A DIFFERENT WAY OF LIVING—Philippians 3:20—Our manner of living is in harmony with heaven. Paul said, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (I Corinthians 10:31). Paul points out the fact that Jesus Christ is coming again, and we will all have to give an account of the way we have lived. Those who made their belly their god, those who gloried in things they should have been ashamed of, and those who minded earthly things will be placed on the left hand side and hear the great Judge say, "Depart from me."

A GREAT CHANGE—Philippians 3:21—When Christ comes, He will not set up a literal kingdom where people still live as they are now; rather, the resurrection will bring about a change from a mortal body to a spiritual body—a glorious body—like the one Christ has now. John said, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2). This shall be according to the working of His mighty power, for He is able to subdue all things unto Himself.

MARK THOSE THAT CAUSE DIVISION—Romans 16:17—Jesus prayed that His disciples would be one, even as He and the Father were one. Paul asked the congregation at Corinth, "Is Christ divided?" Further he instructed them, "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no division among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment" (I Corinthians 1:10). One of the seven things listed in Proverbs 6 that God hates is "he that soweth discord among brethren." "Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:3).

One of the reasons the various gifts listed in this fourth chapter of Ephesians were given was, "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (verses 12, 13). One who causes division is not doing it as a friend of the cross.

FALSE PROPHETS—II Peter 2:1—False prophets such as Balaam and many others troubled Old Testament Israel, and Peter says false prophets would be among the saints of his day—as they are in our day. They will not announce their coming! They will come in secretly like wolves in sheep’s clothing. They will not bring the truth but teachings that destroy the soul, even denying the Lord who bought our salvation. They will also doom their own souls.

MADE SHIPWRECK—I Timothy 1:19, 20—To put away the faith is bound to bring shipwreck. Some seem to think doctrine is not important, but the truth, the doctrine of Christ, is what sets one free when obeyed. Error will blind and bind the soul.

BEING RECONCILED—Romans 5:10—Sin separates from God and brings death to the soul. Jesus, through His death and resurrection, made it possible for us to be reconciled. Thus we cease being an enemy of the cross and become His friend.

CONCLUSION

We hear much about a supposed “anti-Christ” that is yet to come, but the apostle John said there were already many such people in the world in his day. The word “anti” means against, and there are many such people in the religious world today. To teach people error, such as “sin-you-must,” to lead them, or keep them, from the truth, is to be an enemy of the cross. Buy the truth and sell it not.

The apostle John said, “Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God [everyone who truly believes in Christ as the Son of God]: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world” (I John 4:1-3).

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who is an enemy of the cross of Christ?
2. Have you ever heard a preacher say he was a false prophet?
3. Why do people oppose the true gospel of Christ?
4. What kind of spirit does a false prophet have?
5. Has this lesson helped you to see you need to be more aware of false prophets?

LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR MARCH 7

DON'T BE ANXIOUS

Scriptures: Philippians 4:6, 7; Proverbs 24:19, 20; Psalm 37:4, 5, 7, 8; 18:2, 3; 9:10.

Philippians 4:6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 24:19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

Psalm 37:4 Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

5 Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass.

7 Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Psalm 18:2 The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.

3 I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.

Psalm 9:10 And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee.

Memory Verse: Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.—Philippians 4:6.

Aim: To impress upon the student the need to trust and not worry.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Philippians 4**
Tuesday **Proverbs 24**
Wednesday **Psalm 37**

Thursday **Psalm 42**
Friday **Psalm 9**
Saturday **Psalm 18**

INTRODUCTION

This lesson title introduces to us a very important subject. It deals with something that many people are troubled with. I think I would be safe in saying that even Christians have been bothered with it.

According to the dictionary the meaning of *anxiety* is "a state of being uneasy, apprehensive, or worried about what may happen; concern about a possible future event; an intense state of this kind, characterized by varying degrees of emotional disturbance and psychic tension; an eager but often uneasy desire to do well."

Anxious: "having or showing anxiety; uneasy in mind; apprehensive; worried; causing or full of anxiety; eagerly wishing."

