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Christian Living

Adult and Young People's Quarterly

INTRODUCTION

Solomon, the wise man, declared, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). We live in a temporal world, and we have many and varied duties, but the greatest duty of all is to live in obedience to the Word of God. Solomon also stated, "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart: So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man" (Proverbs 3:1-4).

We trust the lessons in this quarter will be a blessing to each student, and help you to understand more fully the act of "Christian Living," for we are to study not merely to KNOW what the Word teaches, but to LIVE what the Word teaches.

"If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isaiah 1:19, 20).

THE WAY OF TRUTH

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PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE

LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR JULY 6

PATIENT IN TRIBULATION

Scriptures: James 1:4; I Peter 1:6, 7; Romans 5:3, 4; Hebrews 10:34-36; John 16:33; Romans 8:35-37.

James 1:4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

I Peter 1:6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

Romans 5:3 And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;

4 And patience, experience; and experience, hope.

Hebrews 10:34 For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

John 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

Memory Verse: Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.—Romans 8:37.

Aim: To help Christians know how to face times of distress.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday James 1
Tuesday I Peter 1
Wednesday Romans 5

Thursday Hebrews 10
Friday John 16
Saturday Romans 8

INTRODUCTION

We live in a real world, though some may try to live in a “make-believe” world. There are problems, there are difficult places we must pass through, and there are people who make it as hard for the Christian as they possibly can. I do not mean to discourage anyone. The Christian life is the most beautiful, the most rewarding life you can live, but many in this sinful world are not Christians, and they are not going to help you live the Christian life.

Today’s lesson deals with patience, something that is very necessary if we are to be the Christians the Lord would have us be. It is something of which most—if not all—of us could use more.

The dictionary says *patience* is the “will or ability to endure without complaint.” And under *patient* it adds this, “refusing to be provoked, as by insult; forbearing. Calmly tolerating delay, confusion.” Most people can be calm and composed when everything is going well. But what about in times of tribulation? The dictionary says in regard to *tribulation*, “great misery or distress, as from oppression; deep sorrow.”

MEDITATIONS

GROWING IN CHRISTIAN GRACES—James 1:4—Perfect work—Do not expect to receive the rich graces of God in a nice little package; they do not come that way. The Bible says the just shall live by faith, and it is the trying of your faith that increases patience (verse 3), so when James says let patience have her perfect work, we are to face the trial, the test, with confidence in God and His Word, knowing that all things work together for good to them that love the Lord, to those who are called according to His purpose.

TRIALS ARE FOR A PURPOSE—I Peter 1:6, 7—The trial of your faith—The trial comes in different ways. The devil brings trials for the purpose of getting us to backslide if he can, and if not able to do that, to hinder us as much as possible. God permits the trials for the purpose of building us up in Him. When God permits a trial to come our way, it is a vote of confidence. He is saying, in effect, I believe you will be true to Me. Peter said the trial of our faith is much more precious than gold. How many of us look at it in that light? Faithfulness in time of trial brings glory to God.

A DEEP EXPERIENCE—Romans 5:3, 4—Glory in tribulations—Some would have you believe when you are saved and sanctified you will have such an experience that you won't be tempted, but such is not the case. The indwelling of the Spirit gives you power to face the trial and be a Christian in it and through it. To be able to glory in tribulation takes a close walk with God indeed. The reason Paul gloried in tribulation was that he knew what it did for him, working patience. Being victorious in one trial opens the way for greater victories in greater trials—thus experience is gained, and experience produces hope.

LOSS MATERIALLY DOES NOT NEED TO MEAN LOSS SPIRITUALLY—Hebrews 10:34-36—Spoiling of your goods—The writer of Hebrews does not state here just what was done in the “spoiling” of their goods, but some of the Jews who accepted Christ did suffer loss of property and goods. These people were exhorted not to cast away their confidence. God's Word is still true! His promise is to be with us and not let us be tempted above that we are able to bear—He did not say we would not suffer, He did not say we would not be tried. He did say it would not be above that we were able to bear, pro-

vided we face it as He would have us to. These people had need of patience. We do too! When you pray for patience, LOOK OUT! Trials are sure to come. That's how you get your prayer answered.

OUR EXAMPLE—John 16:33—I have overcome—Jesus Christ who did no sin, who healed the sick, raised the dead, cleansed the lepers, forgave sinners, was accused, lied about, rejected, and finally crucified; yet He loved all. He said we would have tribulation in this world and so we will, but He also said, “Be of good cheer!” Why? “I have overcome the world,” and so you can too.

A BOND THAT HOLDS—Romans 8:35-37—Through him—Paul asks the question, “Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword” separate us from the love of Christ? Not if we love Him as the Word teaches. Our love for God is to be above all else. People make many excuses for backsliding, blaming it on the preacher, on the congregation, on the men where they work, etc., but the real reason is that they do not love God as they should, for Paul said, “In all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”

CONCLUSION

We have not tried to hide the fact that Christians do have trials, times of testing, and things that bring distress. We need to know that this is our lot. Yet, we need to know that we can, through the grace of God, come to the place where we can get joy out of the battle, where we can have that deep settled peace down in our souls though the waves may be high on the surface. It does take time in the secret closet of prayer, it takes time with the Word, it takes careful living, but is that not what every true Christian wants? To be able to endure without complaining, refusing to be provoked, as by insult; forbearing and calmly tolerating delay, is to make the Christian way attractive to others. It is one thing to teach, or to read about patience, but it is another thing to actually manifest it. May God help us all to be better examples in time of tribulation, through the study of, and applying the truths of these scriptures to our hearts.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do you have all the patience you need?
2. Can we grow in our Christian experience?
3. What is the devil's purpose in trials?
4. What is God's purpose in permitting them?
5. How can one glory in tribulation?
6. Can a person backslide as LONG as he loves God with ALL his heart?

LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR JULY 13

WALKING TO PLEASE GOD

Scriptures: I Thessalonians 4:1; Romans 6:4; 13:13; III John 4; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 5:15, 16; Colossians 1:10; Micah 6:8.

I Thessalonians 4:1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

Romans 6:4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 13:13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

III John 4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

Galatians 5:25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

Ephesians 5:15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Colossians 1:10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Micah 6:8 He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Memory Verse: He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?—Micah 6:8.

Aim: To help the student understand better how to walk with God.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday I Thessalonians 4

Tuesday Romans 6

Wednesday Romans 13

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

III John

Galatians 5

Colossians 1

INTRODUCTION

There are many forces in the world today: people who would influence us one way, others who would lead us another way. Many of these forces are found in religion. In reality, however, we can say there are only two forces in an overall sense: the force or power for good, and the force or power for evil.

To walk with God, we must depart from the path of evil. We must not follow those who would lead us wrong, and we must not follow our own "feelings"; we must live in obedience to the Word of God.

The late C. E. Orr wrote:

"In giving the biography of some men, whole volumes have been written. The three-hundred-years' history of one man is told in these few words: 'He walked with God.' Men have conquered nations, discovered continents, built cities, founded empires; and volumes are required to tell of all they have done. But Enoch did more—he walked with God.' What a history! Whole volumes have said less than this.

But this privilege did not belong to Enoch alone; it is yours, reader, and it is mine. We have the blessed privilege of engraving this epitaph upon the hearts and minds of men: 'He walked with God.' It is not said that God walked with Enoch, but that Enoch walked with God. Some hearts might sighingly say, 'Oh, that God would walk with me!' Let the sighings of the heart be changed to saying, 'Oh, let me walk with God!' There are many who would be pleased to have God walk with them, but who will not walk with Him. God's course was marked out before man was created. From this course He never turns. If you desire His companionship, you must walk His way."—*The Hidden Life*.

MEDITATIONS

LIGHT TO DO RIGHT—I Thessalonians 4:1—Walk and to please God—Paul had been in Thessalonica. He had preached to them the gospel of Jesus Christ and some had been saved; yet he knew that there were other things they needed to know, so he sent Timothy to labor among them for awhile so that they could be established. Further, he was writing them this letter to further instruct them how to walk to please God. There is no higher calling in this time world.

DEAD TO SIN—Romans 6:4—Newness of life—The word *baptize* is used in the Scriptures in different ways. The meaning of the word is "to bury, put out of sight." A person must die to sin before he is ready for water baptism. Water baptism does not save. It is an outward testimony to an inward work, a work that has already been accomplished. Therefore, a person who has, in reality, died to sin and been made alive in Christ will walk in newness of life. However, no one comes to the knowledge of all the truth at once (possibly we could say no human ever comes to the knowledge of ALL the truth), but we increase in knowledge as we walk with God.

LIGHT IS TO WALK IN—Romans 13:13—Walk honestly—Honesty is a must in the life of a Christian. That is not to say a person could not be mistaken in what he says, but a mistake is one thing, a lie is another. The Bible says all liars shall have their part in the lake that burneth with fire and brimstone (Revelation 21:8). The Bible also says the drunkard shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Christians do not riot. God has never called preachers to lead riots. In walking with God, we are to avoid the things Paul has mentioned in this verse.

JOY FOR A MINISTER—III John 4—No greater joy—John had personally traveled with the Master, he had sat and listened to His marvelous words, and yet he said he had no greater joy than to know his children walked in the truth. A true minister of the gospel has a real love for the souls of men, and it is his desire that everyone have the blessings that come by walking in the truth. A true pastor has no pets. A true minister will not compromise the gospel because he knows it takes the truth to make men free, and it takes the truth to keep

them free. On the other hand, those who hear the truth preached must walk in it to receive its benefits. The same Word that has power to make alive has power to slay.

A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE—Galatians 5:25—Walk in the Spirit—God’s will is that every child of His be filled with the Holy Spirit, for in having Him as our abiding Comforter, He will give us power to measure to the truth. He will help us to understand what is and what is not the truth, and in walking in the Spirit we will not fulfill the desires of the flesh.

THE WISE WALK WITH GOD—Ephesians 5:15, 16—Walk—Paul said we should walk circumspectly, that is, look around, give careful attention to all circumstances, be cautious. Paul says we are not to be foolish, not to make hasty decisions, not to do things on mere impulse, give proper consideration in light of Bible truth. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and we are told to be wise, redeeming the time.

