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# **The Bible Teaches**

**Adult and Young People's Quarterly**

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Bible is the most important book in the world! The reason it is so important is very simple: it contains the Word of God. It reveals to us the God of eternity. It brings to us His mind, His will. It reveals to us His love for us, His desire for our happiness, and it reveals to us the way of life. Therefore, we need to study this precious Book and apply its teachings to our everyday life.

The series of lessons presented in this quarterly cover some very important truths. No lesson fully covers the subject dealt with, therefore we trust each one will put forth a real effort to study through the week, and come to class prepared to add something to the lesson.

Our desire for each one is that as you study and learn, you will apply the truth to your own heart and life. Thus the Church of God in your area will be benefited as you individually grow in your personal experience.

May God bless each student.

**THE WAY OF TRUTH**

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**PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE**

## LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR APRIL 6

# FORSAKING SIN

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 1:16, 17; 55:7; Jeremiah 4:14; Ezekiel 18:27; 33:11; Acts 3:26; James 4:8; Proverbs 28:13.

**Isaiah 1:16** Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;

**17** Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

**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.

**Jeremiah 4:14** O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?

**Ezekiel 18:27** Again, when the wicked man turneth away from his wickedness that he hath committed, and doeth that which is lawful and right, he shall save his

soul alive.

**Ezekiel 33:11** Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

**Acts 3:26** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.

**James 4:8** Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

**Proverbs 28:13** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

**Memory Verse:** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

—Proverbs 28:13.

**Aim:** To show that to be a Christian one must forsake his sins.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Isaiah 1  
**Tuesday** Jeremiah 4  
**Wednesday** Ezekiel 18

**Thursday** Ezekiel 33  
**Friday** Matthew 1  
**Saturday** James 4

## INTRODUCTION

Sin is the transgression of the law of God. God's Word is His law. He has given us His Word to live by. Obeying His law brings happiness and peace. Disobeying His law brings misery, suffering, war, and death. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God; all need to be saved. Church-going is not salvation. Being baptized in water does not wash away sins. For a sinner to become a child of God, he must depart from a life of sin. Of course, the unsaved cannot do this in his own strength. That is why Jesus Christ came into this wicked world and died on the cross, to make it possible for all to forsake sin and become a child of God. What the unsaved must do is come to the place where he is willing to respond to the drawing power of the Holy Spirit, repenting of, and forsaking his sins.

## MEDITATIONS

**A MAN WITH A BURDEN—Isaiah 1:16, 17—Isaiah pleads with his people**—Isaiah was called of God to warn Israel to depart from a life of sin. He declared the whole nation was sick. The same could be said for the nations of the world today. Sin brings moral sickness to society and death to the soul. Isaiah pleads with his people, “Put away the evil of your doings.” Now notice the next statement, “Cease to do evil.” Sin is evil; to cease doing evil, a person must forsake sin. In the place of evil, “Learn to do well,” and verse 17 points out ways for us to do this.

**LET THE WICKED—Isaiah 55:7—Wicked**—Many think of a bank robber or a murderer when they think of a wicked person, but really, in God’s sight, all sinners are wicked! Therefore, the Lord through Isaiah pleads with the people to forsake their wicked ways, their unrighteous thoughts, and return to the Lord. Sin separates you from fellowship with God. To have fellowship with Him, you must forsake sin. This wonderful promise is given to those who will forsake sin: “He will abundantly pardon.” Praise the Lord!

**JEREMIAH PLEADS WITH JERUSALEM—Jeremiah 4:14—That thou mayest be saved**—Some would have us believe that sin is just a state of the mind, but the Scriptures teach that it is the soul that sins. A man who knowingly breaks the law of God is a sinner. Jeremiah pleads with the people of Jerusalem to wash their hearts from wickedness so that they could be saved. You must be cleansed from wickedness to be saved today. There is only One who can do this for you, the Lord Jesus.

**EZEKIEL SETS FORTH THE STANDARD—Ezekiel 18:27—Turn away from**—The wicked, and that means any and all sinners must turn from, must forsake sin to live. Of course, a person cannot save himself; he cannot just say, “I am going to turn from my sin,” and do it in his own human strength. But Christ will give all power to become sons of God if people will turn from their evil ways and seek Him with all their heart. This is the only way the soul shall live.

**GOD PLEADS WITH THE PEOPLE—Ezekiel 33:11—Turn ye**—God is love; God is also righteous, and He cannot put His approval on sin. Adam and Eve lost their happy state because of sin. Millions upon millions have suffered since, not because God willed it to be so, but because the family of man has rejected God’s way. In this verse, God makes it clear that it is not His will for people to die in their sins, but they will unless they obey the voice of the Lord and turn from their wicked ways. “Turn ye, turn ye,” pleads the loving voice of God.

**GOD SENT JESUS—Acts 3:26—Sent him to bless—**Jesus came to bring blessings to the family of man. Though He was rejected by the masses, He did what the Father sent Him to do. God raised Him from the dead so that we could turn from evil and do good. Remember, Paul said if Christ be not raised, our faith is vain and we are yet in our sins. Thank God for a living, risen Savior whose purpose was, and is, to turn people from their iniquities.

**JAMES GIVES INSTRUCTIONS—James 4:8—Draw nigh to God—**To be able to draw nigh to God, a person must come to the place where he is willing to forsake sin. Therefore, James says, “Cleanse your hands”; in other words, forsake your sins, “ye sinners.” This is possible only through Jesus Christ. A sinner must realize he is a sinner and needs a Savior; he must realize Jesus is the only Savior, and he must seek Him with all his heart. God will reward those who do.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—Proverbs 28:13—Forsaketh—**Our memory verse is very clear and forceful. He who would cover his sins rather than forsake them shall not prosper, not in true riches, but he who confesses and forsakes them shall find mercy in the sight of God. Today, this may not seem so important to some reading this lesson, but what about the coming judgment—will it not be then? Yes!

## CONCLUSION

As we look around us today and see what sin has done, and is doing to the family of man, why should anyone, much less preachers, take up for sin? Thank God, Jesus Christ came to destroy the works of the devil, and sin is all on his side; it is his works and has no place in the life of the true child of God. We are not saying that a child of God will never make a mistake, we are not saying he will not learn more truth as he journeys along the highway of holiness, but we are saying when a person truly receives Christ, he forsakes a life of sin and he lives free from all known sin. We trust this lesson will help souls to see they can forsake sin, and not only see they can, but inspire them to do so.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is sin?
2. Who is a sinner?
3. What must a person do to forsake sin?
4. What happens when a person does forsake sin?
5. Must one who has forsaken sin return to it?
6. Have you forsaken sin?

## LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR APRIL 13

# THE UNITY OF THE SPIRIT

**Scriptures:** I Corinthians 12:13; Acts 4:32; Philippians 1:27; John 17:20, 21; Jeremiah 32:39; Psalm 133:1; Ephesians 4:3.

**I Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**Acts 4:32** And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common.

**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.

**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.

**Jeremiah 32:39** And I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me for ever, for the good of them, and of their children after them.

**Psalm 133:1** Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!

**Ephesians 4:3** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

**Memory Verse:** Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.—Ephesians 4:3.

**Aim:** To show that God's will is for all His people to be in unity.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 17</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 12</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Psalm 133</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Romans 12</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acts 4</b>

### INTRODUCTION

The Word of God in written form is a marvelous Book. It has stood the tests of ages. It has brought hope, life, and peace to those who were willing to obey it. But how sad that so few, comparatively, have. One reason, among others, for the lack of the multitudes accepting its marvelous message is the divided state of religion. This division is responsible for millions being lost. Division among God's people is contrary to the Word. Satan works to divide God's people so that he can weaken their testimony, hinder their effectiveness, and cause people to doubt the message of the Word of God.

The apostle Paul tells us to put forth a real effort to keep the unity of the Spirit—Ephesians 4:3—because he knew Satan would try to divide and separate and because he knew that unity would bring greater power to the church.

As we study this lesson, let us remember, Jesus prayed for His disciples to be "one."

## MEDITATIONS

**ONE SPIRIT—ONE BODY—I Corinthians 12:13—By one Spirit**—Paul states that by one Spirit, the Holy Spirit, we all, that is, all who are saved, are inducted into the one body of Christ, the church. The Holy Spirit convicts of sin. When the sinner comes to Christ in true godly sorrow and repents of all sins, believing God forgives him, he is saved and right there made a member of the body of Christ. There is no need for, and the Bible does not teach, a person to join anything. Joining is what fosters division.

**MANY YET ONE—Acts 4:32—Were of one heart**—The early morning church had power with God. People were healed, people were saved, and devils were cast out. However, they did not split into different churches. They did not believe it necessary to have different groups just because people were different. They who believed the gospel were of one heart and one soul. They had unity and they had power.

**WORKING TOGETHER—Philippians 1:27—Let your conversation be**—In the Scriptures, the word *conversation* is used for “manner of living,” and in this verse, Paul says our manner of living should be as becomes the gospel of Christ. Those who did this were sure to stand fast in one spirit, having one mind; that is, all were concerned for the upbuilding of God’s kingdom, striving together, not against one another.

**THE LORD’S PRAYER—John 17:20, 21—That they all may be one**—In John 17 we find the Lord’s prayer. This prayer included us, if we believe on the Lord, for Jesus said He was praying for those who would believe on Him through the disciples’ word. This is what He prayed: “That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us.” Surely there is no division in the Godhead; they are ONE: one in power, one in purpose, one in holiness, one in every desire. Christ prayed that we be one in like manner so that the world would believe that God had sent Him. No wonder millions do not believe! Look at the divided state of those who claim to believe on Him. The Holy Spirit does not cause division among saints of God. Division is the work of an enemy. Division is contrary to the will and wish of God.

**FOR THE GOOD OF ALL—Jeremiah 32:39—The good of them**—The Lord said He would give His people one heart and one way; there are many ways that seem right, but God’s way is the only way that is right. His way is the way of holiness, the way of unity, the way of oneness. The Lord said He would give His people this one way “for the good of them, and of their children after them.” The Lord’s way is good!

**Psalm 133:1—How pleasant**—David, the author of this writing, knew some troublesome times; he also knew some pleasant times. He knew from experience that it was good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity. Why should it be otherwise? If we have an experience with God, we have the same Father, we have the same Bible as our guide, and there is only one Holy Spirit to lead us.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—Ephesians 4:3—Endeavoring**—Whatever God desires, you may rest assured that the devil will oppose. Unity brings power and victory; this the devil does not want for the forces of righteousness; therefore, he works in every way possible to weaken, divide, and conquer. We are instructed by Paul to put forth effort to keep the unity of the Spirit. To fail to do this is to fail to obey the Word. It is to God’s glory and our good to do this. May God help us all to endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit.