A quote:

"Anxiety is a generalized mood condition that can occur without an identifiable triggering stimulus. As such, it is distinguished from fear,

which is an appropriate cognitive and emotional response to a perceived threat. Additionally, fear is related to the specific behaviors of escape and avoidance, whereas anxiety is related to situations perceived as uncontrollable or unavoidable. Another view defines anxiety as ‘a future-oriented mood state in which one is ready or prepared to attempt to cope with upcoming negative events.’”

The aim of this lesson is to impress upon the student the need to trust and not worry. I trust the study of the lesson will help each one to grow in his/her Christian experience in learning to trust the Lord more fully.

MEDITATIONS

BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING—Philippians 4:6—First, let us understand that Paul is not saying we should not be careful about things, for we should. The Scriptures teach us we should. Paul told Titus, “This is a faithful saying, and these things I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works” (Titus 3:8). “Be not anxious, for anxiety cannot change the state or condition of anything from bad to good, but will infallibly injure your own souls.”—Clarke. But by prayer and thanksgiving make your requests known to God. **Verse 7**—When we do present our requests to God in faith believing, then we can have peace of mind through Christ.

FRET NOT—Proverbs 24:19, 20—We read in Psalm 73:2, “But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” Later, the psalmist went into the house of the Lord and was made aware of the end of the wicked. Then he was no longer envious of them. In Psalm 37:1, 2, we read, “Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb.” David goes on to say, “Trust in the Lord, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed.”

DELIGHT THYSELF IN THE LORD—Psalm 37:4, 5—You can not delight yourself in the Lord as long as you are worried and anxious. But if you delight yourself in the Lord and trust in Him, He shall give thee the desires of your heart. God is still on the throne, and His kingdom rules over all, so He is well able to do what He has promised. Commit—it may not always be easy, but it is always best, to submit to the will of God, and in this verse we have another wonderful promise, “He shall bring it to pass.”

REST—WAIT—Psalm 37:7, 8—Jesus said, “Come unto me and I will give you rest.” Patience is a beautiful grace. It is the opposite of

fretting. Carnal anger is not pleasing to the Lord, and wrath is destructive to spiritual life. Never do evil, and never be envious of one who prospers “in his way,” for in the end all will be loss. “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 16:26).

THE LORD IS MY ROCK—Psalm 18:2, 3—Our lesson is about not being anxious, so we need to stand on the “Rock of Ages”! He is our deliverer. There is no problem He cannot solve. There is no test He cannot give us enough grace to overcome. No one has ever trusted Him in vain. He is indeed our high tower. So call upon the Lord in every time of need, and “so shall I be saved from mine enemies.”

THEY THAT KNOW THY NAME—Psalm 9:10—The Scriptures inform us that the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open to their cry; but His face is against those that do evil” (I Peter 3:12). When the psalmist speaks of knowing “thy name,” we understand him saying those who truly know Christ as Savior and Lord will put their trust in Him. He declares the “Lord has not forsaken them that seek thee.” Thank the Lord He never will! The storms of life may come, but the waters will not overflow those that put their trust in Him. And again, worrying, fretting, being anxious have never solved a problem and never will. It only makes matters worse.

CONCLUSION

Everything does not always go smoothly for the Christian. The Jews did not crucify Christ because they loved Him, but because He told them the truth. They crucified Him because He exposed their error and called them hypocrites. Jesus said, “If they hated me, they will hate you, also.”

The apostle Paul faced many hardships as he listed in II Corinthians 11:23-33. Later he said “none of these things move me.”

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What part does Satan have in causing one to be anxious?
2. What did Paul say we should do in the place of being anxious?
3. Consider the peace that the Lord gives in place of our being anxious.
4. Can one delight himself in the Lord when worrying and fretting?
5. What will those who “know His name” do?

LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR MARCH 14

THINK ON THESE THINGS

Scriptures: Philippians 4:8, 9; Proverbs 16:3; 23:7; Genesis 6:5; Mark 7:21; Isaiah 55:7-9.

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

Proverbs 16:3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

Proverbs 23:7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Genesis 6:5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth,

and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Mark 7:21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders.