AN HONOR TO WALK WITH THE LORD—Colossians 1:10—Walk worthy—It is a high honor that God has granted unto man the privilege of walking with Him. To walk worthy of the Lord we must live in obedience to His Word. We must be fruitful, for the Master said, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples” (John 15:8).

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Micah 6:8—Walk humbly—The Lord created the earth on which we live. He made man, and He gave man His Word. His Word brings life, peace, happiness, and joy when it is obeyed! God still requires man to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with his God. To fail to do this is to suffer eternal damnation, a price you cannot afford to pay.

CONCLUSION

The all-wise God has given us a guide. How foolish for man to think he knows better. The trouble and strife we find in homes, states, nations, and the world, as a whole, come as the result of NOT obeying the Word of God, by not walking with God.

The devil has blinded the minds of millions, making them think his way is easy and God’s hard. Such is not true. The way of the transgressor is hard and leads to eternal death. Jesus said, “My yoke is easy, and my burden is light,” and His way leads to eternal happiness. Walk with God and live forever.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What two great forces are at work in the world today?
2. What must a person do to be able to walk with God?
3. Can a person be dishonest and walk with God?
4. What brought John great joy?
5. What must we do to have fellowship with other saints?

LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR JULY 20

DILIGENCE

Scriptures: Proverbs 22:29; 10:4; Ecclesiastes 9:10; I Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28; II Corinthians 8:7; Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 6:33; II Peter 1:5-8.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

Proverbs 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Ecclesiastes 9:10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

I Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Ephesians 4:28 Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labor, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

II Corinthians 8:7 Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utter-

ance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

II Peter 1:5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

—Matthew 6:33.

Aim: To bring to the student's attention God's requirement of diligence in temporal and spiritual affairs.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Proverbs 22
Tuesday Ecclesiastes 9
Wednesday I Timothy 5

Thursday II Corinthians 8
Friday Matthew 6
Saturday II Peter 1

INTRODUCTION

God has made a beautiful world for man to live in! He has given us richly all things to enjoy. He has also given us laws to govern our conduct. God's laws will work for us—if we obey them—and will work against us if we disobey them.

The word *diligence* means, "constant, careful effort; persevering hard work; being diligent." Further, we are told being diligent means, "persevering and careful in work; done with careful, steady effort."

In the day and age in which we live, it seems difficult to get some people to “work hard” and to be careful and take pride in their work. However, this is a Christian standard that the Lord requires.

There are two areas that we wish to concern ourselves with in this lesson: diligence in temporal affairs and diligence in spiritual affairs.

MEDITATIONS

DILIGENCE REWARDED—Proverbs 22:29—Stand before kings—The wise man declares a man who is diligent in his business shall stand before kings. In other words, a man who is diligent shall not be among men of no repute, but shall be independent and respectable. God will honor his diligence. Whether you have a business of your own, or whether your business be working for someone else, or a company, be diligent and God will bless you for so doing.

SLACKNESS VERSUS DILIGENCE—Proverbs 10:4—Diligence maketh rich—The idea found among some people today is to do as little as you can to get by. Such an idea is not in agreement with the Word of God. A “slack hand” is to be understood as one who is careless, neglectful, not busy or active; this produces poverty. But diligence produces riches. There is more than one way to be rich. A man who has a clear conscience, knowing that he has done his best, has something money cannot buy.

WHATSOEVER—Ecclesiastes 9:10—Many jobs to be done—God gave Adam the job of dressing the garden. After he sinned, his work was increased. This is not to be taken as a sign that work is dishonorable or evil. God saw it was best for him to have more to do. Today there are those who till the soil, who work in the factory, who teach school, who govern the people, who are housewives. There are many, many jobs to be done. All do not have the same calling, all do not have the same ability, but if our work be such that it is proper, then let us do it with our might. If it is not proper and right, it should be forsaken! As long as a person lives and is able, he should be active in something profitable and beneficial to himself and his fellowmen.

PROVIDE—I Timothy 5:8—A job to do—Marriage is ordained of God. It is proper and right, but it carries with it grave responsibilities. God has ordained that the husband and father provide for the wife and children. If he is able and will not, the Scripture declares he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel. The wife has her work to do in the home, and she is to be saving and as helpful as possible. As the children grow older, they too must learn to work and to help out.

WORKING WITH HIS HANDS—Ephesians 4:28—Salvation brings a change—The gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that will believe and obey it. The man who was once a thief will be one no longer. Obeying the Word and being diligent will enable

a man to provide for his own and be able to help others who are needy, due to sickness or accident. This is the true Christian standard.

ABOUND—II Corinthians 8:7—Putting first things first—So far we have dealt with the temporal; now let us notice that we are to be diligent in spiritual things as well. In fact, the spiritual must come ahead of the temporal. It takes diligence to abound in faith! It takes a close walk with God to keep the love burning in the heart as it should. However, even in the work of God the temporal has a part, and Paul was here asking the saints at Corinth to abound in the special offering he was asking them to give.

DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM—Hebrews 11:6—Seek God in all things—It takes faith to please God! Faith will not come through careless or loose living. We must diligently seek God. Why is this? Because there is a devil in the world who will do all he can to keep us from being what God would have us to be and from doing what He would have us to do. Jacob in his contending with the angel, and in his determination not to let go until he received is an example for us.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Matthew 6:33—God's way is right—Jesus here instructs us to seek first the kingdom of God. There are different phases to the kingdom. Romans 14:17 speaks of the experience phase; after we have this experience we must seek daily to so live to keep it, for only they that endure to the end shall be saved. The promise is that if we will seek first the kingdom, then other needs will be provided. God keeps His promises.

AND BESIDE THIS—II Peter 1:5—Instruction for Christian living—In verse four, Peter speaks of the precious promises, whereby it is possible for one to be made a partaker of the “divine nature,” by being delivered from the corruption of this sinful world—and by being filled with the Holy Spirit—but that is not the end. Peter says we should give “all diligence” to do some adding! Every Christian has faith—you must believe to the salvation of your soul, you must believe for the infilling of the Holy Spirit—but we are to add to faith, “virtue.” One of the meanings of *virtue* is “moral excellence,” and no one can maintain a Christian life without living a morally clean life. Then we are to add to virtue, “knowledge.” Of course, knowledge will do us little good if we do not apply it, but we need to study the holy Scriptures with the intent of applying what we learn to our daily living.

ADD TO KNOWLEDGE—II Peter 1:6, 7—Peter goes on and instructs us to add to knowledge “temperance.” Of course, this old sinful world is to be forsaken altogether, but even in many legitimate things, such as eating, we are to exercise self-control. There are various powers God has bestowed upon mankind which are capable of abuse; the right use of these powers requires temperance. This is pos-

sible if our will is under the control of the Holy Spirit. Next, Peter says we are to add “patience.” Patience when trials come, patience when affliction comes. James tells us, “Let patience have her perfect work” (1:4). Godliness is next. Godliness is living the way God would have us live. We become more like the Lord as we walk in the light He shines on our pathway. Brotherly kindness should be the natural result of becoming more like the Lord. We cannot truly say we love God with all our hearts if we do not love our brother. To brotherly kindness, “charity,” which, of course is love. The apostle Paul tells us love never fails (I Corinthians 13:8).

IF THESE THINGS BE IN YOU—II Peter 1:8—God has made it possible for us to stand—Peter, in the above verses, tells us how we can stand, but please note, he does not just say, if these things be in you, but he adds, “and abound”—that which goes beyond the ordinary, abundantly—if these things be in you, and abound, they will enable you to produce Christian fruit, and will enable you to stand. We do not get all the grace we need the moment we get saved to last us the rest of our lifetime. We must diligently apply ourselves to the things of God and grow in grace.

CONCLUSION

We live in a temporal world. We must take care of temporal affairs. Many have gotten away from God’s divine plan, and as a result, we see many broken homes and wrecked lives. God has ordained marriage. He has given the man a place to fill. He has given the wife a place to fill, and, of course, the children also have a place to fill. If each one will fill their place, they can expect a happy home. But in so doing, we must not allow the temporal to choke out the spiritual. Solomon said, “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). His commandments cover the temporal and spiritual. Let us be diligent in both.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why must man work?
2. Why should a man be diligent in his work?
3. Is work a disgrace?
4. Does it take work to grow spiritually?
5. What does it mean to seek first the kingdom of God?
6. Who should provide for the family?
7. Who should take the lead in spiritual things in the family?

LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR JULY 27

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Scriptures: John 13:34; I Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; Mark 11:25, 26; Ephesians 4:32; Romans 12:18; I Peter 1:22; 3:8, 9; Romans 13:10.

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

I Peter 4:8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Mark 11:25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

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

forgiven you.

Romans 12:18 If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.

I Peter 1:22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

I Peter 3:8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Memory Verse: Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.—Romans 13:10.

Aim: To show how Christ would have us love one another.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday John 13
Tuesday I Peter 4
Wednesday Romans 12

Thursday Ephesians 4
Friday I Peter 3
Saturday Romans 13

INTRODUCTION

Love is one of the greatest needs in the world today! We live in a world where the ruling spirit is get, not give. The spirit of "get," which we could also call a spirit of greed or a spirit of selfishness, has caused the family of man to do many, many wicked deeds and thus has brought upon the family of man much heartache, misery, and woe.

All wars, all murders, all robberies, and all homes properly started and then broken by divorce, can be traced to the spirit of "get," greed and selfishness.

Love is giving! God so loved the world that He GAVE His only begotten Son. Jesus so loved that He GAVE Himself for the church. Husbands are told to love their wives as Christ loved the church. Wives are told to love and obey their husbands. Christians are told to

love one another and further to love their very enemies. God bless you as you study this lesson.

MEDITATIONS

GOD'S STANDARD OF LOVE—John 13:34—Love ... as I have
—In the Old Testament, it was an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth, but Jesus gives us a new commandment. He tells us we are to love one another even as He has loved and does love us. Jesus loved us so much that He laid down His life for us. How many of us love one another that much?