## CONCLUSION

There are two unities taught in the Scriptures, the unity of the Spirit and the unity of the faith. If we are truly saved, we have the Spirit with us; if we are sanctified, we have the Spirit dwelling within. We are to walk in the light as God allows it to shine on our pathway. This will not only enable us to keep the unity of the Spirit, but will enable Him to lead us also into the unity of the faith, which is seeing the truth alike. People can agree on false doctrine, but unity of the faith is agreement on truth.

If we do not put forth effort to keep the unity of the Spirit, we can never have unity of the faith! Furthermore, those who fail to put forth effort to keep the unity of the Spirit will be in danger of losing out with God. The Spirit of God never divides God’s people. Division among God’s people is caused by another spirit, for Satan knows if he can divide, he will have a better chance to conquer. Of course, we do not speak of union with false religion. The Spirit of God will not lead us to unite with that which is false. There is a great difference between “union” of various religions and the “unity of the Spirit.”

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is unity of the Spirit?
2. What is unity of the faith?
3. Who can have true unity?
4. Can people with different spirits have true unity?
5. Are all of God’s people to have unity one with another?
6. Is there a need for greater unity?
7. Are you striving to obey this truth?



## LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR APRIL 20

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**Scriptures:** Daniel 2:44; Mark 1:15; Luke 16:16; 17:20, 21; Colossians 1:12, 13; John 18:36; Romans 14:17.

**Daniel 2:44** And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

**Mark 1:15** And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

**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.

**Luke 17:20** And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation:

**21** Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

**Colossians 1:12** Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

**13** Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.

**John 18:36** Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.

**Romans 14:17** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

**Memory Verse:** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.—Romans 14:17.

**Aim:** To show that the kingdom of God is a present reality.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Daniel 2  
**Tuesday** Mark 1  
**Wednesday** Luke 16

**Thursday** Colossians 1  
**Friday** Romans 14  
**Saturday** John 18

### INTRODUCTION

We are the subjects of time! Soon time will be no more. How people can teach there will be a thousand years after the “last day” is strange indeed. The Bible sets forth the truth that the current dispensation is the last age of time. All through the Old Testament, the present age is prophesied of as the “last days”; the reader is invited to read Micah 4, Isaiah 2, and Jeremiah 23. For instance, Jeremiah 23 gives a clear prediction of Christ’s first advent, the establishing of His kingdom, and His great salvation work in this age.

This then being the last age of time, the kingdom of God is here and now. “The essentials to the complete establishment and existence of a kingdom are five in number: (1) A king as the ruling head; (2) A throne from which he issues his decrees; (3) Territory over which he

has jurisdiction; (4) Subjects in that territory to rule over; (5) Laws to govern the subjects.”—H. M. Riggle, *Christ’s Kingdom and Reign*.

Christ is King now, and He is ruling now. Christ is on His throne now, “But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom” (Hebrews 1:8).

Jesus Himself said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth” (Matthew 28:18). His kingdom ruleth over all. The subjects Christ is now ruling over are the saints of God, the redeemed. The laws that govern the kingdom are the laws of the New Covenant.

Further, any time you read of the kingdom in the Scriptures, as to the time of its duration, it is always spoken of as an **everlasting** kingdom, never as a thousand years.

May the Lord bless each student as you study this important subject.

## MEDITATIONS

**GOD KEEPS HIS WORD—Daniel 2:44—In the days—**In the second chapter of Daniel, we have a picture of four world-ruling kingdoms: Babylonian, Medo-Persian, Grecian, and Roman. Many would try to work in the ten toes as kingdoms as well; even if such be done, they were not world-ruling kingdoms. However, this verse declares that during the time of these or during the span of these four world-ruling kingdoms, the God of heaven would set up a kingdom. The kingdom would not be left to other people; in other words, it would not pass from one king to another, from one family to another; Jesus Christ was to be its only King. Note also that this kingdom was to stand forever. Verse 34 gives us the truth that the time of the fulfillment of their prophecy would be during the fourth kingdom, the Roman.

**JESUS SPEAKS—Mark 1:15—The time—**How could Scripture be plainer? Jesus said the time is fulfilled! What time? The time of Daniel’s prophecy. “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Is it not strange that people will so carelessly disregard the Master’s words and say the kingdom is yet out in the future when He said it was “at hand”? How could a thing be at hand and yet not come to pass for two thousand years or longer?

**THE PHARISEES DID NOT BELIEVE—Luke 16:16—Every man presseth—**Modern Pharisees still do not believe; nevertheless, Jesus said the kingdom of God was preached and those who believed and obeyed the message pressed into it. Again, isn’t it strange that souls could become a part of, could press into, something that did not exist? The devil does not want people to have the blessings of the king-

dom so he has deceived many into thinking it is yet out in the future. When time is no more and people are awakened to this truth, it will be too late.

**THE PHARISEES ASK QUESTIONS—Luke 17:20, 21—When**—The Pharisees did not believe Jesus was the Christ; they were not seeking truth. Their desire was to trip Him up in His words. Even so, He had an answer to their question. The kingdom of God is not a literal kingdom; it did not come with outward show and pomp. Some try to set aside the truth of this verse by saying the kingdom of God was not in these doubters. That, of course, is true; but even if we were to say “among” as the marginal reading in my Bible does, it still does not change the fact that the kingdom was THERE! It could not be in them, nor among them without existing.

**A TRANSFER—Colossians 1:12, 13—Translated us—**Paul expresses thanks to the Father for making him “meet” to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light. This was done by delivering him from the power of darkness, the kingdom of darkness, and by translating him into the kingdom of Christ. Paul had this experience and so does every child of God. Christ has only one kingdom. Paul was in it and he tells us how he got in it.

**JESUS SPEAKS—John 18:36—My kingdom—**Jesus Christ made it clear that He has a kingdom. He did not say His coming kingdom or His future kingdom; He said, “My kingdom,” so He has one, but it is not an earthly, literal kingdom. It is not! Why do men insist on teaching the very opposite of the Master? “Now is my kingdom”; I believe that, too!

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—WHAT THE KINGDOM IS—Romans 14:17—The kingdom of God—**Here again Paul speaks of the kingdom of God in the present tense. Here again Paul, even as Christ, makes it clear the kingdom of God is not a literal, earthly kingdom; it is not meat and drink, but it IS! What is it? It is a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is King of saints, King of righteousness, King of peace, King of joy and His subjects have these things as they abide in Him.

*There's a theme that is sweet to my memory,  
There's a joy that I cannot express,  
There's a treasure that gladdens my being,  
'Tis the kingdom of God's righteousness.*

*'Tis a kingdom of peace, it is reigning within,  
It shall ever increase in my soul;  
We possess it right here when He saves from all sin,  
And 'twill last while the ages shall roll.*

## CONCLUSION

The kingdom of God is a vast subject indeed, and there are different phases of the kingdom, but when it comes to God's people, they are subjects in the kingdom here and now. They are reigning with Christ now! Over sin!! And a solemn fact is, if you do not reign with Him in this life, you will NOT reign with Him in the next. The devil knows this, and he is doing all he can to keep people out of the kingdom, including furthering the false doctrine that the kingdom does not now exist, and that people will have to wait until later when the devil is bound to be able to live a righteous life. God gets glory out of our living holy now while the devil is free to tempt us, and we, by the grace of God, say no.

“The idea that the Messiah would establish a literal kingdom upon the earth originated with the Jews. Many of them placed literal interpretations upon those prophecies which foretold the coming of Christ, and, as a result, they expected Him to set up a temporal throne, subdue the nations and restore again the kingdom to Israel. This gross error led them to reject Christ, oppose His spiritual kingdom, and consent to His death. They wanted only an earthly kingdom and hence rejected and crucified the Son of God. He did not meet their expectations, therefore He became a stumblingblock to them. He said, ‘Ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures’; ‘my kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight’ (John 18:36).”—H. M. Riggle.

Many in the religious world today are making the same mistake the Jews made, looking for the Messiah to come and set up a literal kingdom, whereas His kingdom has already been set up. And when He comes the second time, He is coming to **deliver** up the kingdom to the Father, not to set it up—see I Corinthians 15:24.

Let me encourage each student to make sure they are in it by being born again.

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the duration of the kingdom of God?
2. What did Jesus say about Daniel's prophecy?
3. Can men press into something that does not exist?
4. Where did Jesus tell the Pharisees the kingdom was?
5. Was Paul in the kingdom? How did he get there?
6. Are you a subject in the kingdom of God?

## LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR APRIL 27

# THE ONE BODY

**Scriptures:** Romans 12:4, 5; I Corinthians 12:13, 18, 24-26; Ephesians 1:22, 23; 4:4, 16; Colossians 1:18.

**Romans 12:4** 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.

**I Corinthians 12:13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

**18** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

**24** For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honor to that part which lacked:

**25** That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

**26** And whether one member suffer, all

the members suffer with it; or one member be honored, all the members rejoice with it.

**Ephesians 1:22** And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

**23** Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.

**Ephesians 4:4** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.

**16** From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

**Colossians 1:18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**Memory Verse:** There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling.—Ephesians 4:4.

**Aim:** To show that Christ has only one body, i.e., church.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 12</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Colossians 1</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 12</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 1</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Matthew 16</b>

### INTRODUCTION

In a world filled with religious confusion, with hundreds of different religious groups, it should be plain that not all could be right.

What difference does it make to what church you belong? As long as you are sincere, you will be all right. How many times has this question been asked and the above statement been made?

If they were all of God, it wouldn't make any difference. But are we to believe that God is the author of confusion? Did not Jesus pray that all His disciples be one?

How am I to know which one is right? Jesus said if we would continue in His Word, then we would be His disciples indeed, and we would know the truth and the truth would make us free.

The Scriptures declare Christ has only ONE body, one church. The all-important question is—are you a member?

May the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth, bring light and knowledge to hearts as we study the Word in regard to the one body of Christ.

## MEDITATIONS

**MEMBERS ONE OF ANOTHER—Romans 12:4, 5—One body**—Some seem to feel that because we have so many different people in the world with diverse likes and dislikes, then we must have various kinds of churches to take care of all these different people. Not so! Just as the human body has many members, and certainly the hands are different from the feet, the eye from the ears, yet these different members go together to form a wonderful body. The Psalmist said we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and so we are. Paul said that same thing about the body of Christ: “So we, being many, are one body in Christ.” Regardless of how many saved people there are on the face of the earth, there is still only one body, for Paul says, “... every one members one of another.”