Isaiah 55:7 Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Memory Verse: Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.—Philippians 4:8.

Aim: To inspire the student to think good thoughts.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Proverbs 16
Tuesday Proverbs 23
Wednesday Genesis 6

Thursday Mark 7
Friday Isaiah 55
Saturday Luke 6

INTRODUCTION

To be able to think, to reason, is a blessing God gave us when He created man. We are responsible for what we spend our time thinking about. The psalmist David said, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer" (Psalm 19:14) We read in Psalm 14:1a, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

The apostle Paul said, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). Ezekiel quotes the Lord as saying, "I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take

the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh” (Ezekiel 11:19). This lesson will help us to see what it really means to be a Christian and the change that takes place.

MEDITATIONS

WHATSOEVER THINGS—Philippians 4:8—Paul is informing the saints of what is involved in living a holy, righteous life. **True**—Have a love for the truth. **Honest**—Always tell the truth in all your dealings. **Just**—Do what is proper and right, never mistreat anyone. **Pure**—The pure in heart shall see God! Chaste in mind and body. **Lovely**—What is more lovely than a true Christian life? “For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation” (Psalm 149:4). **Good report**—Do not try to destroy someone’s reputation by gossip. Don’t just “think” on these things, but live them out in your daily life. **Verse 9**—These things which I have taught you, what you have seen in my life, DO, and the Lord will be with you.

COMMIT THY WORKS—Proverbs 16:3—God has given us His Word to live by; see that you do what is commanded, and your thoughts will be established.

AS HE THINKETH—Proverbs 23:7—God knows the thoughts and the intent of the heart. If your thoughts are on riches, the Lord knows your heart is not with Him.

GOD SAW—Genesis 6:5—Again, God knows the thoughts of our minds, and what He saw in the days of Noah was so evil He determined to destroy the world, and He did! You cannot do wrong and get by.

FROM WITHIN—Mark 7:21—It is taught in the religious world that this old flesh just has to sin, but that is a mistaken idea! The Bible informs us that every sin that a man doeth is without the body. A person can sin against the body, but it is the soul that commits the sin. That is what Jesus is teaching in this verse: out of the “heart” proceeds evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders. We see from this that many sins involve the body; just as Paul shows in Galatians 5:19-21, in the “works” of the flesh.

LET THE WICKED FORSAKE HIS WAY—Isaiah 55:7—It may be difficult for some to admit that their ways are wicked. There are some good moral people in the world, but sin, regardless of what type it is, is wickedness. Imputed sin is the act of breaking the law of God, whether it is evil thoughts, hatred, or some other action. Isaiah said, “All we like sheep have gone astray,” so we are the ones who have gone astray, and we are the ones who must return. Thank God, He made it

possible through Jesus Christ the only begotten Son of God for us to do so. The promise is that if the sinner will do so with a broken and contrite heart, the Lord will abundantly pardon.

FOR MY THOUGHTS—Isaiah 55:8—God is holy. He cannot be tempted with evil, neither does He ever tempt man to do evil. His thoughts are always pure, holy, and right. After Judah sinned so wickedly that God allowed many of them to be carried away to Babylon to be punished for 70 years, He said, “After seventy years be accomplished at Babylon I will visit you, and perform my good word toward you, in causing you to return to this place. For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not evil, to give you an expected end” (Jeremiah 29:10, 11).

THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH—Isaiah 55:9—Who knows how high that is? We should be glad to forsake our way and take God’s way when we realize the truth of this statement. Let us think on these things!

CONCLUSION

There is a battle going on continually as Satan tries to control our minds, for it is through the mind that he works to tempt us to do his evil work and will. In Mark, chapter five, we have the record of a man whose mind the evil one was able to control, and as a result he acted like a crazy man. He left his home, family, and friends, and went out among the tombs where the dead were buried. He cut himself with stones, and at all hours during the night he could be heard weeping and making terrible sounds. The townspeople captured him like an animal and tried to tame him, but the demons gave him power to break the chains and go back to the tombs. He was possessed by a legion of demons, but the loving, merciful Son of God came across the sea and set him free and sent him back to his family, for when the demons were cast out he was free to use his mind in a proper way again.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What are the things we are to think on?
2. When evil thoughts come to our minds, what are we to do with them?
3. What did God say about “our thoughts”?
4. Why did God destroy the people in Noah’s day?
5. Does the flesh sin?

LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR MARCH 21

THE STRENGTH TO DO ALL THINGS

Scriptures: Philippians 4:11-13; I John 4:4; Luke 10:19; Ephesians 6:10, 13; II Corinthians 12:9, 10; Isaiah 40:29.

Philippians 4:11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

I John 4:4 Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

Luke 10:19 Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

Ephesians 6:10 Finally, my brethren, be

strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Isaiah 40:29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Memory Verse: I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.—Philippians 4:13.

Aim: To encourage the student in the fact that he does not have to fail.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

I John 4

Luke 10

Ephesians 6

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Isaiah 40

II Corinthians 12

Acts 1

INTRODUCTION

A new convert is called a "babe in Christ." It should not be surprising that a "babe in Christ" will make mistakes and feel he has failed in some respects. By using the word "failed," we are not referring to a person losing his salvation and returning to a life of sin, although that can happen.

There are those who teach that it is impossible to lose your salvation. One writer said, "When it comes to the issue of eternal security, the Bible makes it absolutely clear that those who have been saved will never be lost."

Jesus taught differently! Paul said, "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are

become new” (II Corinthians 5:17). Now notice what Jesus said, “I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: ...” (John 15:1, 2a). When one is taken away from the Vine he dies. “If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned” (John 15:6).

It is not necessary for anyone to fail! I trust the study of this lesson will help each one to realize that by the grace of God, he can live a victorious Christian life.

MEDITATIONS

LEARNED TO BE CONTENT—Philippians 4:11—The congregation at Philippi had sent help to Paul on various occasions. It appears that, possibly, they had not sent help for awhile. In the meantime, Paul was satisfied with the wise providence and goodness of God; he did not question God’s dealings with him. He had learned to be content in whatever state he was in. What a valuable lesson to learn! The congregation at Philippi did send help to Paul by the hand of Epaphroditus while he was in prison in Rome, which was an encouragement to him. **Verse 12—I know how**—Paul had many experiences in his missionary journeys; he knew how to be abased and he knew how to abound. He knew how to conduct himself in all these conditions, and he, doubtless, learned many lessons while going through these things.

I CAN DO ALL THINGS—Philippians 4:13—Paul was not being boastful when making this statement, for he goes on to say, “through Christ which strengtheneth me.” Paul saw some wonderful miracles done in his efforts to spread the gospel. Christ told the disciples shortly before He left them to return to the Father, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:19). He told the disciples, and He tells us, that He will give us power over all the power of the enemy. Therefore, no one needs to fail of the grace of God.

YE ARE OF GOD, LITTLE CHILDREN—I John 4:4—In verse three John speaks of the spirit of anti-christ which was opposed to truth and right. He tells the saints, “You are of God,” and because they were of God, they had been given power to overcome the spirit of error. I don’t want to exalt Satan in any way, but the power of these spirits is not small! Multitudes of people in the world are held in bondage to spirits of error, thinking they are in the truth. Here is the reason the saints were able to overcome these evil spirits: “greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.”

NOTHING BY ANY MEANS SHALL HURT YOU—Luke 10:19—There are religious people who believe they must handle rattlesnakes to prove they have faith in God. Instead, they are tempting

God, which Jesus told Satan we are not to do (Matthew 4:7). Jesus had no reference to literal serpents and scorpions, but rather the imps of Satan, the spirits of false religion. "But when he [John the forerunner of Christ] saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matthew 3:7). Jesus said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:17).

BE STRONG—Ephesians 6:10—Peter, it would seem, put too much confidence in self, and that is why he denied the Lord. Paul's instructions are for us to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. One who will do that will not fail. **Verse 13**—The Lord has provided the means whereby we can overcome every attack of that wicked one. *Note*: there is no armor provided for the back. "Forward, forward is the battle cry"! Be sure you do all to stand. When you do, God will provide the rest.

MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR THEE—II Corinthians 12:9—Paul does not fully explain what this thorn in the flesh was, except that it was given by Satan to buffet him. But he does explain why God allowed it, and why God did not remove it: "lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations" given to him. When Paul realized it was for his good, and that God's grace was sufficient to see him through, he said, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

I TAKE PLEASURE IN INFIRMITIES—II Corinthians 12:10—This surely took the grace of God. When Paul and Silas were beaten and put in jail at Philippi, they did not murmur or complain, but at the midnight hour they sang and praised God. The Lord was so pleased with His children that He sent an earthquake and caused the chains and stocks to fall off them. The reason Paul could take pleasure in these things was because he realized he was doing it for Christ's sake. In the last statement in this verse, we understand Paul to be saying, "When I realize my weakness, I put my dependence in the Lord, and then am I strong."

HE GIVETH POWER TO THE FAINT—Isaiah 40:29—When we think of someone being faint, we think of him being weak. The Scriptures say, "Men ought always to pray and not to faint." Failing to pray will cause one to become weak in his Christian experience. In verse 28 of this chapter, Isaiah said, "Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding." Therefore, He is well able to give power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. So there is no

reason for us to fail in this Christian race. “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses [those mentioned in chapter eleven], let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God” (Hebrews 12:1, 2).

CONCLUSION

There are two great forces at work in the earth. One is good and one is evil. Jesus Christ, the eternal Word, left the glories of heaven, the presence of the Father, the worship of the heavenly angels, and came into this sin-cursed world to die on the cruel cross of Calvary so you and I could be freed from the prisonhouse of sin. Having loved us so much, He will not allow the wicked one to overcome us IF we will do our part. We are to submit ourselves to God and resist the devil. If we will, he will flee from us. If we will draw nigh to God, He will draw nigh to us.

Jesus never used His power for His own personal advantage. His work was to benefit others and to glorify the Father: healing the blind, the lame, the lepers, forgiving sins, feeding the multitudes and even raising the dead. “Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” (John 14:13). The apostle Paul tells us that whatever we do, we are to do it to the glory of God. The strength Christ gives is for us to be able to do the will of the Father.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What was one important lesson Paul learned?
2. By what power did Paul accomplish the great work he did?
3. What were the serpents and scorpions Jesus was telling the disciples He would give them power over?
4. How many times did Paul ask Christ to remove the “thorn” and what answer did he get?
5. What did Paul mean when he said, “When I am weak, then am I strong”?

LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR MARCH 28

GOD'S FAITHFULNESS TO US

Scriptures: Philippians 4:19, 20; Lamentations 3:22, 23; Psalm 37:25; I Corinthians 10:13; II Thessalonians 3:3; I John 1:9; Hebrews 13:5; Psalm 89:33.

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Lamentations 3:22 It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

Psalm 37:25 I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

I Corinthians 10:13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suf-

fer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

II Thessalonians 3:3 But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep you from evil.

I John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

Psalm 89:33 Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.

Memory Verse: But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.—Philippians 4:19.

Aim: To remind the student that God is faithful to His children.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Lamentations 3	Thursday	II Thessalonians 3
Tuesday	I John 1	Friday	Hebrews 13
Wednesday	I Corinthians 10	Saturday	Psalm 89

INTRODUCTION

Webster's Dictionary has this to say about the word faithful: "keeping faith; maintaining allegiance to someone or something; constant; loyal; having or showing a strong sense of duty or responsibility; conscientious [faithful attendance]; accurate; reliable; exact; full of faith, especially religious faith."

The Bible has many verses in which you will find the word *faithful*: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for he is faithful that promised" (Hebrews 10:23). "Know therefore that the Lord thy God, he is God, the faithful God, which keepeth covenant and mercy with them that love him and keep his commandments to a thousand generations" (Deuteronomy 7:9). These verses help us to see that God's faithfulness depends somewhat on our faithfulness to Him.

MEDITATIONS

HIS RICHES IN GLORY—Philippians 4:19—We have many needs as we journey through life, and Paul tells us the Lord is able to supply those needs according to His riches in glory. How great are His riches! **Verse 20**—We need to give glory, worship, and praise to God for all His rich blessings to us. We are told in the Scriptures, “With thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.”