AT THE TOP OF THE LIST—I Peter 4:8—Above all things—
Peter, one of the twelve and thus one personally taught by the Master, tells us above all things we are to have fervent love among ourselves. If true Christians cannot have fervent love for one another, then how can we expect the unsaved to have it? But true conversion and the grace of God enables a Christian to show love. Peter goes on to say such love will cover the multitude of sins. True love enables a Christian to forgive everyone who wrongs him. **Proverbs 10:12—**Hate is the very opposite of love and has the opposite effects. Solomon declares hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all sins.

MUST FORGIVE OTHERS—Mark 11:25, 26—Forgive—If God loved us so much He was willing to forgive all our sins, should we not love one another enough to forgive one another? These verses clearly show that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. No man can have the love of God ruling and reigning in his heart and at the same time have an unforgiving spirit.

PROBLEMS WILL ARISE AMONG BRETHREN—Ephesians 4:32—Forgiving one another—The standard of the Church of God is indeed a high standard. A life of holiness is required. Yet problems and misunderstandings will arise, actions at times will not seem just right, and words may be spoken in haste. Paul instructs us all to be kind, to be tenderhearted, to forgive one another even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven us.

LOVE'S WAY—Romans 12:18—Live peaceably—We are told to love one another as brethren; we are told to love our enemies. Here Paul instructs us, as far as it is possible for us to do so, to live peaceably with all men. It is true that some people are so carnal that they are not willing to live in peace; but as far as you are concerned, endeavor to live peaceably with all men.

A SAVED AND SANCTIFIED HEART—I Peter 1:22—Unfeigned love—Through obedience to the truth of the gospel, we are not only forgiven of our personal sins in justification but the depraved nature is removed through sanctification. With such a purified soul we can carry out Peter's instruction to have unfeigned love, which means

genuine, real, sincere love. And such love is to be fervent, which means having or showing great warmth of feeling.

LOVE PRODUCES GOOD RESULTS—I Peter 3:8, 9—Love as brethren—The love of God burning in the heart of a child of God will cause him to strive to get along with, and be in agreement with, his brethren. Paul tells us to be of one mind. This does not mean everyone must see as we do, but all must strive to see the TRUTH as it is. When we love as brethren, we will not be rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing, but rather compassion, pity, courtesy. This is our calling.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Romans 13:10—Love worketh no ill—Look around you today. Look at the hate there is in the world. Look at the acts of ill will. This is not the result of love. This is not the fruit of love. Paul declares that love worketh NO ill to his neighbor, and Jesus tells us who our neighbor is (see Luke 10:25-37). Many put such stress on certain parts of the Old Testament law, but Paul tells us true love is the fulfilling of the law.

CONCLUSION

No man can love his brother, or his enemy, as he ought without loving God and putting Him first in his heart and life. Jesus told us the first and great commandment was to love God with all our heart. He said the second was like unto the first: we should love our neighbor as ourselves.

In I Corinthians 13, the love chapter, Paul tells us that charity, or love, enables a person to suffer long and yet be kind. Love does not allow for envy, it does not puff up, it is not boastful, it does not cause a person to act unseemly; rather, it keeps them from doing so. Love is not selfish, is not easily provoked, does not allow for evil thoughts to take root, does not rejoice in evil, but it does rejoice in the truth. Love enables a Christian to bear whatever he must and still keep victory. Love enables a Christian to believe all the truth he learns; it gives him hope and enables him to endure the things that are not pleasant. In fact, Paul declares, "Charity never faileth." Therefore, love is absolutely necessary to be a Christian and to live the Christian life.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What would you say is the greatest need in the world today?
2. What wrong has love ever wrought?
3. Define love in your own words.
4. To what extent are we to love one another?
5. What does Peter say is above all else?
6. Can a Christian hold a grudge against another?
7. Will one Christian ever need to forgive another Christian?
8. Do you have the love of God in your heart today?

LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR AUGUST 3

TRUE RICHES

Scriptures: Proverbs 13:7; Luke 12:20, 21; Matthew 6:19-21; II Corinthians 8:9; Romans 14:17; Revelation 2:9; 3:18.

Proverbs 13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

Luke 12:20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

Matthew 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Memory Verse: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.—Revelation 3:18.

Aim: To point out true riches.

II Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

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

Revelation 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

Revelation 3:18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Proverbs 13
Tuesday Luke 12
Wednesday Matthew 6

Thursday Romans 14
Friday II Corinthians 8
Saturday Revelation 3

INTRODUCTION

If it were revealed to you that you were going to die within the next half hour, would you value things as you do now? We are passing this way only once. Our life is so short. What we do, or fail to do, will determine our eternal destiny. We will not take our land, money, home, clothes, or any other earthly thing with us. We brought nothing into this world; we will take none of it with us when we leave. Men and women have worked so hard and so long, in many instances, to gain popularity, fame, position, and yet how soon it fades. Movie stars have taken their own lives because they could not stand to think of growing old and losing their fame. What are you laboring for? May the Lord help each student as we look at what the Bible says about true riches.

MEDITATIONS

A PUZZLE—Proverbs 13:7—Maketh himself rich—There is a spirit about some people that will not let them be satisfied; the more they get, the more they want. What true happiness does such a person have? Then there are those who would like to make you think they have more than what they really do. In either case, they are not really happy; they do not have true riches. I suppose we have all heard of some who appeared to be very poor yet had a great amount of worldly goods, and then there are those who really give themselves for others who do not have much in the way of earthly goods but they have the true riches of the grace of God.

ARE YOU A FOOL?—Luke 12:20, 21—So is he—A rich young farmer looks over his fields and he sees a bountiful crop coming on, so he decides to build bigger barns to store his goods, and then take it easy—leaving God out of his plans, as so many others do! God knew his self-centered thoughts and informed him his soul would be required of him that very night. And he was asked this question, “Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” Yes, God called this man a fool, because his heart was set on earthly treasures, but notice—God declares EVERYONE a fool who is like-minded. The wise person is the one who is rich “toward God.”

HEAVEN’S BANK—Matthew 6:19-21—Treasures in heaven—It is true we live in a temporal world and we must have food, shelter, clothing, and such things as we journey through this life. It is also true that God intends for a man to enjoy, in a proper, godly manner, the fruit of his labor, but God does not intend for us to make the things of this world our god. We are told to seek FIRST the kingdom of God and His righteousness. If and when we do, we are laying up treasures in heaven. This would include loving God with all our heart, loving our neighbor as ourselves, helping the poor and needy, and supporting the Lord’s work.

TRUE RICHES—II Corinthians 8:9—Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ—None of us knows what heaven is really like, but Paul informs us that the Lord was “rich” when there, but He left it all behind and came into this world and became a poor man for our sakes. He lived among men, died on the cross, rose again, so we could be delivered from the power, bondage and curse of sin, so that we could become rich. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?” (Matthew 16:26).

SOMETHING MONEY CANNOT BUY—Romans 14:17—The kingdom of God—Much is being said about a supposed future kingdom on this earth of 1,000 years’ duration. The Word of God does not teach any such thing. The Bible declares the kingdom of God is an

everlasting kingdom. Paul here gives us some insight into one phase of the kingdom of God—the experience phase. And he tells us it IS, not that it is GOING TO BE out in the future, but that it is—NOW!—righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. Everyone who has the born-again experience has this precious treasure. Peace of heart, soul, and mind are indeed true riches and can be yours through the Lord Jesus Christ.

CHRIST SPEAKS THE TRUTH—Revelation 2:9—Thou art rich—The congregation at Smyrna was passing through some trying times; Satan was fighting as strongly as he could; false brethren were opposing the true work of God. The people did not have much of this world's goods, but they had the Lord, they had salvation, they had peace with God, and thus Christ could tell them “thou art rich”!

OUR MEMORY VERSE—Revelation 3:18—Buy of me—The congregation at Laodicea was much better off, in a material way, than the one at Smyrna, yet the all-seeing eye of Christ saw their poverty. They thought they were rich because they had “increased with goods,” they thought they had “need of nothing”; but Jesus told them, you are “wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked”! So He counseled them to buy of Him “gold tried in the fire.” Thus, gold symbolizes the truth. Solomon said we should buy it and sell it not. Christ is saying the same thing: buy the truth, pay the price for truth, whatever it may cost you—home, friends, job. This is the way to obtain true riches, for Jesus says, “Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich.”

CONCLUSION

Jesus gives us a parable in Luke 16 of a man who was unfaithful in the trust that was placed in him. Then this question is asked, “If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches?” (Luke 16:11). God has been so good to all of us and He has given us many rich blessings, but He never intended for us to make the things of this world our god. He is the true and the living God. If we would know true riches in this world, and in the one to come, we must put Him and His work first in our lives.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What to you are true riches?
2. What would you say is the value of your own soul?
3. Who did Jesus say was a fool and why?
4. What does it mean to be rich toward God?
5. How does one lay up treasures in heaven?
6. How did Christ become poor for us and why?
7. Where is your treasure?

LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR AUGUST 10

A FORGIVING SPIRIT

Scriptures: Matthew 6:14, 15; Mark 11:24-26; Colossians 3:12, 13; Matthew 18:15; Ephesians 4:26, 27, 32.

Matthew 6:14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Mark 11:24 Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

25 And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Colossians 3:12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of

mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Matthew 18:15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

Ephesians 4:26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

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

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

—Ephesians 4:32.

Aim: To set before the student the truth in regard to the need of forgiving others.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Matthew 6
Tuesday Mark 11
Wednesday Colossians 3

Thursday Matthew 18:1-20
Friday Ephesians 4
Saturday Matthew 18:21-35

INTRODUCTION

It is a wonderful thing to be forgiven of all sins. To be right with God, how could mortal be more blessed? But to be forgiven one must forgive.

In a life of sin a person not only does wrong to others, but there may be times others do wrong to him. Satan would like to—and often does—get a person to treasure up in his heart feelings of bitterness and enmity toward the offenders. Unless such ill-feelings are given up, they will bar the soul from eternal life.

If anyone ever had a right to feel hard toward others it was the Lord Jesus, our Savior: One who was lied on, falsely accused, mistreated and finally crucified, yet He prayed “forgive them.” He is our Example.