**ONE SPIRIT FOR ONE BODY—I Corinthians 12:13—Into one body**—There is only one Spirit in the world working to see sinners saved. That is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said when He, the Spirit, came, He would reprove the world of sin; it is the Spirit that convicts the sinner. It is the Spirit that draws him to the cross of Christ. It is the work of the Spirit to induct a person into the one body, the body of Christ. This He does when a person repents with godly sorrow and turns his back on sin. Make no mistake about this: only the Spirit inducts into the body of Christ. To enter another religious body, you must do it some other way, a way the Word does not teach. **Verse 18—Set the members**—Paul declares it is God who sets the members in the true body. How different this is from the modern sects. God makes pastors out of some by giving them the gift of pastoring. He makes teachers out of some by giving them the gift of teaching. These gifts are not received by attending college or religious schools; they are gifts of the Spirit. That is not to say a person shouldn't get a true education but only to point out that God must be free to place the members in the body as it pleases Him.

**SOME HAVE MORE ABILITY THAN OTHERS—I Corinthians 12:24, 25—God hath tempered**—In the human body, there are certain members we depend on more than others. However, all are important. The same is true in the body of Christ: every member is important. The janitor needs to do his job well, the prayer warrior needs to do his job well, the teacher needs to do his job well, and the pastor needs to do his best for the Master and for the flock. And all

members, Paul said, should have the same care one for another. To do this is to avoid division. **Verse 26—Suffer**—Furthermore, Paul says when one member of the body suffers, the rest should suffer with it. When a member of our physical body is hurt, the rest of the body tries to protect it. The same should be true in the body of Christ. When one is honored, all rejoice together. There is no place in the body of Christ for jealousy.

**CHRIST IS ALL—Ephesians 1:22, 23—Put all things**—God has put all things under Christ and has given Him “to be the head over all things to the church which is His body.” Six hundred million Catholics can be wrong, and they are wrong, for the Pope is not the head of the church. Nor is any other man. No human is capable of being such.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—Ephesians 4:4—One body**—Here Paul clearly and plainly states there is one body. No one can deny this plain statement without denying the truth of the Bible. There is one Spirit to go with one body. **Verse 16—The whole body**—Just as each member of the physical body works together for the good of the human body, so every member of the body of Christ is to work for the good of every other member. Thus each will help to increase the body; it will edify itself and be built up in love.

**CHRIST TO BE WORSHIPED—Colossians 1:18—Head of the body**—Here Paul not only informs us that Christ is the Head of the body, but he also makes it clear that the body he is speaking of is the church, the church Jesus purchased with His own blood (Acts 20:28). Further, Paul says He, Christ, is to have the preeminence. What a terrible fate awaits the popes who through the ages have allowed people to call them “holy father,” to bow before them, to carry them on their shoulders, and in other ways received improper honor from their fellowmen. Christ alone is to be honored as Head of His church.

## CONCLUSION

It is not our purpose to hurt or offend any precious soul in setting forth the truth of the one body. Our desire is to help souls. According to Revelation 20:15, when the judgment comes, if your name is not in the “Book of Life,” you will be cast into the lake of fire. The Book of Life is the church book of “the one body.” The way you get your name written in it is by being born again. All other church books will be burned up; none will appear at the judgment. How important it is to keep it there by living a holy life.

C. W. Naylor has set forth precious Bible truths in the following hymn. We invite you to read it carefully.

## O CHURCH OF GOD

*The church of God one body is,  
One Spirit dwells within;  
And all her members are redeemed,  
And triumph over sin.*

Chorus:

*O Church of God! I love thy courts,  
Thou mother of the free;  
Thou blessed home of all the saved,  
I dwell content in thee.*

*Divinely built, divinely ruled,  
To God she doth submit;  
His will her law, his truth her guide,  
Her path is glory lit.*

*God sets her members each in place,  
According to his will—  
Apostles, prophets, teachers, all,  
His purpose to fulfill.*

*Salvation is her holy walls,  
The cross her sign of pow'r;  
Her captain is the mighty God,  
Who guards her every hour.*

*In beauty stand, O Church of God,  
With righteousness arrayed;  
Put on thy strength and face thy foes  
With courage undismayed.*

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How many bodies does the Word say there are?
2. Who is the Head of the one body?
3. How do you become a member?
4. How should the different members treat one another?
5. What part does the Spirit play in making members in the body of Christ?
6. What part do the members play in increasing the body?
7. Have you found your place in the body?



## LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR MAY 4

# THE TEMPLE OF GOD

**Scriptures:** I Chronicles 22:5; I Peter 2:5; I Corinthians 3:16, 17; 6:19, 20; II Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 2:19-22.

**I Chronicles 22:5** And David said, Solomon my son is young and tender, and the house that is to be builded for the Lord must be exceeding magnifical, of fame and of glory throughout all countries: I will therefore now make preparation for it. So David prepared abundantly before his death.

**I Peter 2:5** Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

**I Corinthians 3:16** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

**17** If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

**I Corinthians 6:19** 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?

**20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

**II Corinthians 6:16** And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

**Ephesians 2:19** Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

**20** And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

**21** In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

**22** In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

**Memory Verse:** Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?—I Corinthians 3:16.

**Aim:** To set forth truth in regard to God's temple today.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** I Chronicles 22  
**Tuesday** I Peter 2  
**Wednesday** I Corinthians 3

**Thursday** I Corinthians 6  
**Friday** II Corinthians 6  
**Saturday** Ephesians 2

### INTRODUCTION

Through the ages there have been many beautiful temples built. Many have been built for the worship of some idol. In Lebanon, and other countries of the Middle East, one can see ruins yet today of temples built for idols, temples that thousands of workers spent years in building. All in vain.

Solomon had a very beautiful temple built in Jerusalem for the worship of the true God. It was one of the most beautiful ever built, and it was most meaningful, for it was a type of the Church of God.

In the wilderness, God had the children of Israel to build a tabernacle with two rooms. The Lord told them in the second room, over the Mercy Seat, His presence would be. We assume the same was true in

the temple at Jerusalem. But in this New Testament age, no literal building in Jerusalem, nor anywhere else, is the temple of God.

In our lesson today, we want to impress your heart with the truth of God's temple in this present age.

## MEDITATIONS

**A GREAT BUILDING—I Chronicles 22:5—The house that is to be built**—David had desired to build a house for the Lord, but the Lord would not permit him to build the temple. However, David did gather together much material. He was determined that it would be a glory throughout all countries. When it was finished, it was. God's presence came and filled it. The glory of the temple and the mighty presence of God were a type of the church in the New Testament age.

**A HOUSE NOT BUILT BY MAN—I Peter 2:5—A spiritual house**—Peter is here speaking to Christians. Each Christian is a "lively stone"; there are no dead stones in God's spiritual house. The Old Testament priesthood came from the tribe of Levi. In the gospel day, every child of God is a priest and has direct access to God. This spiritual house is to be filled by the presence of God just as in the literal temple in Jerusalem. One way to see that God's presence is in our midst is to offer Him the spiritual sacrifices (the praise of our lips) due Him.

**A PERSONAL MATTER—I Corinthians 3:16, 17—Ye are the temple**—The Church of God is God's temple in this day. God dwells in it. Let me point out, however, that the Church of God is made up of saved individuals. The Church of God is not a sect. The Church of God does not have sinners in it. God does dwell in His church, but He also dwells, by His Spirit, in the individual heart. Our physical body is the temple for our spirit, and thus when we are sanctified, the Spirit of God actually dwells in this house of clay. Since it is God's will that every physical body be a temple for His Spirit, it is a serious thing to take the body and give it over to sin. God will "destroy" all who die in such a state.

**GOD'S PLAN—I Corinthians 6:19, 20—Bought with a price**—God desires fellowship with all; His desire is that all be a temple for His Spirit. He desired this so much that He gave His only begotten Son to die on the cross and to be raised again to make it possible. To be a temple for God, one must forsake all his sins, and he must give his all over into the hands of God. We are to glorify God in our body as well as in our spirit. There is no truth in the sectarian teaching that the old flesh sins while the spirit does not.

**ONLY ONE DWELLING PLACE—II Corinthians 6:16—The temple of God**—Paul asks the question, "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" The answer, of course, is none. God will not

dwell in the same temple with the devil! No man can serve two masters. What a privilege it is to have God dwell in this house of clay! This is what He has promised, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them.” Can you picture God walking people to the beer joints, the dance halls, the ungodly movies and similar evils? Of course not. God will direct His people over the highway of holiness.

**ALL IN THE SAME TEMPLE—Ephesians 2:19-22—All the building**—Since God has only one dwelling place on this earth, His temple, or church, then it naturally follows that all who are truly saved are in this one building. We were strangers at one time, but through the saving grace of the Lord Jesus, He has made us fellow citizens in the house of God. All are built upon the true foundation, and all are fitly framed together. For what reason? For God a dwelling place. The temple in Jerusalem was beautiful, but it was literal, and it stood for a comparably short time; but God’s spiritual temple is more beautiful, and the gates of hell will not prevail against it. As long as you remain in God’s house, you are safe!

## CONCLUSION

Again, what a privilege to be a temple for God to dwell in! No greater honor could come to a human being. On the other hand, if we are not a temple for God, then we are a temple for evil. It is impossible to be a temple for both at the same time. Some speak of sinning Christians, but this is because they do not understand the truth. A Christian is one who has left the evil of the world and has been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of His dear Son.

However, we must not stop with just the thought of it being an honor to be a temple of God. We are to be a temple or a vessel for God to use. We are to offer up “spiritual sacrifices,” and we are to glorify God in our body, as well as in our spirit, and we are to be witnesses for Him. As consecrated vessels, we are willing for God to use us in whatever way He sees fit.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Of what was Solomon’s temple a type?
2. What kind of house does God dwell in now?
3. What was the purchase price of God’s spiritual house?
4. How many houses does God have?
5. Are you in God’s spiritual house?
6. Does the Spirit of God dwell in you?

## LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR MAY 11

# THE GOVERNMENT OF THE CHURCH

**Scriptures:** Isaiah 9:6; Matthew 16:18; Colossians 1:18; John 10:9; Psalm 87:6; Acts 2:47; Exodus 32:33; I Corinthians 12:18; Ephesians 4:11; Acts 20:28.

