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# **Gems from the Book of Romans**

**Adult and Young People's Quarterly**

## INTRODUCTION

The book of Romans is considered by some as Paul's best writing. "It is quite certain that the author had in mind the Christian church at Rome. His epistle was not necessarily addressed to the Romans, for the church there was very metropolitan, composed of both Jews and Gentiles, of free men and slaves. It had reached the wealthy as well as the poorer classes, and even some of 'Caesar's household' were within its membership."—*Baker's Pictorial Bible*.

The Epistle of Romans—"the most formal and systematic of Paul's epistles. The main theme of Romans is that righteousness comes as a free gift of God and is receivable by faith alone. Romans stands at the head of the Pauline epistles because it is the longest of his letters, but it is also Paul's most important epistle."—*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

Paul "was a great genius and fine writer; and he seems to have exercised all his talents as well as the most perfect Christian temper, in drawing up this epistle. The plan of it is very extensive; and is surprising to see what a spacious field of knowledge he has comprised, and how many various designs, arguments, explanations, instructions, and exhortations he has executed in so small a compass."—*Clarke's Commentary*.

The book of Romans is considered by some to be the "Theological Book of the New Testament." It is thought to have been written around 56-57 A.D. As Paul had not yet visited Rome, you find much doctrinal teachings in this book. It is impossible for us to cover it all in 13 lessons, but I trust these lessons will be a blessing to each one who studies them.

### HE WAY OF TRUTH

P. O. Box 88

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**PUBLISHERS OF CHURCH OF GOD LITERATURE**

## LESSON NUMBER ONE FOR APRIL 2

# PAUL, A SERVANT OF CHRIST

**Scriptures:** Romans 1:1-7, 16; Acts 9:13-16; Philippians 3:8; I Corinthians 15:9, 10; II Timothy 4:6, 7.

**Romans 1:1** Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God,

2 (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,)

3 Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh;

4 And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

5 By whom we have received grace and apostleship, for obedience to the faith among all nations, for his name:

6 Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:

7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

**Acts 9:13** Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem:

14 And here he hath authority from the

chief priests to bind all that call on thy name.

15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel:

16 For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake.

**Philippians 3:8** Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.

**I Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

**II Timothy 4:6** For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

**Memory Verse:** For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.—Romans 1:16.

**Aim:** To study the calling and faithfulness of the apostle Paul.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**

**Romans 1**

**Thursday**

**I Corinthians 15**

**Tuesday**

**Acts 9**

**Friday**

**Acts 16**

**Wednesday**

**Philippians 3**

**Saturday**

**II Timothy 4**

### INTRODUCTION

Saul (Paul) is introduced to us at the time of the stoning of Stephen, during which time he was consenting to his death. On the road to

Damascus, he was confronted by the One he was really persecuting: “I am Jesus whom thou art persecuting: it is hard for you to kick against the pricks.” We understand that Paul accepted Christ at that time. Jesus told Ananias—a disciple living in Damascus—to go to Paul: “Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: For I will show him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake” (Acts 9:15, 16). Ananias laid hands on Paul and prayed for him, and he was filled with the Spirit and went to be baptized.

## MEDITATIONS

**PAUL, A SERVANT—Romans 1:1, 2—Humility**—Paul was an apostle, even though some did not accept him as one. His works proved he was, but even so, he was a man of humility. To be a disciple of Christ, a person must have a spirit of humility considering himself a servant. **Which he had promised**—Both in the law and through the prophets God showed His purpose to introduce a more perfect state of things, and this more perfect way was the gospel.

**CONCERNING HIS SON—Romans 1:3, 4—The gospel**—Everything relates to Jesus Christ—His conception, birth, teaching, miracles, suffering, death on the cross, resurrection, and ascension! He was made of the seed of David according to the flesh. **The Son of God**—Jesus was the only begotten Son of God, and He Himself said, “All power is given unto me both in heaven and in earth,” and He proved it!