Not only at the time of seeking pardon must we have a spirit of forgiveness, but as we journey through the Christian life, there will be many opportunities to forgive others.

MEDITATIONS

MUST FORGIVE TO BE FORGIVEN—Matthew 6:14, 15—If ye forgive—We live in a world where many, even church members, are ruled by the powers of darkness! With a master like the devil, people are going to do things that are not right. They are going to talk to others in a manner they should not, they are going to act towards others in a way that is not right. When such people come under the sound of the gospel and want to get right with God, they must know and understand that to be forgiven by the Lord, they must have a forgiving spirit toward those who have wronged them. Jesus said, “If ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive”; however, if any man is unwilling to forgive another, then God cannot and will not forgive him his trespasses. Let no one with an unforgiving spirit think he is right with God.

A HINDRANCE TO PRAYER—Mark 11:24-26—When ye pray—Prayer is a very important part of any Christian’s life. Without a victorious prayer life you will not be able to live a victorious Christian life. Prayer is talking to God, and things must be clear with God and with man for prayer to really go through. If we go to God in prayer and there are made to realize there is a feeling or an attitude toward someone that is not right, we must get it out of the way. Even if we have been wronged, we must forgive.

LIVING THE GOSPEL—Colossians 3:12, 13—Forgiving one another—Being a Christian and living the Christian life is a wonderful blessing. We should be so thankful to the Lord that He has given us the privilege of being His servant. Nevertheless, there will be problems arise from time to time. As long as we live in this world we will be confronted with an enemy that is determined to cause all the trouble he can. Paul tells us to put on as the elect of God, as children of God, bowels of mercies, kindness, longsuffering so that we will be able to forbear one with the other. Further, he tells us to forgive one another! So there will be things arise, even in the family of God, where it will be necessary to forgive one another. A true Christian will do this, for he will remember that Christ forgave him.

THE WAY TO SETTLE PROBLEMS—Matthew 18:15—If thy brother shall trespass—It is so easy to go to someone else and talk to him about how you have been wronged, or mistreated, but the Master here gives us instruction as to what we are to do if we feel someone has trespassed against us. “Go and tell him his fault between thee and him ALONE.” If he hears you, you have gained your brother.

If he does not hear, then Jesus said take one or two others with you; if he still will not hear, then tell it to the church. If he refuses to hear the church, then “let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.”

SOME THINGS DO DISPLEASE—Ephesians 4:26—Be ye angry, and sin not—We are not to understand the word *angry*, as used in this verse, to mean carnal anger which causes you to want to hurt someone. True Christians do not wish to harm anyone! There are things that happen in life that are not pleasant; people do things we do not appreciate, but we are not to harbor feelings of displeasure, as Paul says, “Let not the sun go down upon your wrath.” To harbor feelings of displeasure one runs the risk of those feelings becoming malice, which may be followed by a desire to seek revenge. **Verse 27**—The devil is the enemy of all mankind. Whereas God is love, the devil is hate. Whereas God is for peace, the devil is for strife. Therefore, Paul tells us to give him no place—do not listen to him, do not obey him, do not side with him. Rather, resist him steadfast in the faith.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—A RULE FOR ALL CHRISTIANS—Ephesians 4:32—Forgiving one another—This scripture is so simply worded, yet carries such important instructions! What a different world we would live in if this verse of scripture were carried out. Kindness is something that every normal person appreciates. Tenderhearted—Oh, for a tender heart! How miserable that person who is hardhearted and has little or no regard for others! A person who is kind and tenderhearted will not find it hard to forgive. Paul is here speaking to Christians—“even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you”—but this instruction is good for the entire world.

CONCLUSION

In Matthew 18, Jesus tells us of a king who determined to take account of his servants. One was found who owed him ten thousand talents. The man simply could not pay such a large debt. The king commanded that the man be sold, as well as his wife and children, so that the debt could be paid. The servant fell down and pleaded with the king, asking him to have patience, promising to pay. The ruler was moved with compassion and loosed him. What did he do? He went out and found a fellowservant that owed him one hundred pence and demanded payment! His fellowservant was not able to pay, and he begged for mercy, but he would not show it and he had the man cast into prison.

Our debt to God is so large, we could never pay, but through Jesus Christ we can be pardoned. Hallelujah! But our being pardoned depends, in part, on our forgiving others, as Jesus makes clear in the last verse of Matthew 18.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Did Jesus always forgive those who mistreated Him?
2. Can we hold a grudge against others and be forgiven?
3. What kind of attitude must we have to get our prayers answered?
4. Do Christians ever do anything they need to ask forgiveness for?
5. How are problems among brethren to be solved?
6. Why are we to get rid of feelings of anger?
7. Have you been forgiven of your debt of sin?

LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR AUGUST 17

DIVINE FAVOR AND GUIDANCE

Scriptures: Ezekiel 33:15, 16; Psalm 37:23, 24; 23:1-3; Jeremiah 10:23; Deuteronomy 31:8; John 16:13.

Ezekiel 33:15 If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity; he shall surely live, he shall not die.

16 None of his sins that he hath committed shall be mentioned unto him: he hath done that which is lawful and right; he shall surely live.

Psalm 37:23 The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.

24 Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand.

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

2 He maketh me to lie down in green

pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Jeremiah 10:23 O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Deuteronomy 31:8 And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

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 shew you things to come.

Memory Verse: Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.—Proverbs 3:5, 6.

Aim: To point out the need of having God's power and guidance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Ezekiel 33
Tuesday Psalm 37
Wednesday Psalm 23

Thursday Jeremiah 10
Friday Deuteronomy 31
Saturday John 16

INTRODUCTION

When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they lost not only spiritual life—for God had said in the DAY that you eat of the tree that is in the midst of the garden you shall surely die—but they also lost divine favor. Having chosen to go into sin, there was no way, humanly, for them to come back into favor with God. Sin was, and still is, so black, so ugly, so vile, so wicked, so contrary to the holy nature of God that He cannot look upon it with any favor whatsoever. Neither does He approve of those who are living in sin. To have God's favor, to have Him lead, guide and direct your life, you must depart from a life of sin. You must get off the broad road and travel the strait and narrow way. Through the supreme sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ this was made possible. If you do not know Him today, let us encourage you to seek Him with all your heart.

MEDITATIONS

A PRECIOUS PROMISE—Ezekiel 33:15, 16—Walk in the statutes of life—A wicked person is a sinner! This is not said to offend anyone, but simply to point out a fact. To break the known commands of the Lord does indeed make a person wicked. A sinner needs to realize his true state; otherwise, he will not feel a need to change. On the other hand, do not feel you are so wicked if you are unsaved that the Lord will not save you, for these verses tell us, if the wicked will forsake his way, give again that he had robbed, and live in obedience to the Word of God, he can and will have life. He that hath the Son hath life. So, in turning from sin, making wrongs right and walking in the way of the Lord, you will have Christ. Further, none of your sins of the past will be mentioned unto you. You have done what the Lord requires; you have come into favor with the Almighty.

LEARNING TO WALK—Psalm 37:23, 24—Steps of a good man—Many in the religious world would tell you that there are no “good men” in this age, but the Word of God does not teach that. We know that no one is good in himself. Our righteousness is as filthy rags in the sight of God, but we do not speak of the self-righteous. We speak of those who have departed from a life of sin, made their wrongs right and are walking the highway of holiness. We notice, however, that it is possible for one to stumble, to make mistakes. This is especially true of the babes in Christ, but no one gets to the place in this life that he is so perfect he cannot make a mistake. We must be willing to acknowledge such mistakes, correct them, and go on with the Lord. The Lord will uphold anyone who is sincerely striving to live right after he has been saved.

A KIND SHEPHERD—Psalm 23:1-3—He leadeth me—Anyone who has truly left the life of sin and started walking the highway of holiness can say, “The Lord is my shepherd.” How precious! Jesus tells us in John 10:11, “The good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.” With a Shepherd who loves us that much, why should we doubt His leadership? He leads to “green pastures”; He leads by “the still waters”; He leads “in the paths of righteousness.” God never leads anyone to sin!

ALL MEN NEED GOD’S HELP—Jeremiah 10:23—It is not in man—We are living in a world filled with disappointed people. Life has proven so undesirable to some that they have ended their lives. Why? Because they have left God out of their plans. Millions have chosen their own way, followed the desires of the flesh and have made shipwreck. Jeremiah states a truth that the entire world needs to know. “I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.” Why? Because there is a devil in the world who leads man (if he does not have God to lead) in the way of

selfishness, greed, lust, and evil of all kinds! These things do not bring peace; they do not bring happiness. That is why Solomon tells us not to lean to our own understanding, but in all our ways acknowledge God so that He can and will direct our paths.

MOSES INSTRUCTS ISRAEL—Deuteronomy 31:8—The Lord—In the first part of this chapter Moses tells Israel that he is not too old to go out with them; nevertheless, he assures them that God will keep His word and will bring them into the land of promise. Speaking more directly to Joshua, yet including all the people, Moses tells them that the Lord will go before, He will be with them, He will not fail, neither forsake them; therefore, they should not fear nor be dismayed. The same God has promised to be with us if we will but live in His favor.

THE SPIRIT LEADS—John 16:13—The Spirit of truth—There are many spirits in the world, many religious spirits but only one Holy Spirit, and those who have departed from a life of sin have the privilege, through sanctification, which is the will of God for every believer, to have the Holy Spirit to lead them. He is the Spirit of truth. He inspired the Bible and He knows its true meaning. The Spirit will come in and will abide with us forever—if we will follow His leadings.

CONCLUSION

There are many forces at work in the world today. Pressures are felt on every hand. Men will try to bring you into bondage to them and to their cause. Men pleasers are to be found in many religious groups, but Paul said, “If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” We are to seek God’s favor and let His hand lead and guide us. Again, Paul said, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14). One thing you can be sure of, the Spirit never leads contrary to the Word! The Word and Spirit agree.

It is of the utmost importance that each student seek to have and to retain the favor of God, to seek the guiding hand of God. Why? To be happy in this life and to have eternal life in the world to come.