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

**Matthew 16:18** And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

**Colossians 1:18** And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

**John 10:9** I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

**Psalm 87:6** The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah.

**Acts 2:47** Praising God, and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

**Exodus 32:33** And the Lord said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

**I Corinthians 12:18** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.

**Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**Memory Verse:** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

—Acts 20:28.

**Aim:** To show how Christ governs His church.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Matthew 16:1-18</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Psalm 87</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Isaiah 9</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 20</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>John 10</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 12</b>

### INTRODUCTION

R. R. Byrum wrote: "The idea of government implies three functions: legislative, judicial, and executive.

"As ruler of the church, God has given it laws. He judges as to obedience to those laws, and He directs and metes out penalty or reward as the subjects of His government deserve. Christ is the supreme ruler of the true church and is an absolute monarch as far as the source of authority is concerned. He is 'the head over all things to the church' (Ephesians 1:22).

“The prophet Isaiah predicted of Him, ‘The government shall be upon his shoulder’ (Isaiah 9:6). Therefore any ruling authority in the church which does not originate with Him is a usurped authority. This point is important and should be kept in mind. No man or body of men may properly make laws for the government of the Church of God in disregard of the law of God in the Bible. ...

“But any view of the government of the church which stops at this point is incomplete and impractical. There is also a human aspect to the government as there is to the organization of the church. This is evident from the recognition of some persons as rulers in the church. ‘Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor’ (I Timothy 5:17). ‘Remember them which have the rule over you who have spoken unto you the word of God’ (Hebrews 13:7). ‘Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls’ (verse 17). Also, the elders are said to have the ‘oversight’ of congregations (Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:2).”

The elders are not “lords” over God’s people. They must remember whatever authority they have has been delegated to them by the Head of the church, and they must give an account of their stewardship.

May God help us as we study this lesson to arrive at truth.

## MEDITATIONS

**A GOVERNOR—Isaiah 9:6—The government—**Isaiah was given many precious truths concerning the coming of Christ and the work He would accomplish. In this verse, Isaiah said the Lord Jesus would be called “Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Since He was all these, is it any wonder that the government of His church would be upon His own shoulders? Is there anyone better qualified? I can assure you the pope is not!

**A MASTER BUILDER—Matthew 16:18—I will build—**Peter declared Jesus to be the promised Messiah, and so He was. Jesus agrees to this and further declares, upon whom you say I am, or upon Myself, I will build My church. Jesus did not build, and is not building this church for someone else; He is building His church, and He is following the right plan. If all would build over the same blueprint Christ is, there wouldn’t be all this religious confusion and division!

**THE HEADQUARTERS—Colossians 1:18—The head—**Paul clearly states that Christ is the Head of the church. Many people who do not see the church in all her beauty ask, “Where is your headquarters?” They expect you to name some earthly city, and sect churches do refer to this city or that city as their headquarters, but the head-

quarters of the Church of God is where the Head is—heaven. And there is where orders are issued. But do not be surprised if the Head relays them to you through some godly minister.

**A LAW—John 10:9—If any man—**There is government in the church. There are laws. These are not man-made laws, but divine laws that must be obeyed. The church is compared to a sheepfold. The Lord Jesus said He was the door; you must pass through Him to enter. To try to climb up some other way will make you a thief and a robber. To enter through Jesus, you must depart from a life of sin. This verse does not mean that you go in and out of the fold, but you go in through the door and then out into the fold of God where you will find pasture.

**THE BOOKKEEPER—Psalm 87:6—The Lord—**Most sect churches have a church book on which they enroll the names of their members. The Lord's church also has a church book; it is called "the Lamb's Book of Life." Revelation tells us that as many as are not found written in it will be cast into the lake of fire. Such an important and serious matter cannot be left to some human being! And it is not!! "The Lord shall count when HE writeth up the people. ..." The Lord is His own recording secretary. What human being knows who all are saved and who are not?

**ADDING TO THE CHURCH—Acts 2:47—Daily—**How often preachers say they are going to open the doors of the church and take in members. Well, they do take them into their sect, but Jesus Christ is the only One who can and will take members into His church. Further, salvation is the only way He will take you in.

**BEING PUT OUT—Exodus 32:33—Whosoever—**Again, there is government in God's church; there are laws to be obeyed. There are requirements that must be met to gain entrance, and there are requirements to be met to retain membership in the true church. In this verse, the Lord makes it plain that sin puts a person out of the family of God and blots his name out of God's church book. How can anyone claim to be a sinner and a member of God's church at the same time?

**PLACING MEMBERS—I Corinthians 12:18—God set the members—**Here Paul makes it clear that in the true church God places the members in the body as it pleases Him. He does this by giving talents and spiritual gifts that qualify a person to fill a given place or office. It is not done by voting; it is the work of God through the Spirit. Now when God places a person in a given office, all the rest of the body of saints need to recognize what God has done and give honor where honor is due.

**OFFICES FILLED—Ephesians 4:11—Gave some—**Here we have a partial list of the offices in the church: apostles, which in our

day would be “planters”; prophets, in general ministers and those who foretell future events; evangelists, those who go from place to place preaching primarily evangelistic messages in special efforts to win souls to Christ; pastors, those who are watchmen to local congregations; and teachers, those who are given the gift of expounding the Word of God in a class or prayer meeting. Now these gifts are given by God, and those who receive them have a part in governing the church. True, Christ is the Head, but He does have helpers and we need to recognize each in his place.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—SOME SEE OVER—Acts 20:28—Take heed**—Paul charges the elders of Ephesus to first take heed to themselves to make sure they were doing the will of God, and then he charges them to take heed to the flock over which the Holy Ghost—not the board—had made them overseers. The pastor is to see over the flock of which he is pastor. The congregation is to follow their overseer as he follows Christ.

## CONCLUSION

Any work, be it temporal or spiritual, must have leadership. There must be rules to follow. The better the form of government, the better the leadership, the greater the work accomplished. There is government in the true church. Many who come to Christ out of the world have been used to, as they say, doing as they please. This course cannot be followed in the church. God has given us His Word to live by. In fact, the only way a soul can have life, in the true sense, is by obeying the Word.

In closing this lesson, we would like to point out again that Christ does delegate some authority to certain others in the body of Christ. Among the gifts of the Spirit, we find the gift of government. This is one of the gifts given to some members in the body of Christ. It naturally follows that a person with the gift of government will govern. Every pastor needs this gift. Others in the body could use it, too. The church is the house of God. God wants a well-ordered house; therefore, He has put government in the church beginning with Christ, the Head. Let us respect all who have the rule over us.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who is the Head of the true church?
2. Does Christ have helpers as He builds His church?
3. Does the true church have an earthly headquarters?
4. Who keeps the church book in the Church of God?
5. How is a person put out of the church?
6. How are spiritual offices to be filled in the church?
7. Discuss the gift of government in the church.



## LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR MAY 18

### TRY THE SPIRITS

**Scriptures:** I Corinthians 12:10; Isaiah 8:20; John 16:13; 14:16, 17; I John 4:6; I Timothy 4:1; Luke 9:42; I John 4:1.

**I Corinthians 12:10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.

**Isaiah 8:20** To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

**John 16:13** Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

**John 14:16** And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

**17** Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him:

for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

**I John 4:6** We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

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

**Luke 9:42** And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

**I John 4:1** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

**Memory Verse:** Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.—I John 4:1.

**Aim:** To alert the student to the fact that all spirits are not of God.

#### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**     **Isaiah 8**  
**Tuesday**   **John 16**  
**Wednesday** **John 14**

**Thursday**   **I John 4**  
**Friday**     **I Timothy 4**  
**Saturday**   **Luke 9**

#### INTRODUCTION

The spirit world is something that most of us know too little about! Yet the spirit world is the eternal world. This world—the earth—is temporal, that is, temporary. Our sojourn on this earth is only as a vapor. Yet what we do, how we live in this time world will determine our destiny in the next.

The apostle Paul tells us there is “one Spirit” (Ephesians 4:4), meaning, of course, one Holy Spirit; for there are many spirits in the world.

The Sadducees, one of the religious sects during Jesus’ sojourn on earth, did not believe in spirits, angels, or the resurrection. There are modern Sadducees today who do not believe the Holy Spirit is an actual Spirit Being. On this, D. O. Teasley wrote: “The Holy Spirit is the third Person in the Trinity; the representative of the Godhead on



earth. His entity is as real as that of the Father or of His Son Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit is coexistent with the Father and Son. This is clearly proven from the fact that He is called the eternal Spirit. 'How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the **eternal Spirit** offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?' (Hebrews 9:14). This text clearly proves that the Holy Spirit is coexistent with the Father, and the Bible abounds in proof that the Son is eternal; hence, God has ever been one composed of three."

No man lives unto himself. No man goes through life without being influenced by spirits. "As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Millions, however, are being led by other spirits.

That is why it is so important that we try the spirits and make sure we are being led by the Spirit of God, who is the Spirit of truth.

May the study of this lesson be a help to you.

## **MEDITATIONS**

**NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE—I Corinthians 12:10—Discerning of spirits**—Here, Paul is listing a number of the gifts of the Spirit, and among them is the gift of discerning of spirits. This gift is greatly needed in the church for the protection of the body of Christ. Paul said that grievous wolves would enter in among the flock, but everyone is not able to tell, for they come in sheep's clothing. A person with this gift could warn against the false prophet. There are all kinds of spirits: lust spirit, hate spirit, pride spirit, deaf spirit, dumb spirit—in fact, a spirit for every emotion of the flesh; and then there are many religious spirits. All such spirits are against the Spirit of God and the people of God.

**ERROR NOT OF GOD—Isaiah 8:20—To the testimony**—God's Word is His will, His mind, and it reveals His will for man. It is a light unto our feet and a lamp unto our path. To twist the Scriptures is to make it no longer the Word of God but the doctrines of men. The Word of God is only the Word of God so long as it is rightly divided. Isaiah said if people speak contrary to the Word, it is because there is no light in them. Every false doctrine is empowered by a false spirit. The Spirit of God never furthers false doctrine.

**A TRUE GUIDE—John 16:13—The Spirit of truth**—Here the Master tells us in clear, simple words that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of Truth. Further, the Lord declares that the Spirit of Truth will lead us into all truth. If all religious people were led by the Spirit of Truth, we would not have all this division. We would all speak the same thing as Paul said we should. It is evident, because there are so many different ways offered the people, that many do not have the Spirit of Truth.