**BY WHOM WE—Romans 1:5, 6—We have received**—Paul realized that it was through the unmerited favor of grace that he had become a child of God and an apostle of the Lord, and his calling was to be obedient to the faith among all nations. **Not just Paul**—All who are called of Jesus Christ are called to be obedient to the faith.

**GREETINGS TO THE SAINTS—Romans 1:7—All that be at Rome**—Paul had longed to visit the saints at Rome “that he might have some fruit among them,” but up to that time he had been hindered (verse 13). So he was writing them this letter in an effort to teach them things that he felt they needed to know.

**NOT ASHAMED—Romans 1:16—Power**—Paul had been a member of the straightest sect of the Jews’ religion. He had been taught by one of the best teachers in Jerusalem, but he did not always have power to do the things that were right nor keep from doing things he knew were wrong (Romans 7), but when he received Christ he “became a new creature.” He received the gospel, which is the power of God unto salvation—deliverance from sin—and he was not ashamed of it. Why should anyone be ashamed of Jesus Christ and His gospel? It will do for you that which nothing else can do.

**LORD I HAVE HEARD OF THIS MAN—Acts 9:13-15—How much evil**—Paul had tried to destroy the Church of God! He had dragged men and women out of their homes, had them put in jail, and treated them evilly in various ways. He had received papers from the chief priests to go to Damascus to see if he could find any followers of this false prophet, Jesus, so he could bring them to Jerusalem to put them in prison there. But as stated before, Paul became a changed man when he met Jesus. Now the Lord was telling Ananias to go to him! Ananias objected, “I have heard of this man,” but Jesus told him to go his way. Paul was fasting and praying—what a difference! “He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.”

**I WILL SHOW HIM—Acts 9:16—Suffer great**—Paul had made many suffer; now in preaching and teaching the gospel to the nations, he was the one who must suffer. You may read in II Corinthians 11:24-27 a list of the things he suffered.”

**PUTTING CHRIST FIRST—Philippians 3:8—I count all things**—From a social and material way Paul had a lot to lose. He counted them as worthless that he may win Christ.

**AGAIN, PAUL'S HUMILITY IS SHOWN—I Corinthians 15:9, 10—I am the least**—Paul still remembered how he tried to destroy the Church of God and regretted his actions, but he put the past behind him and did not let it hinder him in his work for the Lord. The grace of God bestowed on him was not in vain, as he says, for we look at him as being the greatest of all the apostles. Still, as he says, it was not he alone, but the grace of God which was with him. Jesus said that none of us can do anything without Him.

**PAUL'S TESTIMONY—II Timothy 4:6, 7—I have finished my course**—It is believed that Paul was released from prison in Rome and was able to labor a little longer before he was rearrested. Now he was facing death, and he says he was ready! He had been faithful to his calling and had kept the faith. What an example Paul had been!

## CONCLUSION

It would take more than one lesson to study the calling and faithfulness of Paul, but I trust the class can get some benefit from what has been set forth.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What was the religion Paul had before he was converted?
2. What effect did the stoning of Stephen have on Paul?
3. What was Paul's calling?
4. Why did Paul want to visit Rome?
5. How did Paul make his first visit to Rome?

## LESSON NUMBER TWO FOR APRIL 9

# BELIEVING IN THE RESURRECTION

**Scriptures:** Romans 10:9; 8:11, 34; Matthew 28:1-10; Revelation 1:18.

**Romans 2:28** For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:

**29** But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

**Ezekiel 36:26** A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**27** 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.

**Galatians 3:28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

**29** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

**Romans 9:3** For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

**4** Who are Israelites; to whom per-

taineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises;

**5** Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen.

**6** Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel:

**7** Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

**8** That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

**I Corinthians 7:19** Circumcision is nothing, and uncircumcision is nothing, but the keeping of the commandments of God.