The Word of God tells us, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5, 6). If we will do that, we will have God’s favor and guidance.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Can a man live in sin and still have God’s favor?
2. How can a sinner come to the place where he has favor with God?
3. What are “statutes of life”?
4. Will Christians make mistakes?
5. What does it mean to trust in the Lord with all your heart?
6. Is the Lord leading you?

LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR AUGUST 24

CHASTISEMENT

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 8:5, 6; Psalm 118:18; 119:67, 71; Hebrews 12:5-7, 9-11.

Deuteronomy 8:5 Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the Lord thy God chasteneth thee.

6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Psalm 118:18 The Lord hath chastened me sore: but he hath not given me over unto death.

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

71 It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes.

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

6 For whom the Lord loveth he chast-

Memory Verse: Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.—Psalm 119:67.

Aim: To show that God intended chastisement to be a help to us in living the Christian life.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Deuteronomy 8	Thursday	Psalm 38
Tuesday	Psalm 118	Friday	Hebrews 12
Wednesday	Psalm 119:65-72	Saturday	Proverbs 19

INTRODUCTION

What a glorious privilege to be a child of God! There is nothing in this world that can compare to being in the family of God. Yes, we have our earthly families, and the love of father, mother, brother, sister, and friends is fine (thank God for this blessing also); however, these are only for this time world, but we can be a child in God's family eternally. We have a precious loving Father in this family, and He loves us so much that He corrects us when we need it. Earthly parents should love their children that much, too.

The word *chasten* means "(1) to punish in order to correct, (2) to restrain from excess; subdue." Any punishment that does not correct is unprofitable; in fact, may well do harm. Parents who grab a child

and give him a little slap have not corrected their child, as a rule. You must administer whatever type of punishment it takes to break the rebellious spirit, to change the course of the child. Then, and only then, have you corrected him. Of course, I have no reference to abuse or mistreatment of any precious child.

Chastisement is given because of love, if it is proper chastisement. This is the only kind God gives, and He gives it only when needed.

MEDITATIONS

THINGS TO CONSIDER—Deuteronomy 8:5, 6—The Lord thy God—God has always desired a people—as long as the family of man has been on the earth—that would love and serve Him. However, this must be done according to His will and not as man may choose. Under the Old Covenant a child that would not be corrected was to be stoned to death. Under the law of God a son that will not be corrected will die spiritually. A true father chastens his child to correct and thus to benefit the child. Even so, God chastens His children to help them keep His commandments and to walk in His ways, for He knows what is best.

GOD DEALS FIRMLY—Psalm 118:18—Chastened me sore—It is thought David is the author of this Psalm, and we know David was a man after God's own heart. However, there were times that David got out of line and God, the faithful Father, dealt with him according to the need. There are times when the punishment must be more severe than at other times. David does not say just why the Lord chastened him sore, but we know God did what was best for David.

THE LORD IS FAITHFUL—Psalm 119:67, 71—Afflicted—The word *afflict* means "to cause pain, suffering or distress." The flesh draws back from this, and of course we are not suggesting that a parent should afflict a child just to cause suffering, nor are we suggesting that God afflicts just to cause pain and suffering. Verse 67 says, "Before I was afflicted I went astray." So the straying is what caused God to have to chasten or afflict. In verse 71 we read, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted." The writer took the right attitude and thus was benefited by the affliction.

DO NOT FAINT—Hebrews 12:5-7—My son—It is true that a parent can scold, rebuke, and make fun of a child and thus discourage him. Some try to shame their children into doing what is right. Such efforts usually fail. A child needs to feel the love and concern the parent has for him. The child needs to know that the parent is doing what is best. This is the confidence we must have in God. We must not despise the chastening of the Lord. Sometimes the Lord may chasten us by withdrawing His presence; at such a time we must not faint, or turn aside, for as the writer says, "Whom the Lord loveth he chas-

teneth.” Possibly we can take comfort in the fact that God has to chasten all His children. Let us learn our lessons well and seek to keep from making the same mistake over so the Lord will not have to chasten us twice for the same thing.

RESPECT IS NEEDED—Hebrews 12:9, 10—We gave them reverence—It is difficult to see how a parent could get any pleasure out of correcting a child, nevertheless, the writer says, even so we gave them reverence: then how much more should we honor, respect, reverence and obey almighty God who corrects for our profit that we might be partakers of His holiness. If God’s correction is refused, our souls will not live!

GOD WANTS US TO BE HAPPY—Hebrews 12:11—Peaceable fruit of righteousness—I don’t suppose many children realize the hurt a true parent feels when he has to punish his child, and for the child at the time of punishment it is anything but joyous. So it is in the spiritual realm. It is not a joyous time for the child of God when the Father has to chasten him; nevertheless, if it is received in the right spirit, it will yield the peaceable fruit of righteousness. A bitter lesson has been learned and the soul will be more careful to fully obey the law of God.

CONCLUSION

The late C. E. Orr said: “Jesus knows best. If you could see down your future way, your eye would rest only upon the dangerous precipice or on the stony place, and you would fail to see the green pastures, the still waters, and the flowery fields beyond.”

When a sinner is converted to Christ and starts to walk the strait and narrow way, there are many things, doubtless, he does not know about Christ, about the Bible, about living a holy life. One should not be discouraged and give up because he makes a mistake. A mistake is not a sin. One should not find fault with God because it becomes necessary for Him to chasten him. God is vitally interested in all His children and it is His desire that each one grow and prosper in his soul. Therefore, He chastens every son that He receives. Let us be thankful that we have such a loving Father and let us profit by His corrections.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do you think parents should chasten their children?
2. Can one be a child of God and never be chastened by the Lord?
3. Why does God chasten His children?
4. What happens if the chastisement is not accepted?
5. Have you benefited from chastisement?

LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR AUGUST 31

THANKSGIVING

Scriptures: Psalm 50:14; Deuteronomy 8:10; Psalm 136:1; 30:4; II Corinthians 9:15; Philippians 4:6; Psalm 100:4; Luke 17:15-18; Psalm 103:1-3.

Psalm 50:14 Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the most High.

Deuteronomy 8:10 When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the Lord thy God for the good land which he hath given thee.

Psalm 136:1 O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.

Psalm 30:4 Sing unto the Lord, O ye saints of his, and give thanks at the remembrance of his holiness.

II Corinthians 9:15 Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift.

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

Psalm 100:4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with

praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Luke 17:15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

16 And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan.

17 And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine?

18 There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger.

Psalm 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.

Memory Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.—Psalm 103:1.

Aim: To help the student to see more clearly the need of giving thanks to God for all His blessings.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Deuteronomy 8	Thursday	Philippians 4
Tuesday	Psalm 50	Friday	Psalm 100
Wednesday	Psalm 30	Saturday	Psalm 103

INTRODUCTION

The title of this lesson may seem simple, but I feel safe in saying most people are not as thankful as they should be—to God or to their fellowmen! The spirit of this age seems to be one of get, get, get. Such a spirit is one of selfishness and a selfish spirit is not one of thanksgiving.

Our very life is a gift, a gift from almighty God! Every blessing of every day is a gift and every blessing is something to be thankful for.

Someone has said if we offered God more thanks for what He does for us, He would do more for which we could thank Him. Doubtless, this is true, but He already does so much for us that we fail to know

how to give Him proper thanks. One hymn writer has said, "If I had ten thousand lives in which to praise Him, I could not enough my blessed Lord adore." Since we only have one, let us seek to offer thanksgiving and praise to God in it.

MEDITATIONS

WE ARE DEBTORS—Psalm 50:14—Pay thy vows—This world belongs to God! The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof. We may talk about this car being ours, or say, "This home is mine," but we are only stewards. Therefore, let us offer unto God thanksgiving.

BE THANKFUL FOR FOOD—Deuteronomy 8:10—When thou hast eaten—The children of Israel were slaves in Egypt when God led them out. He had promised Abraham that his seed would inherit Canaan, a land flowing with "milk and honey." In this scripture, the people were being instructed to bless the Lord when they had eaten and were full. They were to bless the Lord for the food and for the land that He had brought them to. Further on in this chapter they were warned against saying their might and their power had gotten this wealth, for "remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth" (verses 17 and 18).

BE THANKFUL FOR HIS MERCY—Psalm 136:1—His mercy—This Psalm has 26 verses and each one ends with the words, "For his mercy endureth for ever." What hope would any of us have if it were not for the mercy of God? What blessing would we receive if it were not for the mercy of God? Yes, thank God for His mercy!

BE THANKFUL FOR HIS HOLINESS—Psalm 30:4—Give thanks—Thank God for His holiness. But let us notice that saints are to sing unto the Lord, and give thanks for His holiness. Let us also thank God that He has made it possible for people to leave the old life of sin and wickedness and become saints of God. No, you don't have to be dead for a long time before you can be made a saint by some religious group. Full salvation makes you a saint of God.

BE THANKFUL FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE GIFT—II Corinthians 9:15—Thanks be unto God—God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life. This gift, the gift of eternal life, came through Christ and His sacrifice on the cross, so whether you think of Christ as the unspeakable gift or of eternal life as the gift, doesn't make any difference, for they really cannot be separated.

BE THANKFUL IN PRAYER—Philippians 4:6—In everything—First, we need to be thankful that through Jesus Christ we can come to the Father in prayer. Prayer, however, is not to be limited to making requests, just telling God what we want. Paul says with thanksgiving we are to let our requests be made known. We cannot

expect God to keep on and on answering our prayers if we do not give Him thanksgiving for what He has done for us.

BE THANKFUL IN WORSHIP—Psalm 100:4—Enter into his gates—In the Old Testament age, the people were to offer animal sacrifices as one way to worship and praise God. We can thank God we do not have to do this, but we can and are instructed to “Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise.” Let our houses of worship be places where God is truly praised.

BE THANKFUL FOR HEALING—Luke 17:15-18—With a loud voice—There were ten men who were lepers. They could not come close to the Master, but stood afar off and cried unto Him to have mercy on them. He answered their cry and told them what to do. As they turned to obey His voice, they were cleansed! Only one came to the Master to offer thanks, and he was a Samaritan. He fell down on his face at the Master’s feet, giving Him thanks. Let us never take the blessings of God for granted.