**THE SPIRIT IS FOR THE CHURCH—John 14:16, 17—I will pray the Father**—Jesus promised His followers that He would pray

the Father to give them the Spirit of Truth. His prayer was answered. But please note: Jesus said the Spirit was not for the world. You must be saved to present your body a living sacrifice and thus be filled with the Spirit. No wonder so many religious people do not have the Spirit; they have never been saved, and they tell you themselves that they still sin. A sinner is still a part of “the world.”

**KNOWING WHERE YOU STAND—I John 4:6—We are of God**—John was not being bigoted! He simply spoke the truth. He knew he was a servant of God; furthermore, he knew he was preaching and teaching the truth. And he added that those that were of God would hear what he had to say and those that were not of God would not, and by that he would know who was of the Spirit of Truth or of the spirit of error. The same is still true today. This is one way we can try the spirits.

**THE SPIRIT WARNS AGAINST SPIRITS—I Timothy 4:1—The Spirit speaketh**—Pay special attention to this statement; it was made by the Spirit of Truth, and He said in the latter times some would depart from THE faith, giving heed to seducing spirits. The Spirit of God is gentle. He will not dwell in a heart where He is not wanted, but the spirits of the devil are different: these spirits will impose on you, seduce you, and the end result is doctrines of devils. The devil does not have a Bible of his own. He takes the Word of God and puts the wrong meaning to it; thus, it becomes a doctrine of the devil. This is the work of the spirit of error.

**EVIL SPIRITS DO AN EVIL WORK—Luke 9:42—Unclean spirit**—In the Scriptures, we find there are spirits who cause people to lose the right use of their mind, to lose their hearing, to lose the use of other members of the body. It is not that these parts of the body are worn out; it is simply that the devil is permitted to deprive some of the use of these members. Jesus cast such spirits out and freed the people. He has given His church the commission to do likewise.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—I John 4:1—Try the spirits**—John has faithfully warned us not to believe every spirit but to try the spirits because many false prophets have gone out in the world. He who is indeed a false prophet is empowered by a false spirit. Every false religion is under the control of a false spirit. Some who are sick are so because of the work of an evil spirit. Some who are in mental institutions are there because of evil spirits.

How can we try the spirits? Study your Bible; seek God with all your heart to reveal the truth to you. Study the workings of the Spirit of God. Come to a knowledge of God, His will, His manner of working, and reject that which does not agree with truth.

## CONCLUSION

Everyone should strive to get as close to God as possible. Everyone should listen for the “still small voice” of the Spirit and obey. Everyone

should keep a rebuke in his heart against all evil. In addition, we should pray for the Lord to give the gifts in the church that are needed for it to accomplish the will of God.

Again quoting from the pen of the late D. O. Teasley:

“Deception and spiritual lethargy have slain more souls than ever were slain by martyrdom. Satan now arrays himself in the robes of hypocrisy, spiritualism, hypnotism, mesmerism, sectarianism, and thousands of other deceptive attires, and ‘walks about’ as ‘angel of light,’ ‘seeking whom he may’ deceive. It is now time for every child of the Highest to gird on ‘the whole armor of God’ and rush to the conflict, determined to triumph or die. ... When I behold the many deceptive schemes of Satan and see my fellowmen duped by the thousands, and realize how few I can save, I tremble beneath the burden and cry to God for help to rescue the perishing.”

### FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why is the gift of discerning of spirits needed in the church?
  2. Why do men teach error?
  3. What is the work of the Holy Spirit according to John 16:13?
  4. Who can receive the Holy Spirit?
  5. What spirit causes division among Christians?
  6. Why do we need to try the spirits?
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### LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR MAY 25

## THE SHEPHERD AND THE SHEEP

**Scriptures:** Ezekiel 34:12, 14; Psalm 23:1; John 10:11, 13; Jeremiah 23:1, 4; Acts 20:28; I Peter 5:4.

**Ezekiel 34:12** As a shepherd seeketh out his flock in the day that he is among his sheep that are scattered; so will I seek out my sheep, and will deliver them out of all places where they have been scattered in the cloudy and dark day.

14 I will feed them in a good pasture and upon the high mountains of Israel shall their fold be: there shall they lie in a good fold, and in a fat pasture shall they feed upon the mountains of Israel.

**Psalm 23:1** The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

**John 10:11** I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an

hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

**Jeremiah 23:1** Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the Lord.

4 And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the Lord.

**Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

**I Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

**Memory Verse:** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.—I Peter 5:4.

**Aim:** To show how Christ and the godly pastor care for the flock of God.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 34</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 23</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Psalms 23</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Hebrews 13</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>John 10</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I Peter 4</b>

## INTRODUCTION

Sheep were important in the domestic, civic and religious life of the Israelites. The earliest mention of sheep in the Bible is Genesis 4:2, where we are told, "Abel was a keeper of sheep."

Shepherds had to move their flocks to new locations whenever pasturage gave out. Water was also very important, and the shepherd must know where streams or wells would be found.

Where is the care of the shepherd for his sheep more beautifully portrayed than in Psalm 23? This Psalm shows the personal relationship that must exist between Christ, the Chief Shepherd and the Christian.

In this world, there are only two families: the family of God and the family of the devil. Christians make up the family of God and sinners make up the family of the devil. To put it another way, we are either sheep or goats. Sheep are used to symbolize Christians; goats symbolize sinners. Jesus said that at the end of time, He would separate the good from the bad as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. How important it is that we be in God's sheepfold. Why should not we be? The chief Shepherd is so loving, so kind, so watchful, that it is a real pleasure to follow Him.

## MEDITATIONS

**GATHERING OF THE SHEEP—Ezekiel 34:12—Cloudy and dark day—**During the darkness of Romanism and during the cloudy day of Protestantism, the sheep were scattered; but in the evening of this gospel day God has brought to light again that it is His will that His people be one. Moreover, He would have them be free from the bondage of false religion, so He said through Ezekiel that He would gather them. **Verse 14—Feed them—**The Lord has promised, and He always keeps His promise, that He would feed His sheep in a good pasture. Also, He speaks of their safety and protection when He says, "There shall they lie in a good fold." He speaks of plenty when He says, "And in a fat pasture shall they feed." Feed on what? The pure, holy Word of God!

**THE CHIEF SHEPHERD—Psalm 23:1—My Shepherd—**I trust everyone can feel the warmth and love of these words of David, "The Lord is my Shepherd." David was a shepherd of literal sheep. He knew how a true shepherd would protect the flock from all foes. David

tells of how he killed a lion and a bear to protect his flock. Alone on the hills of Judea, David had a wonderful opportunity to fellowship the chief Shepherd. Knowing Him as he did, David was able to say, "I shall not want." If you are saved, this wonderful Shepherd is yours; and if you are not saved, He desires to be your Shepherd.

**A TRUE SHEPHERD—John 10:11—I am—**Jesus said He was the good Shepherd. Doesn't your soul respond, "Amen"? The good Shepherd, Jesus said, "giveth his life for the sheep." And true to His Word, Jesus gave His life. Without His death and resurrection, there would be no sheepfold.

**A FALSE SHEPHERD—John 10:13—The hireling fleeth—**How sad, but so true! Not every pastor is a true shepherd. Some shepherds are feeding themselves in a material way while their flock is starving spiritually. Then when trouble arises they are ready to move on, not caring what happens to the poor souls left behind.

**A CURSE IS ON THE FALSE SHEPHERD—Jeremiah 23:1—Woe—**God strongly condemns the preacher who is responsible for dividing His flock. What about all these preachers who are telling the people, "Join the church of your choice"? God's sheep are to be ONE, and all true shepherds should work to that end.

**UNDERSHEPHERDS—Jeremiah 23:4—I will set up shepherds—**Here we have the precious promise that the Lord will give shepherds who will feed the flock, and the flock will have no need to fear. How blessed a congregation is that has a shepherd given by God, for every shepherd given by God will care for the flock. He will love them, weep with them, rejoice with them, pray with and for them, and will watch for the ravenous beast in order to protect the flock against all evil, even as David watched over his literal flock.

**PASTOR, CARE FOR YOUR FLOCK—Acts 20:28—To feed—**A pastor must feed his own soul on the rich graces of God before he can feed the souls of his flock. Paul charges the elders of Ephesus to feed the Church of God for which they were responsible. Feed them on the truth. God reveals more truth, as a rule, to the pastor than He does to anyone else in the congregation, but this takes study and effort on his part. The greater the effort he puts forth, the richer will be the food he is able to give to the flock.

**OUR MEMORY VERSE—REWARD FOR FAITHFULNESS—I Peter 5:4—The chief Shepherd—**Peter, in this fifth chapter, charges the elders to feed the flock of God, taking the oversight willingly, not for money, not as a lord over God's heritage, but in a manner that will be an ensample to the flock. Peter then gives the precious promise to all who will do this that when the chief Shepherd appears, the undershepherds will receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

## CONCLUSION

One reason why, doubtless, so much attention is given to sheep in the Bible, in addition to their domestic importance, is they were used so much in sacrifices. Paul tells us, as spiritual “sheep,” we are to be a “living sacrifice,” doing all to the glory of God.

Again, let me impress on your heart that if you have a true pastor, you need to be very thankful. Pray for your pastor; he has trials and tests just as other Christians do. Then besides his own trials and tests, he must help bear the burdens of his flock. Work with your pastor; help to make his load lighter. If a pastor is not a true man of God, you should not attend his congregation.

Jesus Christ is the chief Shepherd, being our example in all things. All true pastors should care for their flock, using the Lord as their example.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How many flocks would God have there be?
2. Are all pastors true shepherds?
3. What did Jesus say a hireling would do?
4. Who places the shepherds over the local flocks?
5. How do you get in the sheepfold?
6. Are you a sheep or a goat?

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## LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR JUNE 1

### THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

**Scriptures:** I Corinthians 12:1, 4, 8-11, 29-31; Ephesians 4:11-13.

**I Corinthians 12:1** Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

**4** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

**8** For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

**9** To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

**10** To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

**11** But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

**29** Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?

**30** Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

**31** But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way.

**Ephesians 4:11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

**12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**13** Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.—I Corinthians 12:4.

**Aim:** To set forth truth concerning the operation of the gifts of the Spirit.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 12:1-13</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Romans 12</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 12:14-31</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Ephesians 4:1-15</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 13</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I Corinthians 14:1-11</b>

### INTRODUCTION

“The gifts of the Spirit, or spiritual gifts, as they are designated in I Corinthians 12:1, are technically called charismata. These gifts are supernatural abilities bestowed upon Christians by the Spirit of God to equip them for the service of the church and the upbuilding of the kingdom of God. Various lists of these gifts are given in the Pauline epistles. The longest list is found in I Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-30. Nine are there named. ... In Romans 12:6-8, seven are named. ... In Ephesians 4:7-12 is a third list of gifts. ... In these three lists, eighteen different gifts are named.