**Romans 10:12** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

**13** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

**Memory Verse:** That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.—Romans 10:9.

**Aim:** To show the necessity of believing in Jesus' resurrection.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**     **Matthew 28**  
**Tuesday**   **Mark 16**  
**Wednesday** **Luke 24**

**Thursday**   **John 20**  
**Friday**     **Romans 8**  
**Saturday**   **I Corinthians 15:35-57**

## INTRODUCTION

A great miracle indeed was performed when the Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead. The forces of nature were laid aside, and in defiance of all natural laws, the body of Christ again was filled with life. The natural mind does not accept this, for it defies analysis. Many accept the story as an allegory and never experience any change in their hearts, but he who really accepts it in his heart is going to be a changed man. It is the desire of every human being to want to live and

live well. This desire has been planted in the heart and life by God. Then to be resurrected from the dead, to dwell in an eternally young body, should be of the greatest interest to every living soul.

## MEDITATIONS

**FAITH IN JESUS' RESURRECTION ESSENTIAL—Romans 10:9—If thou shalt confess—**To be saved, it is absolutely necessary for one to believe that Jesus rose from the dead. If one denies the resurrection of Jesus, he denies the deity of the Son of God. I Corinthians 15:17 says, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins."

**ON WHAT CONDITIONS ARE WE RAISED TO ETERNAL LIFE?—Romans 8:11—If the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus—**All will be raised, but not all to eternal life! Some will be raised to eternal death. To live eternally we must have a born-again experience and then walk in the light, and be faithful to the end. Those who die in the Lord are sure to be resurrected to eternal life. The resurrection of Jesus Christ gives the Christian this assurance.

**AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD—Romans 8:34—**Jesus is now seated at the Father's right hand to make intercession for the saints. This is the foundation of the Christian faith. Christ Jesus not only died for our sins, He was resurrected the third day, then after revealing Himself to His disciples ascended into heaven. Believe it!

**OUR RISEN LORD—Matthew 28:1—Came Mary—**The sabbath ended at sundown, so it was early the first day of the week, when the two Mary's made their way to see the sepulchre. Their purpose in coming was to anoint the body for burial. **Verses 2, 3—Great earthquake—**We are not told just what time this earthquake took place, but it seems to have been caused by the coming of the angel, when he came to roll back the stone opening the sepulchre. His appearance leaves no room for doubt as to his being an angel. **Verse 4—Became as dead men—**It was the manifestation of the great power of God in the presence of weak flesh that made the keepers of the tomb tremble. If man could realize it, the great power of God continually surrounds us. His presence is not realized only because God does not see fit to manifest Himself. **Verse 6—He is risen—**He who had submitted Himself fully to sinful men until they had done everything in their power to destroy Him and His influence, even nailing Him to a cross and leaving Him to die, after lying in the tomb for three days was suddenly restored to life beyond the reach of the sin-laden hands of devils and men! Blood flowed through His veins again, and He ate fish fresh off the coals! He walked with the disciples! He talked with them! **Verse 7—Go quickly—**Great news that was indeed, and they could not or would not want to keep it secret! It should be told to all,

quickly—the much-desired victory had been won; the devil, the arch-enemy of God and man, was defeated! We should tell the same story with as much enthusiasm today. It means just as much as it did to the women who first visited the empty tomb. **Verse 8—With fear and great joy**—The majesty of the angel, coupled with the glory of God that surrounded them, greatly awed the women, but the message from heaven which He gave to them was a source of unequalled joy. The message that Christ has been raised from the dead is just as important today as it was then; it is just as vital in the Christian religion now as it ever was. Why did Christ die? So that you and I might live! **Verses 9, 10—Jesus met with them**—Running at high speed, thrilled with the message of the angel, the women were suddenly confronted with the Master Himself, which further augmented their great joy. In humility and true adoration they fell at His feet, which is the proper place for every child of God. This thoroughly confirmed the report of the angel that the Lord had been raised from the dead.