BE THANKFUL FOR ALL BLESSINGS—Psalm 103:1-3—Bless the Lord—To bless the Lord with all that is within us is to do so with all our heart. This would rule out form, or mere lip service. For God to accept our praise, our worship, our thanksgiving, it must come from our heart. Bless Him for salvation, for healing, for all His benefits, for every good gift comes from Him.

CONCLUSION

I suppose most, if not all of us, have heard people say, “Praise the Lord” when we didn’t really feel anything in it. Jesus spoke of those who worshiped Him with their lips while their hearts were far from Him. Such worship is vain. God is worthy of true, heartfelt praise and thanksgiving.

There are times when we may not feel so much praise in our heart. There are times when the burden gets heavy, the trial seems long and the road may seem a little rough, and the old devil will try to tell us God doesn’t love us, He doesn’t care, or that we no longer have His favor, but we need to resist the devil steadfast in the faith. If we are saved and living to all the light we know, we do have God’s approval, He does love us, and He will see us through each trial and each test. Bless His holy name! He is worthy of thanksgiving!

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do you have a thankful heart?
2. Who owns this world?
3. Where does the power to get wealth come from?
4. In what are we to give thanks?
5. Where are we to give thanks?
6. To whom are we to give thanks?

LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR SEPTEMBER 7

CHRISTIAN WORK

Scriptures: Mark 16:15; Matthew 13:38; Luke 14:21-23; John 4:35, 28, 29; Galatians 6:10; II Corinthians 6:1; John 6:11; Mark 13:34, 35.

Mark 16:15 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

Matthew 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.

Luke 14:21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.

23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

John 4:35 Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

28 The woman then left her waterpot,

and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

Galatians 6:10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the house hold of faith.

II Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

John 6:11 And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

Mark 13:34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrow-ing, or in the morning.

Memory Verse: We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.—II Corinthians 6:1.

Aim: To emphasize the need of each member of the body of Christ doing the work that is his to do, and to stress its importance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday Mark 16
Tuesday Matthew 13
Wednesday Luke 14

Thursday John 4
Friday Galatians 6
Saturday Mark 13

INTRODUCTION

Work is a blessing! True, many people seem to shun it, some seem to do as little as possible, while others really enjoy working. Regardless of man's attitude, work is a blessing and we need to thank God for the privilege.

There are different kinds of work: physical labor where tools or machines are used, some which does not call for much use of mental

powers, and then there is work which requires almost exclusively mental and reasoning powers.

C. E. Orr wrote:

“God has a work for every one that comes into the world. This world is going to be made a little better by your having come into it, or it will be made worse. Which shall it be? No one can do the work of another, since every one is given all he can do. It is true we are told to bear one another’s burdens. I am to help you bear your burdens; that is a part of my work. You are to help me. We need the help of each other. But I cannot do what you ought to do; for I have all I can do. What you neglect to do will have to go undone. If someone stops to do what you ought to do, just as large a rent is made in life’s work as would have been made in yours, but the reflection is on you.

“Let not the precious moments of your life flee away unimproved. Jesus is our example. He went about doing good. Everywhere He went, He left evidence that He had passed along that way. Oh, pilgrim of life’s journey, what are you leaving along the way to show in after-years that you have passed along? Is it flowers you are strewing? Is it sunshine to cheer and lighten the hearts of others? Sad indeed if there is none to say, ‘He did me good.’”

In this lesson we wish to deal with Christian work. Every Christian has a work to do. The Scriptures tell us that God places the members in the body as it pleases Him. Some have the responsibility of preaching the gospel, some are called to be teachers, others are called to do other tasks, but every member of the body of Christ has a job to do.

MEDITATIONS

WORLD-WIDE MISSION FIELD—Mark 16:15—Go ye—God chose Abraham and made of him and his seed the literal nation of Israel; they were not told to convert the world. But in the New Covenant, Jesus gave His church the responsibility of taking the gospel to the entire world. He did not call them to preach and teach the creeds of men, but THE GOSPEL! That is still the commission today, for THE gospel is the power of God unto salvation for everyone that will believe and obey it. If all could not be saved, then why preach the gospel to all?

SEED AND TARES—Matthew 13:38—The field is the world—In the first part of this chapter Jesus gives the parable of the sower that went forth to sow (You must read it to understand this verse.), but we are using this verse in this lesson to show that the church, which is to sow the Word of God, is to sow in all the earth, for Jesus said, “The field is the world.” We need to be moved by the fact that the tares are gathered and burned (verse 40).

PARABLE OF A GREAT SUPPER—Luke 14:21-23—Still there is room—Starting with verse 16 of this chapter, Jesus tells of a man

who made a great supper and sent his servants out to let the invited guests know that all things were ready. They made excuses, but the man would not be denied. God first, under the Old Covenant, called the Hebrews, but they rejected His way, they rejected His Son, and so the church was given the mission to go into all the world, invite all to come and eat at Father's table. Though many have come, there is still room for more. We can go into the highways and hedges by personal testimony, by Christian living, we can "compel them to come in" through earnest, fervent prayer. This every child of God can do.

NOW IS THE TIME—John 4:35—Lift up your eyes—It is true that the Spirit of God must convict and draw souls to Christ or else they will not come, but we must labor, under the leadership of the Master, for this to be done. The Spirit will not do it all! Man has his part to play. Jesus was hungry, the disciples had gone to get food for Him to eat, but when the woman of Samaria came to draw water, Jesus took advantage of the opportunity to tell her of the living water. Then He impressed the disciples with the fact that the fields are ready to harvest NOW. The "fields" include your area right where you live, and possibly members of your own family.

PERSONAL WORK—John 4:28, 29—Left her waterpot—After this woman had learned of Christ and of the living water, she wanted others to know, so she left her waterpot and went into the city asking the people to "come and see." Everyone who truly receives Christ as Savior is going to want to tell others and to invite them to come.

GOOD DEEDS—Galatians 6:10—Do good unto all men—It is true the great need is the need of the soul, but Christian work is not limited to preaching the gospel. There are the sick to be visited, the poor to be helped, those in prison to be ministered to, and this is to be done, as we are able, to all men, "especially" to the household of faith.

OUR MEMORY VERSE—II Corinthians 6:1—Workers together with Him—What a privilege to be a worker with Christ. His work is the most important work in the world and we should live like it is. We should not let material things keep us from doing the work Christ would have us do. Do not receive the grace of God in vain. If you are a Bible school teacher, take time to pray for your class, inspire them, teach them, be an example before them. If you have the ability to do personal work, use that talent for Christ. Whatever your place in the body is, always keep in mind you are a worker with Him, you are doing it for Him and not for self.

A SIMPLE JOB—John 6:11—He distributed to the disciples—Jesus was working a mighty miracle in producing the bread needed to feed the thousands, but He was using the disciples to help Him get it out to the people. You cannot give a cup of cold water in the name of a

disciple without receiving a reward. No task is too small if it is helping the Master.

THE END IS COMING—Mark 13:34, 35—A far journey—Jesus left heaven and came into this world on a mission! He came to do the will of the Father. He finished that work (John 17:4), and then He returned to the Father, but He said, “I will come again.” Before He left, He gave His church a work to do. Everyone has a job, too, and he has the authority of Christ backing him as long as he does HIS will. We do not know when He is coming, but let us not be as the foolish virgins; let us be about our Master’s business, faithful to the end.

CONCLUSION

Husbands and fathers have a great responsibility in caring for their families. It takes time, labor, and effort to provide a home, food, clothing, and other things to meet the needs of each one. Wives have a great responsibility to their husbands and to their children. It takes time to keep house, to cook meals, to wash clothes, to teach and instruct the little ones. Everything does not always go just as we might desire. Children need to be helpers in the home and in the fields; they must go to school and learn so they can be useful citizens. These things are a part of life and they are necessary, but there is one thing above all else and Solomon tells us what that is! “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:13). If we will put God and His spiritual work first in our lives, He will help us do the things we need to do to carry out His will in temporal matters.

Never lose sight of the words of Jesus, “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Matthew 16:26). Your own soul, and the souls of your children, are the most valuable things in this world. To see them saved and living for the Lord is the greatest work parents could accomplish, along with serving the Lord yourself.

No nation is stronger than its homes, and we can say the same thing about a congregation. No congregation is stronger than the families that make up that congregation. We need strong Christian families to see the work of the Lord prosper in our day.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Do you enjoy working?
2. Do you believe every Christian has a work to do for the Lord?
3. Name some of the jobs to be done.
4. Give a personal experience you have had in working with a soul.
5. Are you giving to support the work of the church?
6. Are you willing to answer God’s call if He were to call you into full-time gospel work?

LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR SEPTEMBER 14

THE CHRISTIAN'S ATTITUDE

Scriptures: Deuteronomy 6:5; Acts 4:12; John 14:23; Acts 3:22, 23; Romans 8:17; Ephesians 4:30; John 13:34; Mark 12:31; Matthew 5:43, 44; Psalm 97:10.

Deuteronomy 6:5 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Acts 3:22 For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.

23 And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Romans 8:17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

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

John 13:34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

Mark 12:31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.

Matthew 5:43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

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

Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Memory Verse: Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.—Proverbs 4:23.

Aim: To point out the necessity of maintaining a proper Christian attitude at all times.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday I Corinthians 13
Tuesday Proverbs 4
Wednesday Mark 12:28-34

Thursday Hebrews 12:1-17
Friday Deuteronomy 6:1-9
Saturday Psalm 97

INTRODUCTION

A proper attitude is a very important part of Christian living. We live in a world filled with sin and wickedness of all kinds. We see and hear many things that we, as Christians, do not appreciate. Rulers of nations, many times, are crooked, selfish, and unreasonable in dealing with their subjects. Men who are put in office as judges, many times, are corrupted by bribes or make improper decisions for selfish reasons. Some men who are supposed to uphold the law, as officers of

the law, break it, by stealing, cheating, etc. Businesses overcharge or misrepresent their products, all for the sake of filthy lucre. The working man on the job, many times, will do just as little as possible to get by. A Christian steps forward who is honest, deals fairly with his fellowmen, respects his government, wants to obey the law, wants to do an honest day's work to earn his wages—and he is made fun of, talked about, imposed on. In the face of such conditions it takes the grace of God to maintain the proper Christian attitude. On the other hand, if you are not careful, you can take the right stand, feel sure you are right in your stand for truth and still take a wrong attitude. We must make sure that our stand AND our attitude are right.