“It is clear from the Pauline texts cited that the spiritual gifts form the basis for the offices in the church.”—R. R. Byrum.

The Church of God can never fully accomplish the will of God without the gifts of the Spirit.

Among certain sects, the gift of tongues, or languages, is emphasized, it would seem, above all other gifts as they falsely teach that it is the evidence of Holy Spirit baptism, which it is not.

Let us make it clear that THE gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit Himself, and that power to live a holy life, accomplishing the will of God, is the greatest proof that the Spirit abides in your heart.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit mean that the Spirit rests upon a person enabling him to do a given work in the body of Christ. As Byrum points out, “One is an apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, teacher or exhorter, not by virtue of a human appointment, but because the Holy Spirit has conferred upon him the gift which corresponds to one of these particular offices. Only as he has the gift can he have the office. But this is true only of those gifts which correspond to offices. Some gifts are not applicable to the exercise of an office. Examples of the latter class are the gifts of wisdom, faith, healing, miracles ...”

Again, the church needs these gifts to accomplish its God given mission in the earth. God bless you in the study of this lesson.

### MEDITATIONS

**NEED OF KNOWLEDGE—I Corinthians 12:1—Spiritual gifts**—Paul desired the congregation at Corinth to know the truth in



regard to the gifts of the Spirit. Therefore, he goes into some detail to explain them. **Verse 4—Same Spirit**—Understand clearly, all true gifts are given by the one true Spirit of God, even though there are different gifts.

**PAUL LISTS SOME OF THE GIFTS—I Corinthians 12:8**—Some people refer to the “nine gifts” of the Spirit, but if you will study your Bible you will find almost twice that many listed. The first one Paul refers to in this verse is the gift of wisdom and then the word of knowledge. Some people gain knowledge but do not have the wisdom to put it to the greatest use. The gift of wisdom would enable a person to use knowledge in a way that would be of great benefit.

**Verse 9—Faith**—Please note how Paul emphasizes the fact that all these gifts were given “by the same Spirit”! All Christians have faith, but one with the gift of faith would be able to see even greater things done. Then the gifts of healing—this covers healing of the sick, casting out of devils, and the curing of diseases.

**Verse 10—Miracles**—Most of us when we get sick want a miracle wrought on us; that is, we want to be made well right now! But there is a difference in the gifts of healing and the gift of miracles. Healing could take days to restore to normal health while miracles could do it in a second or two. Of course, the gift of miracles need not be limited to physical needs. Prophecy is considered to be the gift of preaching, but it could also cover the telling of future events, events that are not already spelled out in the Bible. Discerning of spirits is the Holy Spirit resting upon a saint enabling him to discern what kind of spirit another person is under. The gift of divers kinds of tongues enables a person to speak different languages he did not learn in school or elsewhere. The interpretation of tongues would enable a person to tell what another had said, even though the person spoke a language the interpreter did not know. It would not take a gift of the Spirit to interpret a language you knew. In passing, let me point out that these are only two of the gifts of the Spirit, and they are not to be used as proof of Holy Ghost baptism any more than preaching or any other.

**THE WORK OF THE SPIRIT—I Corinthians 12:11**—**Dividing** —Please note the Spirit divides severally as He wills. All the gifts of the Spirit work together, even though exercised by different persons, for the one purpose of furthering the work of God and thus bringing glory to Him.

**ALL DO NOT HAVE SAME GIFTS—I Corinthians 12:29–31**—**Have all the gifts**—No man has all the gifts of the Spirit, neither are all apostles, or prophets, or teachers, or workers of miracles, nor do all have the gifts of healing and all do not have the gift of languages! God never intended it to be so, and those who teach that all must speak in tongues as an evidence of Holy Spirit baptism are teaching false doc-



trine. We are permitted to covet the best gifts, but we must not insist upon any gift beyond the will of God. To have the love of God in our heart is the most important thing.

**PURPOSE IN ALL GOD DOES—Ephesians 4:11-13—He gave some**—Christ as Head of the church directs the Spirit to give the gifts He sees best. The gifts are given, according to Paul, for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, and for bringing all the saints into the unity of the faith. The true gifts of the Spirit will work to this end.

## CONCLUSION

“While the Holy Spirit is omnipresent and fills all space, we may each enjoy all His fulness: and while His universal work is so great, His personal and practical benefits to each individual in whom He dwells are many. He is the third person in the Trinity and a part of the universal God; He leads and guides each and every Christian and dwells in the heart of every sanctified man and woman.”—R. Byrum.

The Holy Spirit is the life of the true Church of God. There is one body and one Spirit; the body without the spirit is dead. So any congregation that does not have the Spirit is dead. This being true, then we are correct when we say all the true gifts of the Spirit that are operating today are in the body of Christ and nowhere else. It should be understood that we believe, and teach, all true Christians are in the body of Christ.

These are gifts of the Spirit: wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues, helps, teaching, exhortation, government, apostleship, evangelists, pastors. Some may have natural ability in some of these areas, but the gift of any will enable a person to be much more effective.

The deacon is not listed. I would think it would be proper to put this office under the gift of helps, as a deacon is one who is to assist the pastor and should be able to fill the pulpit occasionally, if necessary.

“While our gifts and callings may differ, we are all to be one and work in perfect unity to accomplish one much desired end—the salvation of the lost. Neither do we exalt ourselves one above another, or choose which gift we would exercise. ‘But all these gifts worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.’ I Corinthians 12:11, 12.

“While some may exercise only one special gift, and another may not have any special gift, others may exercise several gifts.”

—R. Byrum.

Our treatment of this lesson has been very limited. We trust the class will be able to go further in the study of the gifts of the Spirit.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is THE gift of the Spirit?
  2. Are any of the gifts to be taken as proof of Holy Spirit baptism?
  3. To whom are the gifts of the Spirit given?
  4. Explain the workings of the gifts of the Spirit.
  5. Do you have a gift of the Spirit?
  6. Can the church accomplish its true mission without the gifts?
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### LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR JUNE 8

## BABYLON

**Scriptures:** Psalm 137:1; I Timothy 4:1, 2; II Thessalonians 2:3; II Peter 2:1; Revelation 14:8; 18:1-4.

**Psalm 137:1** By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion.

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

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

**II Thessalonians 2:3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition.

**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.

**Revelation 14:8** And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is

fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.

**Revelation 18:1** And after these things I saw another angel come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory.

**2** And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

**3** For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

**4** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.

**Memory Verse:** And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.—Revelation 18:4.

**Aim:** To alert the student to the dangers of false religion.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Genesis 11</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>II Peter 2</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Psalm 137</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Revelation 14:1-8</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>II Thessalonians 2</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Jeremiah 51</b>

## INTRODUCTION

In the eleventh chapter of Genesis, we read of a people who journeyed from the East. They came to a plain and stopped. Then they

decided to build a city and a tower, and to make themselves a name “lest we be scattered abroad.” The end result was the very thing they tried to avoid! Anytime a people reach a certain plain, spiritually, and there settle down and start building their own city (church), their own tower (their own way to heaven) and choose a name for themselves, they will be scattered, confused, and end up as a part of Babylon.

“According to Babylonian tradition, the literal city of Babylon was built by the god, Marduk. The city must have been built some time before 2300 B.C. because it was destroyed about that time by an invading enemy king. This makes Babylon one of the oldest cities of the ancient world. Genesis 10:10 mentions Babel as part of the empire of Nimrod.”—*Nelson’s Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

The literal city of Babylon reached its greatest glory and power under Nebuchadnezzar II. It was the capital of the Babylonian Empire. It was during this time that many in Judah were carried to this city as captives.

Old Testament Bible writers portrayed this ancient city as the model of paganism, idolatry and false worship.

New Testament writers, especially John, used the city to symbolize spiritual Babylon, where God’s people have been held in spiritual captivity, and false worship has continued.

Babylon, of course, comes from the word *babel* and means “confusion.” We do not have to look very far today to see Babylon on every hand. Such religious confusion is to be found in the world today as never before, it seems. To add to this sad state is the fact that there are so many groups that use the true Bible name, Church of God, for their work.

The purpose of this lesson is not to condemn but to enlighten.

## MEDITATIONS

**PEOPLE IN BABYLON ARE NOT FREE—Psalm 137:1**—The little nation of Judah had been overrun by the literal nation of Babylon. Many of the Jews were carried away captives. They were in literal bondage! They wept when they remembered Zion. When they were told to sing one of the songs of Zion, they answered, “How shall we sing the Lord’s song in a strange land?” (verse 4).

Today, people are held in spiritual Babylon, false religion, and they cannot sing the songs of Zion. They are not free!

**BEWARE—I Timothy 4:1—The Spirit**—The Spirit, through Paul, warns us that some would depart from the faith (and you have to be in it before you can depart from it), and would give heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils. Error is what produces Babylon. Of course, every single thing false religions or sect churches teach is not necessarily wrong; Satan doesn’t mind mixing some truth in as long as seducing spirits are in control. **Verse 2—Speaking lies**—You know, it is sad but true, many preachers are liars! The Spirit says so. When a

man's conscience has been seared with a hot iron, he can preach error and not be bothered.

**KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN—II Thessalonians 2:3—Let no man**—The Spirit of God works through man to bring truth and deliverance. The devil also works through man to bring error and bondage. Paul warns us, "Let no man deceive you by any means." In this verse, Paul referred to the idea that Jesus' Second Coming was to be expected any day; he said not so—there are some things that must happen first. A falling away is coming; the man of sin is to be revealed. His words came to pass. The man of sin is not some great antichrist. Paul here was referring to the rise of Roman Catholicism and the pope.

**A CLEAR WARNING—II Peter 2:1—False prophets**—This is a very clear, straightforward statement! Just as there were false prophets in the Old Testament, Peter says there will be false teachers among us. Don't think they are all in Russia or China; there are some, and maybe many, in your country and town. Peter goes on to say these people will bring upon themselves swift destruction. It is not a light thing to twist and misrepresent God's holy Word!

**TRUTH FOR OUR DAY—Revelation 14:8—Babylon is fallen**—In verse six of this chapter, we have a picture of God's true ministers "having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth." The setting of this is in the evening time after the rise of Romanism and Protestantism, as pictured in the previous chapter. God then brings to light the truth on the church and also on the fallen state of Babylon, for part of the gospel message these ministers had was "Babylon is fallen"; she had made all nations drink of the wine of her fornication. Spiritual fornication is committed when you give your allegiance to false religion rather than to Christ.