THE LORD’S MERCIES—Lamentations 3:22, 23—It was the Lord’s mercies that we were not cut off in our sins—that we were not consumed. Because His compassions fail not, we are blessed every day. They are new every morning. As we awake and begin the activities of the day, let us remember the faithfulness of God and give Him thanks.

THE RIGHTEOUS ARE NEVER FORSAKEN—Psalm 37:25—Living a righteous life has many rewards! How many people are living in poverty today because they have lived a sinful life? I am not saying you will be rich in material things if you live right, but you will have the Lord with you, and He is able to supply your needs, even as you advance into old age.

GOD IS FAITHFUL—I Corinthians 10:13—It is not just in material things that God is faithful; we have other needs as we journey along. One great need to have is grace sufficient to overcome that wicked one who comes with his temptations. We may feel we are the only ones that have a certain trial or test, but Paul says not so; what you are facing is common to man. Even so, God is faithful, and He will make a way to escape it, and, by His grace, we can bear it.

KEEP YOU FROM EVIL—II Thessalonians 3:3—John said, “The whole world lies in wickedness.” The Scriptures tell us, “Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound.” So, regardless of how wicked times may be, the Lord has promised to keep us, and He always keeps His promises.

FAITHFUL TO FORGIVE—I John 1:9—All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. John said, “If we say we have not [never] sinned, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us” (verse 8). But the good news—the gospel—is that if we will confess our sins with a broken and contrite heart, the Lord is faithful to forgive and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

LET YOUR MANNER OF LIVING BE—Hebrews 13:5—Live a life of thankfulness, a satisfied life. Do not covet what other people have. The psalmist almost backslid on one occasion because he became envious of what others had, but when he went into the house of the Lord and was made aware of their end, he no longer envied

them. The Lord has promised us that if we will do what is right, He will never leave us nor forsake us. In other words, He will meet our needs.

MY LOVINGKINDNESS—Psalm 89:33—This Psalm deals in part with David: “I have found my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. ... If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; If they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; Then will I visit their transgressions with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly [completely] take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail.”

The righteousness of God compels Him to punish the evil deeds of the people. Even so, He is willing to forgive when the evil doer forsakes his way, for He will not allow His faithfulness to fail.

CONCLUSION

There are faithful people in this world, and you can depend on what they say. Nehemiah said of his brother, “I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many” (Nehemiah 7:2). God found Abraham to be faithful, “Thou art the Lord the God, who didst choose Abram, and broughtest him forth ... and gavest him the name of Abraham; and found his heart faithful before thee” (Nehemiah 9:8, 9).

May the Lord find us faithful, for He is always faithful to us.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Is the faithful God your God?
2. Have you found His mercies new “every morning”?
3. Have you always found the Lord faithful in times of temptation?
4. Have you been faithful to Him? To others?
5. Are you aware that God’s riches to us are through Christ Jesus?

Note: *I trust this series of lessons from Paul’s letter to the Church of God at Philippi has been a blessing to you. Study it carefully for more food for your soul.*

Name _____

Class _____

Lessons from the Book of Philippians

ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S

FOR THIS QUARTER:

L#1.. January 3 . . .	Origin of the Philippian Church	Page 3
L#2.. January 10 . . .	Striving Together	Page 7
L#3.. January 17 . . .	Proper Attitudes	Page 10
L#4.. January 24 . . .	Having the Mind of Christ	Page 13
L#5.. January 31 . . .	Working Out Your Salvation	Page 16
L#6.. February 7 . . .	Shining for Christ	Page 19
L#7.. February 14 . . .	Consecration	Page 23
L#8.. February 21 . . .	How to Approach Christian Life	Page 27
L#9.. February 28 . . .	Enemies of the Cross of Christ	Page 31
L#10. March 7	Don't Be Anxious	Page 35
L#11. March 14	Think on These Things	Page 38
L#12. March 21	The Strength to Do All Things	Page 41
L#13. March 28	God's Faithfulness to Us	Page 45