MEDITATIONS

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD GOD—Deuteronomy 6:5—Love ... God with all thine heart—The first and great commandment is to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. And to love Him is to serve Him. We cannot love God and the world at the same time, for if we love the world we will serve the world; if we love God, we will serve God.

Let me quote what Adam Clarke says in his commentary on our loving God with all our heart:

“1. He loves God with all his heart, who loves nothing in comparison of Him, and nothing but in reference to Him:—who is ready to give up, do, or suffer any thing in order to please and glorify Him:—who has in his heart neither love nor hatred, hope nor fear, inclination, nor aversion, desire, nor delight, but as they relate to God, and are regulated by Him.

“2. He loves God with all his soul, or rather, ... with all his life, who is ready to give up life for His sake—to endure all sorts of torments, and to be deprived of all kinds of comforts, rather than dishonor God:—who employs life with all its comforts, and conveniences, to glorify God in, by, and through all:—to whom life and death are nothing, but as they come from and lead to God. From this Divine principle sprang the blood of the martyrs, which became the seed of the Church. They overcame through the blood of the Lamb, and loved not their lives unto the death. See Revelation 12:11.

“3. He loves God with all his strength (Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27) who exerts all the powers of his body and soul in the service of God:—who, or for the glory of his Master, spares neither labor nor cost—who sacrifices his time, body, health, ease, for the honor of God his Divine Master:—who employs in his service all his goods, his talents, his power, credit, authority, and influence.

“4. He loves God with all his mind (intellect) who applies himself only to know God, and His holy will:—who receives with submission, gratitude, and pleasure, the sacred truths which God has revealed to

man:—who studies no art nor science but as far as it is necessary for the service of God, and uses it at all times to promote His glory:—who forms no projects nor designs but in reference to God and the interests of mankind:—who banishes from his understanding and memory every useless, foolish, and dangerous thought, together with every idea which has any tendency to defile his soul, or turn it for a moment from the center of eternal repose. In a word, he who sees God in all things—thinks of Him at all times—having his mind continually fixed upon God, acknowledging Him in all ways—who begins, continues, and ends all his thoughts, words, and works, to the glory of His name:—this is the person who loves God with all his heart, life, strength, and intellect. He is crucified to the world, and the world to him: he lives, yet not he, but Christ lives in him.”

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD CHRIST OUR SAVIOR—Acts 4:12—There is none other name—Our attitude toward Christ must be more than just to regard Him as a good man, a good teacher; we must see Him as the only Savior there is. As Peter said in John 6:68, “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.”

MUST LOVE CHRIST—John 14:23—If any man love me—To show that we love Christ we must obey His Word. The Master has declared that many worship Him with their lips while their hearts are far from Him. He also said it was not those who said, “Lord, Lord” that would have eternal life, but those that did the will of the Father.

MUST OBEY CHRIST—Acts 3:22, 23—Him shall ye hear—We must not only obey Christ to show Him that we love Him, but we must obey His teachings to please the Father, to be saved, to have eternal life. Obeying Christ is not a matter of whether we want to or not; we either obey or we do not have God’s approval. God has raised up the prophet Moses spoke of (he was speaking of Christ), and Moses said, “Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you.” To fail to obey Him is to bring eternal destruction to the soul.

MUST SUFFER WITH CHRIST—Romans 8:17—If so be—Why should Christians have to suffer? Why did Christ, the spotless, holy Lamb of God, have to suffer? There is an evil power in the world that is against God and everything He stands for. There are many people in this world who are under, and subject to, this evil power, and as servants of the devil they are used by him to cause Christians to suffer. In time of suffering, be sure to maintain a true Christian attitude. Our Master, even while hanging on the cross, prayed for them who were responsible for putting Him there. Suffering is a part of true Christian living, for Paul said, “For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for his sake” (Philippians 1:29).

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE HOLY SPIRIT—Ephesians 4:30—Grieve not—A sinner cannot be saved without the convicting, drawing power of the Holy Spirit. A saved person, who knows the truth in regard to sanctification, cannot stay saved without being filled with the Holy Spirit. A saved and sanctified person must maintain the proper attitude toward the Holy Spirit for the Spirit to abide with him, to lead him, to empower him, for the Scriptures declare that you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you (Acts 1:8), that as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God (Romans 8:14), and that it is the Spirit that will teach you the truth (John 14:26).

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR BRETHREN—John 13:34—A new commandment—Let no one say he truly loves God if he does not love his brethren! John, the apostle of love, declared, “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?” (I John 4:20). The ability of the saints to love one another, to show the right attitude toward one another, is one of the hallmarks of the Church of God.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR NEIGHBOR—Mark 12:31—Thou shalt—The first and great commandment is to love God; the second is, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” These are the two greatest commandments you will find in the Bible. In Luke 10:25-37, Jesus shows us the proper attitude of a neighbor.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD OUR ENEMIES—Matthew 5:43, 44—Love your enemies—The Scriptures declare, as far as lieth in you, “live peaceably with all men.” If you have enemies, let it be on their part and not on yours. If you have enemies, Jesus tells us in verse 44 the proper Christian attitude to take toward them and how to treat them.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD SIN—Psalm 97:10—Hate evil—Much of today’s lesson has stressed the need of love: loving God, our Savior, our neighbor, our enemies, but sin is something we must not love, rather it is something to hate with a perfect hatred. If we hate sin, we will depart from it! “Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity” (II Timothy 2:19b).

CONCLUSION

Wrong attitudes can wreck a home! Wrong attitudes can wreck a marriage! Wrong attitudes can wreck a congregation! Wrong attitudes can wreck a Christian experience! Wrong attitudes can destroy your soul in an eternal hell! Therefore, watch your attitude. Make sure you love God with all your heart; that will enable you to maintain a proper attitude concerning all others.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why is a proper attitude so important?
 2. Do the wrongs of others justify our taking a wrong attitude?
 3. Can wrong attitudes cause bitterness?
 4. What are the results of bitterness? (Hebrews 12:15).
 5. What is the proper attitude toward sin?
 6. What is the proper attitude toward the sinner?
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LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR SEPTEMBER 21

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Scriptures: I John 1:3, 5, 6; 2:4; 1:7; Philipians 1:27; I Corinthians 10:20; II Corinthians 6:14.

I John 1:3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

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

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth.

I John 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

I John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ

his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Philipians 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.

I Corinthians 10:20 But I say, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils.

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

Memory Verse: God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.—I Corinthians 1:9.

Aim: To point out the true basis of Christian fellowship.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday

I John 1

Thursday

I Corinthians 3

Tuesday

I John 2

Friday

II Corinthians 6

Wednesday

Colossians 3

Saturday

Ephesians 5

INTRODUCTION

Someone has described fellowship as “two fellows in the same ship,” but literally two men could be in the same ship and still not have fellowship. Further, two people can belong to the same sect church and not have Christian fellowship.

Fellowship, in part, means “companionship; friendly association; a mutual sharing in activity, etc.” Now you can have this without Christ being in the picture at all. That is why we have used the title “Christian Fellowship” for this lesson. Two drunks can have fellowship over the bottle. Two gamblers can have fellowship. Sinners can have fellowship in their pursuit of sin; but Christian fellowship goes much deeper than just companionship, or friendly association. It has this, but it has much more. Fellowship also includes the thought of “a group of people with the same interests.”

When we speak of “Christian Fellowship,” we speak of that group of people who have been saved from their sins, have been born of the Spirit of God, have passed from death unto life.

“Millions of people call themselves Christians and think themselves on the road to heaven, when they are not, but are deceived; for they have never been born again, and Jesus Himself declares, ‘Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God’ (John 3:3). How important, then, that experimental salvation be held before all men, so that they may know how to meet Bible conditions and receive a real conversion, this birth of the Spirit, which endows the individual with everlasting life, happiness, and joy! What a shame—what a lasting disgrace to the fair name of Christianity—that multitudes of sin-loving people should claim to be Christians simply because they have joined some human church, or because they were in infancy subjected to a ceremonial rite called baptism!”—F. G. Smith, *What the Bible Teaches*.

So, to have Christian fellowship, one must be a Christian in reality. May the Lord help us to see the true riches of Christian fellowship, and the basis for it. Too many people do not understand the difference between friendship and fellowship.

MEDITATIONS

TRUE BASIS OF CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP—I John 1:3—Have fellowship with us—John was one of the twelve apostles, possibly the closest one of all to the Master. He learned many things directly from Christ and now he is setting them forth so that others can come to know and to experience what he had. What did he have? Fellowship with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. How did he obtain such an experience? By receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, by being born again and thus becoming a son of God. The only way anyone can have fellowship with God is through His Son, Jesus Christ! To deny Christ as Messiah is to deny the Father also. Christian fellowship then starts with an experience of salvation.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP BASED ON TRUTH—I John 1:5, 6—God is light—One of the things Jesus taught John was “that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.” We understand light here to

mean righteousness and truth. There is no error in God; there is no unrighteousness in God. God cannot do wrong; He cannot even be tempted to do wrong. Yes, God is light! Those who have fellowship with Him are children of light. **Verse 6**—John is known as the apostle of love—and he was. Yet, he was a plain speaker, and he said if anyone says he has fellowship with God while still walking in darkness, he is telling a lie! How can so many religious people say they are Christians, children of God, have fellowship with God, and yet live in sin? John says such cannot be.

OBEY THE WORD—I John 2:4—I know him—John said he was setting forth the things he had seen and heard so others could have fellowship with him and with God. So John here informs us we must keep the commands of God to be “in Him,” to have fellowship with Him, and he says anyone who says he knows God and does not live in obedience to the Word is a liar. Strong language, but true.