**LIGHT FOR OUR FEET—Revelation 18:1—Come from heaven**—Angels are messengers. There are good angels and there are bad angels. In Revelation angels are used to symbolize ministers (see chapter 1). Here, we see an angel come from heaven; this simply represents a ministry called and sent by God to preach the truth, for the earth was "lightened with his glory." All true ministers bring light! That is why stars are used to represent ministers—a star gives off light. **Verse 2—Cried mightily**—God said for His ministers to lift up their voices like a trumpet, and so they did! They gave a certain positive sound, and the message was "Babylon is fallen." Further, they declared it is a "habitation [dwelling place] of devils, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird." Some may think this is harsh, but if you ever see what Satan is doing to the souls of men through false religion, you will agree that it is true. Babylon is the dwelling place of false spirits. **Verse 3—Rich**—Literally, many false prophets have "feathered their nests" through the false religious systems they belonged to, but they had to commit spiritual fornication to do it.

**Verse 4—Come out**—Through the years, there have been some honest hearts caught in the snare of false religion. They felt they had to have a “church home”; or for some other reason some have joined church after getting saved, not realizing God made them a member of His church when they were saved. To such has gone out the message, “Come out of her, MY PEOPLE.” How do I go about coming out? If you have joined a church, ask them to remove your name. Do not fellowship any congregation where the truth is not preached. If you know there are some “good people there,” pray and work to see them come out, not by going with them, but by showing them the light.

## CONCLUSION

“Israel was a type of the church. Her captivity of seventy years in literal Babylon was a striking figure of the captivity of the church in spiritual Babylon, i.e., in popery and Protestant sectism. During this time the holy city (church) has been trodden under foot; has been covered up under the ecclesiastical rubbish of men, just like Jerusalem was a heap of ruins and rubbish while the children of Israel were in Babylon. But ... the children of Israel returned from their Babylonish captivity, and restored Jerusalem and Zion, and built up the house of God again. ...

“All this was a type. That very condition of literal Babylon is the condition of spiritual Babylon today, since God is delivering His people out of her. Just as that ancient city fell and became a dwelling place of dragons, doleful creatures, etc., so sect ‘Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.’ Revelation 18:2. Sectarians may consider this strong, but it is the eternal truth; and present facts as seen by the pure in heart prove that the above is a perfect picture of the great Babel of sectism.”—D. S. Warner and H. M. Riggle, *Cleansing of the Sanctuary*, published in 1903.

Let us make it clear we are not attacking any person; we have nothing but good will for the people; but we, and everyone, should say with David, “I hate every false way.” Why? Because every false way leads to eternal death in the lake of fire. God is not the author of any false way. His way leads to life eternal. To love truth is to hate evil; to see the beauty and purity of the bride of Christ is to see the ugliness of Babylon, the harlot woman and her daughters.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was Judah taken into bondage?
2. If we compromise with truth, will we not go into bondage?
3. What is spiritual Babylon?
4. What should a saint in Babylon do?
5. Do you have a vision of Babylon?
6. Do you have a vision of the bride of Christ?

## LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR JUNE 15

# SOWING AND REAPING

**Scriptures:** Galatians 6:7-9; Job 4:8; Hosea 8:7; 10:12; Proverbs 11:18, 19; Romans 8:12, 13.

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

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

**9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

**Job 4:8** Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.

**Hosea 8:7** For they have sown the wind, and they shall reap the whirlwind: it hath no stalk: the bud shall yield no meal: if so be it yield, the strangers shall swallow it up.

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

**Aim:** To emphasize the truth, we reap what we sow.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Galatians 6  
**Tuesday** Job 4  
**Wednesday** Hosea 8

**Thursday** Hosea 10  
**Friday** Proverbs 11  
**Saturday** Romans 8

### INTRODUCTION

In this lesson, we desire to bring to the student's attention the fact that we will reap what we sow. There is a time of planting and reaping, as far as sowing the Word of God and reaping a harvest of souls, but that is not the thought of this lesson.

There seems to be little fear of God today. It seems to me if every heart could be made to realize that they will indeed answer for the deeds done in the body, they would be more careful what kind of seed they sowed. You cannot sow corn and reap barley; neither can you sow to the flesh and reap righteousness!

In Deuteronomy 28:1-14, we read of the marvelous promises God gave Old Testament Israel, if they would serve Him. How He would bless their fields, their cattle, their families, how they would be the head and not the tail, how their enemies would flee before them, but these promises were based on the condition that they "not go aside from any of the words which I command thee this day, to the right

hand, or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them” (verse 14). Beginning with verse 15, on through the end of the chapter, the Lord tells them what He would allow to come on them if they did turn aside from following Him. Even then the “law,” you reap what you sow, was in effect, and it still is.

## MEDITATIONS

**GOD KNOWS ALL THINGS—Galatians 6:7—God is not mocked**—It seems strange, but some people seem to feel and act as if they can fool God. Do not be so foolish; God sees and knows not only what we say but also the very thoughts and intents of the heart. He knows why we do the things we do and the purpose back of it. **Verse 8—He that soweth**—All are sowing! But what are we sowing? To sow to the flesh simply means that we are following the desires of the flesh, regardless of what those desires may be or what the Word of God has to say about it. To sow to the Spirit, we must surrender our all to the Lord and let the Spirit lead. To sow to the flesh is to die, eternally! To sow to the Spirit is to live, eternally. Consider what you are sowing. **Verse 9—In due season**—There are times when the Christian way may seem a little hard. Satan will oppose. There are times when it appears that some sinners are getting along well. David saw this and almost backslid over it, but when he went into the house of the Lord and was reminded of what the end of the wicked was, he took courage and continued to serve the Lord. If you are a Christian, be encouraged; you will reap, in due season, if you faint not. This is God’s promise and it cannot fail.

**WE REAP WHAT WE SOW—Job 4:8—Reap the same**—Not only are we told in the New Testament, but also in the Old that we reap what we sow. Job saw a great deal in his lifetime and he spoke from personal observation, “I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same.” You can’t do wrong and get by! Every transgression and every disobedience shall receive a just recompense of reward.

**A GREAT INCREASE—Hosea 8:7—Sown the wind**—In a normal season, you reap much more grain than you sow. You plant one grain of corn in a hill and get one or possibly two ears in return. Hosea speaks of those who have sown the wind, but in harvest they reap the whirlwind. You may sow a little to the flesh but look at the terrible harvest. It does not pay.

**TWO KINDS OF SOWING—Hosea 10:12—Sow ... righteousness**—You can sow to the flesh and be lost; you can sow righteousness and live with God forever. Let us encourage you to follow Hosea’s advice: sow righteousness, reap mercy. If you are unsaved, break up your fallow ground, let the Spirit break up your hard heart through



conviction, then seek the Lord with all your heart. “It is time to seek the Lord”; then He will be able to “rain righteousness upon you.”

**WICKEDNESS OR RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH?—Proverbs 11:18, 19—A sure reward**—Who is the wicked person? In God’s sight every sinner is! “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). The wicked do wickedly; many are deceitful in their ways. God knows all and will be forced to reward such for their deeds. God also knows the way of the righteous and will reward those who live holy.

**UNDERSTAND WHAT DEATH IS—Romans 8:12, 13—Shall die**—Here, Paul uses the term, “live after the flesh,” which means the same as sowing to the flesh; and he warns that those who live after the flesh shall die. Now this does not mean a physical death that will end it all. Regardless of what some religious people may teach, spiritual death means separation. When Adam and Eve sinned, they were separated from fellowship with God. To have Christ is to have life; to be without Christ is to be dead, i.e., separated from the source of life. Then when the end of time comes, all sinners shall eternally be separated from God and all that is good, and the Scriptures term this separation, “The second death.”

But, thank God, if you will, through the Spirit, mortify, kill, or refuse to follow the wrong desires of the flesh, you shall live.

## CONCLUSION

Today, it seems, many people want to blame others or other things for what they do, not willing to accept responsibility for their own actions, but this will not be acceptable to the Lord.

A sinner does the bidding of his father, the devil (John 8:44)! But he will not be excused, for he has the responsibility of choosing whom he will serve, and he must bear the responsibility for the decision he makes.

We would like to encourage all to sow seeds of righteousness and reap life everlasting!

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do people, in general, fear God today?
2. What does the expression, “God is not mocked,” mean?
3. Do Christians ever become weary in the battle?
4. Will every man, righteous and wicked, be rewarded for the things he sows?
5. Can a person be forgiven for the wicked seeds he has sown?
6. What kind of seeds are you sowing?



## LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR JUNE 22

# THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

**Scriptures:** John 11:25; 5:25, 28, 29; Matthew 25:31, 32; I Corinthians 15:16, 17; I Thessalonians 4:16, 17.

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

**John 5:25** Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live.

**28** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

**29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

**Matthew 25:31** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the

throne of his glory:

**32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

**I Corinthians 15:16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised:

**17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

**I Thessalonians 4:16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

**17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.—I Corinthians 15:22.

**Aim:** To show there will be a literal resurrection of the dead.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** John 11:1-45

**Tuesday** John 5

**Wednesday** Matthew 25:31-46

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**I Corinthians 15:1-18**

**I Corinthians 15:19-58**

**I Thessalonians 4**

### INTRODUCTION

It seems there is hardly any subject in the Bible that Satan has not twisted in one manner or another. And certainly, the subject of this lesson is no exception!

Many believe there will be two literal resurrections: first, the bodies of the righteous, and then, a thousand and seven years later, the bodies of the wicked. But the Bible does not teach any such doctrine. The Bible does speak of the "first resurrection," but this is a spiritual resurrection of the soul from the dead state of sin to life in Christ. Paul makes this clear in Ephesians 2:1-6.

"The doctrine of the resurrection is well grounded in scripture. Both in the Old and New Testaments, it is clearly taught. Yes, the dead shall rise again. Martha said to Jesus concerning her dead brother, Lazarus, 'I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection

at the last day' (John 11:24). Four times, Jesus declared of the righteous, 'I will raise him up at the last day' (John 6:39, 40, 44, 54).

"Only our bodies sleep in the dust of the ground (see Ecclesiastes 12:7; Matthew 27:52, 53); and that which sleeps 'in the dust of the earth shall awake' (Daniel 12:2). 'We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile *mortal* body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body' (Philippians 3:20, 21). It is not our soul, but our body that will be changed in the resurrection day. 'So also is the resurrection of the dead. ... It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body' (I Corinthians 15:42-44)."—H. M. Riggle.