FELLOWSHIPING THE SAINTS—I John 1:7—If we walk in the light—John has made it clear that for us to have fellowship with God the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ, we must forsake sin and obey the Word of God. Now he brings another truth to our attention: If we walk in the light and live in obedience to the Word, we will have fellowship with others who are doing the same. Christian fellowship is not based on friendship. It is not based on favors someone has done for you. It is not based on joining the same church. In fact, these things have nothing to do with it. Christian fellowship is something that you HAVE because you have fellowship with God and are walking in the light. For men to build a fence around themselves, by setting up their own doctrines, and saying they will not fellowship you unless you do what they say, they are building a sect and are saying you must receive their “mark” before they will fellowship you.

LIVING FELLOWSHIP—Philippians 1:27—As it becometh the gospel—Paul instructs us to so live as becometh the gospel of Christ. If we will do so we will stand fast “in one spirit” and we will have “one mind.” Fellowship, in part, is a result of people having the same interests. So if we stand fast in one Spirit and have one mind, we will strive together for the faith of the gospel. The world is sick of cold, dead formal religion. May God help His people to show forth the reality of the gospel.

WE ARE NOT TO FELLOWSHIP EVERYTHING—I Corinthians 10:20—I would not—There are many religions in the world that profess to be Christian, yet if the facts were known, they are of the devil and not of God. In Paul’s day people offered sacrifices to idols, and people still do, maybe not to an actual image set up somewhere, but in their false religion. True Christians are not to fellowship devils nor religions that are empowered by the devil.

MUST SEPARATE FROM FALSE RELIGION—II Corinthians 6:14—Be ye not—Any church you can join is not God's church! You must be born again to become a member of God's redeemed family. Therefore Paul tells us not to be yoked up with unbelievers. Believers and unbelievers do not have like interests when it comes to the things of God; they do not have true Christian fellowship. Paul asks, "What fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" "What concord hath Christ with Belial?" "What agreement hath the temple of God with idols?" The answer must be "None." Therefore Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:11, "Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

CONCLUSION

Christian fellowship is a very precious thing! We should guard against Satan's efforts to disrupt it. All who have fellowship with God—in reality—should have fellowship with one another. However, fellowship is not limited to saints getting together at worship time; true Christian fellowship enables us to feel, somewhat, the burden that Christ feels for a lost world. It will cause us to weep over the erring one, to lift up the fallen, to bear one another's burdens, to pray one for the other, and to give our talents, money, and ourselves for the true cause of Christ.

Fellowship, "a group of people with the same interests," will enable the saints of God to work together in fulfilling the last commission, to "go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is fellowship?
2. What is Christian fellowship?
3. What hinders Christian fellowship?
4. Do Christians, at times, fail to fellowship one another?
5. Name some benefits of Christian fellowship; some responsibilities.

LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR SEPTEMBER 28

JUDGMENT IN ZION

Scriptures: Isaiah 1:21-27; Amos 7:7, 8; Isaiah 28:16, 17; I Peter 4:17, 18; Revelation 11:1.

Isaiah 1:21 How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers.

22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water:

23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them.

24 Therefore saith the Lord, the Lord of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will ease me of mine adversaries, and avenge me of mine enemies:

25 And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

26 And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Amos 7:7 Thus he shewed me: and, behold, the Lord stood upon a wall made by a plumbline, with a plumbline in his hand.

8 And the Lord said unto me, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A plumbline. Then said the Lord, Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel: I will not again pass by them any more.

Isaiah 28:16 Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

17 Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

I Peter 4:17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

Revelation 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

Memory Verse: And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

—Ezekiel 36:27.

Aim: To call your attention to the fact that we are being judged by the Word as we live our daily lives.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday **Isaiah 1**
Tuesday **Isaiah 28**
Wednesday **I Peter 4**

Thursday **Amos 7**
Friday **Isaiah 4**
Saturday **Ezekiel 36**

INTRODUCTION

When we speak of judgment in Zion we are not speaking of the judgment in the last day. Zion is the church and it is necessary for God's

true ministers to set forth the Word of God with power and conviction NOW in Zion.

As we read our Bible and study church history, we see where people, again and again, departed from the truth, from the true worship of God, and many times turned to idols. Old Testament Israel was guilty of this numbers of times. That is why they were carried away captives; that is why the beautiful temple built during Solomon's rule was destroyed. At times, the ministry failed to preach the truth to the people; at other times, the people would not listen to the man of God. The end results were spiritual disaster.

God's true ministers must cry out against false religion and Babylon must be exposed for what it is, but the inhabitants of Zion must also be preached to, they must measure to the Word, and be measured by the Word, or else they will become a part of Babylon.

MEDITATIONS

A SERIOUS QUESTION—Isaiah 1:21-23—The faithful city—

The Church of God is represented in the Scriptures by different things: a city, a mountain, a bride, a family, a pure woman, etc. Here the Prophet is asking, in amazement it would seem, "How is the faithful city become a harlot!" The harlot, of course, represents false religion, so the question is, How did the true become false? Isaiah declares that at one time it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. **Verse 22—Thy silver**—Now we begin to see what happened; silver, here representing the pure, the clean, the things that were proper, becomes dross, and "thy wine mixed with water." The truth was not preached; it was mixed with error. The message was "watered" down. **Verse 23—Thy princes**—The ones who should have been an example and should have led the way, became rebellious; they became companions of thieves. Ministers who do not live and preach the truth are robbing the people; they are thieves. They turn their heads the other way for rewards—for money and what it can buy. No wonder the faithful city became a harlot!

GOD PROMISED A CHANGE—Isaiah 1:24-26—I will—All who fail to stand for truth and right are enemies of God. God declares He will take away the dross. God is a God of light and truth—error finds no favor in His sight. Further, He promises to give Zion "judges" like they had at first—when they were the faithful city. As a result, they would again be called "The city of righteousness, the faithful city."

WHAT IT TAKES TO BE REDEEMED—Isaiah 1:27—Zion—"Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness." God's "judges" will preach the truth regardless of who may be present. I do not speak of being harsh or of being unkind; I speak of being true to the souls of men in a spirit of love and true con-

cern. Jesus informs us it takes the truth to free souls from the bondage of sin. A “social gospel” may gain church members, but mere church membership is not redemption. When we choose sin, we sell ourselves to it. Jesus Christ shed His blood to redeem us, to buy us back. There is no other way to be a part of Zion.

A STRAIGHT WALL—Amos 7:7, 8—Thus he showed me—Amos was a herdsman when the Lord called him and showed him the judgment He intended to mete out to Syria, Edom, Tyrus, and other nations, including Judah and Israel. Then Amos saw the Lord standing on a wall that had been built with a plumbline and the Lord had a plumbline in His hand. What was He going to do with it? “I will set a plumbline in the midst of my people Israel.” God has put a plumbline in the Church of God; it is none other than His Word, and we must “build” our lives by this plumbline if we are to build a house that will stand.

THE NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH—Isaiah 28:16—Thus saith the Lord—The foundation of any building is a very important part of the structure. The Church of God has a “sure foundation,” for Jesus Christ is the Stone on which it is built. He is the “chief corner stone.” He is also the head and He is full of grace and truth. Christ was “tried.” Satan did all he could to defeat our Savior, but in every test He overcame. He is indeed “a precious” foundation on which we can safely build our lives.

GOD CALLED MINISTERS—Isaiah 28:17—Judgment also will I lay to the line—God places the members in the body—the Church—as it pleases Him. He calls ministers to preach the truth, and in doing so they are to lay judgment “to the line”; in other words, preach it straight, preach the Word like it is. The same thought is expressed in “righteousness to the plummet.” The plumb line was used to build a straight wall. The hail referred to in this verse is God’s solid truth, and the Word declares it will sweep away the refuge of lies. Truth always exposes error. Righteousness destroys unrighteousness, and God’s church is made up of those who are willing to measure their lives by the Word of God.

GOD’S HOUSE—I Peter 4:17, 18—The time—The house of God is the church of the living God (I Timothy 3:15), and we must not think God will permit evil or wrong to go on in His house! Those who are to remain in His house must be obedient children, obeying the rules of the house. Satan has tried to use this eighteenth verse to discourage people, but we are not to understand this statement to mean that we can’t make it; God’s grace is sufficient for everyone, and He does not require the impossible, but He does require His people to live carefully.

MINISTRY ARE TO MEASURE—Revelation 11:1—A reed—

John here represents God's true ministers and the reed like unto a rod that he was given to measure by was none other than the Word of God. There were three things that he was told to measure: (1) The temple of God, (2) The altar, (3) Them that worship therein. The temple was the church as a whole, and you must keep the doctrine straight and the standard where it belongs, to be the church. The altar was where the sacrifices were made. We are to be living sacrifices. Paul said you are not your own. Then, the people that worship therein, those who were in the temple, were the saints of God. The ministry were, and are, to measure the saints by the Word of God. Are they standing clear and clean for the doctrine of the Church of God? Are they consecrated fully to do the entire will of God? Are they worshipping in Spirit and in truth? If some come up short, what is the ministry to do? What is the saint to do? If the ministry has the authority to measure, then they have the authority to execute judgment in Zion.

CONCLUSION

We do not mean to present a hard or harsh way; we do not mean to present God as harsh, or His ministers as being harsh, but we do desire to impress each heart with the fact that God means what He says, that His way is right, and that we are to live by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

The child of God, who loves God with all his heart, wants to please the Lord. It is not a matter of "have to"; the desire to do right springs from a redeemed heart. To do something only because you have to does not produce the joy of true Christian living. It is a privilege to be a child of God. There is no greater honor bestowed upon the family of man than to be a child of God. Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments." The way we prove our love IS by keeping His commandments, and His commandments are not grievous; they are LIFE.

As to judgment in Zion, in one sense, we are being judged every day. As we learn the truths of the Bible, we must apply our hearts to them to remain in favor with God. Those who will do so will have nothing to fear when they come to the final judgment.

FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How did the faithful city become a harlot?
2. Why should anyone want just a form of religion?
3. What happens when the Word of God is mixed with error?
4. What is the house of God?
5. Who has made the rules for the house of God?
6. Do you want your minister to preach you the truth?

Name _____

Class _____

Christian Living

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE

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