Our desire in this lesson is to bring to your attention the truth concerning this very important subject.

## MEDITATIONS

**THE DEAD SHALL LIVE—John 11:25—Jesus saith unto her**—Here, the beloved apostle John gives us the words of the Master Himself, "... though he were dead, yet shall he live." Millions, yea billions, have lived and died through the ages. In this chapter, we have recorded the physical resurrection of Lazarus. God is just as able to raise all as to raise one.

**A SPIRITUAL RESURRECTION—John 5:25—The hour is coming**—Jesus is speaking and He said, "The hour is coming, AND NOW IS, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God." Now Jesus was here speaking of those who were dead in trespasses and sins hearing the Word of God, for He went on to say, "and they that hear shall live." The word *hear* as used in the last part of this verse means "to obey"; those who hear the Word of God and obey it will be made alive, will be saved, will receive life through Christ.

**THE GENERAL RESURRECTION—John 5:28—Marvel not**—Jesus told His hearers not to marvel at the fact that people could be resurrected right then—from spiritual death to spiritual life—for the hour was coming when all (not just the righteous, but ALL) would hear His voice, regardless of how long they may have been dead; regardless of how or where they died, all would hear His voice. **Verse 29—Shall come forth**—Not only will they hear His voice, but they will come forth out of the grave. Further proof that the wicked as well as the righteous will come forth at the same time is found in the latter part of this verse, for the Master said that they that have done good would come forth to life, eternal life, and "they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."

**ALL SHALL APPEAR BEFORE CHRIST AT THE SAME TIME—Matthew 25:31, 32—Before him**—When Jesus Christ comes the second time, it will not be to set up a literal kingdom; it will not be to fight a battle; it will be to judge the quick and the dead.

Further, all shall be there: righteous Abel, professor Cain, all nations shall be there. For this to be so, the masses of ages past will have to be resurrected! That is not to say that we shall remain physical flesh and blood; no, for there shall be a change made. Paul said this mortal shall put on immortality.

**IF THERE BE NO RESURRECTION—I Corinthians 15:16, 17—Your faith is vain**—Paul had to contend with those who did not believe in a resurrection of the dead, but he gave no place to such false teaching. If the dead rise not, he declared, then Jesus Christ has not been raised; and if He has not been raised, your faith is vain, you are still sinners, you have no Savior. Thank God, Jesus is our living risen Lord and Savior and because He lives, we shall live also. We have hope of life beyond the grave. Praise His name!

**RIGHTEOUS NOT RAISED ALONE—I Thessalonians 4:16, 17—We which are alive**—Many who teach what they are pleased to call the rapture, a supposed seven-year period when the saints shall be up in the sky somewhere with Christ, appeal to these verses to back up such teaching. These verses teach no such thing! Paul states here that when Jesus Christ comes the second time, those who are alive on this earth shall not be caught up ahead of those in the graves; rather, those that are in the graves shall be raised first. Then they, along with those who are living at the time, will be caught up together, not for a seven-year period, but, “so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

## CONCLUSION

Those who do not believe can ask many questions about how these things shall be, how the body can be put back together since it has returned to the dust of the earth, etc. But such questions only reveal how little such people know about the true and living God. Our concern should not be how it is to be done, but that we be ready to meet Him in peace.

The Scriptures clearly state, “So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God” (Romans 14:12). Further, the Scriptures declare, “For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works” (Matthew 16:27).

Are you ready for that “day”?

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Explain the spiritual resurrection and the literal resurrection.
2. Who shall be resurrected in the general resurrection?
3. To what shall the righteous be resurrected?
4. To what, the wicked?
5. What shall happen to our literal bodies?
6. Do you believe in a literal resurrection?

## LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR JUNE 29

# THE JUDGMENT

**Scriptures:** Acts 17:31; II Timothy 4:1; II Corinthians 5:10; II Thessalonians 1:7, 8; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Acts 1:11; Matthew 25:31, 32, 46; Revelation 20:12.

**Acts 17:31** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

**II Timothy 4:1** I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom.

**II Corinthians 5:10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

**II Thessalonians 1:7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,

**8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Ecclesiastes 12:14** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be

evil.

**Acts 1:11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

**Matthew 25:31** When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

**32** And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats.

**46** And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

**Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

**Memory Verse:** Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained.—Acts 17:31a.

**Aim:** To show that everyone will be judged and rewarded according to his works.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>II Timothy 4</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Ecclesiastes 12</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>II Corinthians 5</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Revelation 20:11-15</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>II Thessalonians 1</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Acts 1:1-11</b>

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible declares, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). So when we are resurrected, as we showed in our last lesson we will be, the next thing will be to face Christ in judgment. It will not be one thousand years here on this

earth or seven years in a supposed “rapture.” It will be the judgment! All shall be there and all shall give an account of the deeds done in the body during their sojourn on earth. This fact should cause every one of us to live soberly and strive to please the Lord.

This is the way the late H. M. Riggle spoke of this event:

“The day of judgment will be the day of final retribution, when eternal rewards and punishments will be meted out to all men. This will be the greatest of all days. ... It will be the day when God will come down to take vengeance on the wicked of all ages, and pent-up fires will envelop this globe in a general conflagration. Nor is this day of judgment to be deferred till after a thousand years’ millennial reign, but Christ ‘shall judge the quick and the dead at his **appearing** and his kingdom’ (II Timothy 4:1). First in order, the resurrection of the dead will take place, and immediately following this will be the general judgment.”—*Beyond the Tomb*.

## MEDITATIONS

**THE JUDGE HAS ALREADY BEEN APPOINTED—Acts 17:31—He hath appointed—**Paul, in his marvelous sermon on Mars’ hill, declares not only the resurrection of the dead, but also the judgment. Furthermore, he points out the fact that God has already appointed Jesus Christ to be the Judge. This Judge cannot be turned or influenced by money or fame. No smart lawyer will deceive Him. He will judge the world in righteousness.

**THE NEED OF WARNING—II Timothy 4:1—I charge—**Paul, in his second letter to Timothy, charges him to preach the Word, to warn the people. Why? Because Jesus Christ shall judge the “quick and the dead,” the saved and the unsaved! When? A thousand years after His second coming? No! “At His appearing.”

**NO ONE LEFT OUT—II Corinthians 5:10—All appear—**Thank God for the clearness of His Word. Some would have us believe that only the unsaved will be judged, but Paul says we all shall appear before the judgment seat of Christ; and the purpose for so doing is “that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad,” and the Judge will have a complete record. How wonderful that now we can repent and send our sins on before so that we will not face them at the judgment.

**AN INVITATION—II Thessalonians 1:7, 8—You who are troubled—**Sin brings much trouble, heartache, and sadness, not only to the one who sins, but many times also loved ones suffer. Paul invites all who are troubled to rest in the Lord, and he again brings to our attention the fact that Christ is not coming to set up a literal king-

dom, but to take vengeance on the wicked because they know not God and obey not His Word. If today you are found in sin, this fact should trouble you and you should seek the Lord with all your heart.

**NOTHING HID—Ecclesiastes 12:14—Bring every work—**Solomon declares that God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing. Some seem to feel if they can keep their evil hid from their wife, or husband, or family, or preacher, they will be all right, but remember there is an “all-seeing eye”; not only so, but He knows the very thought and intent of the heart. No pretense with Him! It will all be at the judgment UNLESS confessed and forsaken in this time world.

**THE LORD SHALL COME SUDDENLY—Acts 1:11—This same Jesus—**Some would have us believe that Jesus shall come back, more or less, to the very spot He left to return to heaven, but other scriptures tell us that at His coming the earth shall flee away. According to that, He shall not set foot on this earth;—it will be gone! What then was the meaning of the angels’ words? Simply, that as the Lord was suddenly taken up, without forewarning, so He shall come again—suddenly, when millions expect Him not.

**SEPARATION—Matthew 25:31, 32—The Son of Man—**When Jesus Christ comes “in the clouds,” the angels of God shall accompany Him. He will sit on His throne, and before Him shall be gathered all nations, all people. As He judges them He will separate the good from the bad as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. Some of those who were mothers and fathers on this earth will be divided, also children and parents, for then, even as now in a spiritual sense, there will only be two families: the family of God and the family of the evil one.

**THE FATE—Matthew 25:46—These shall go away—**Those on the left-hand side “shall go away into EVERLASTING punishment”; those on the right-hand side shall go into everlasting or eternal life. Let me urge you to do whatever you must to be on the right-hand side in that great day.

**THE JUDGE SHALL GO BY THE WORD—Revelation 20:12—Judged out of those things—**John said he saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; He saw the “books” opened, and every one was judged according to the things written therein. In other words, their deeds were judged according to, or in light of, the things written in the books. We had better face the truth here and not get out of fix with men of God who dare preach us the truth, but be thankful for them and strive to measure our lives to the Word, for it is the Word which the Judge shall use in judgment, not the creeds of sect churches or the opinions of men.

## CONCLUSION

“Sin and holiness are opposite principles. The more holy a being is, the more detestable and abhorrent sin becomes. Holiness is one of the Lord’s attributes. ‘Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.’ He is infinitely holy, hence infinitely opposed to sin. The very holiness of His nature demands that all of His creatures be holy—‘Be ye holy, for I am holy.’ The holiness of His nature clothes Him with majestic glory. This glory of His power will drive every sinner from His presence forever (II Timothy 1:7-9).”—H. M. Riggle.

May the Spirit of God help us all, saved and unsaved, to face the fact that we must answer to God for the life we live. And we will be judged, not by the creeds of men, but by the eternal Word of God. At the judgment, there will be a final, eternal separation. Which side will you be on? Will you hear Him say, “Come,” or will you hear Him say, “Depart”? Our prayer and desire is for everyone to hear Him say, “Come.” But to do that, you must be saved from sin and live a holy life; for as the hymn writer said, “Sin Can Never Enter There.”

*Heaven is a holy place filled with glory and with grace;  
Sin can never enter there: All within its gates are pure,  
From defilement kept secure, Sin can never enter there.*

Chorus:

*Sin can never enter there, Sin can never enter there;  
So if at the judgment bar, Sinful spots your soul shall mar,  
You can never enter there.*

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who will be the Judge on judgment day?
2. What will He be guided by?
3. Who shall be judged?
4. When shall the judgment be?
5. What shall happen to the earth when Jesus comes the second time?
6. Where will you be found—on the right or left?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

## *The Bible Teaches*

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE

### **FOR THIS QUARTER:**

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