**Revelation 1:18—I am he that liveth and was dead**—This testimony of the resurrection of Jesus Christ was given by Christ Jesus Himself (who cannot lie) after His ascension. How this scripture should grip our hearts! Jesus Christ holds the keys to hell and death! But even so, He will never send anyone there unless he (the person) chooses to go there. Choose the holy, lowly way of Christ and live!

## CONCLUSION

At this season of the year when all nature is again being resurrected to life and there is hope in the air of a new season with all of its blessings of a new crop and beauty of flowers, the warmth of the spring breezes and gentle showers, there should be a stir in the human breast anticipating the resurrection of the last day.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why was it that the women who came to the tomb did not understand that Jesus was to be resurrected on the third day?
2. What was the cause of their great joy when the angel told them that the Lord had risen?
3. Should we be as eager to carry the gospel message of the resurrection as those women were?
4. What is our hope of the resurrection?
5. What will happen to the body that we now have, at the judgment?
6. Can someone deny the resurrection of Jesus and be saved?

## LESSON NUMBER THREE FOR APRIL 16

# CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

**Scriptures:** Romans 2:28, 29; Ezekiel 36:26, 27; Galatians 3:28, 29; Romans 9:3-8; I Corinthians 7:19; Romans 10:12, 13.

**Memory Verse:** But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.—Romans 2:29.

**Aim:** To show that natural Jews are not God's people today, but born-again Christians are.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 2</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Romans 9</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Romans 3</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Romans 10</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Ezekiel 36</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Galatians 3</b>

### INTRODUCTION

Circumcision among the Hebrews started with Abraham: "This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger, which is not thy seed" (Genesis 17:10-12).

Circumcising caused quite a problem in the early morning church. Paul was preaching that it was no longer required for salvation, but there were those who disagreed and taught, in effect, that Paul was wrong. "Certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question" (Acts 15:1, 2), which they did, and there they agreed that Paul was right.

In this lesson we want to show what circumcision was a type of and the circumcision that is required to be a "spiritual Jew" today.

### MEDITATIONS

**FOR HE IS NOT A JEW—Romans 2:28—Outward in the flesh**  
—This message was rather new to the people, and of course not accepted by many Jews. Paul had a clear vision that the covenant that God entered into with Abraham (and later became a part of the Old Covenant God gave Israel) was no longer in effect.

**TRUE CIRCUMCISION—Romans 2:29—But he IS a Jew—**Circumcision of the heart is what makes one a child of God. Jesus taught, “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things” (Matthew 12:35). Literal circumcision did nothing for the heart.

**A NEW HEART—Ezekiel 36:26—I will give you—**Some years ago a doctor in South Africa performed what was called “the first heart transplant,” but according to the words of the prophet Ezekiel, God was the One who performed the first heart transplant, and this one did for the people that which no literal heart transplant could do. We understand the stony heart to be a sinful heart, and sin has made many hearts hard. There is no other way to explain the evil that is in our world. We understand a heart of flesh to represent a heart that is pure, tender, and loving. The Lord also said He would put a new spirit within—a meek and quiet spirit, which in God’s sight is of great price.

**MY SPIRIT—Ezekiel 36:27—The Holy Spirit—**After a person has had the sinful heart removed and a Christian heart put in its place, he needs to be filled by God’s Holy Spirit. This is done in sanctification. Then he has added power which will enable him to walk in God’s statutes, and keep His judgments.

**THERE IS—Galatians 3:28—No difference—**It is no wonder the apostle Paul was persecuted, beaten, and put in prison! His preaching, on some points, was quite contrary to what other religions were teaching. He was telling the people that all stood equal in God’s sight. The Greeks were just as valuable to Him as the Jews. The slave and the free were the same in His sight. And possibly most startling of all is this: “neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

**IF YE BE CHRIST’S—Galatians 3:29—New creatures—**To be in Christ, one must be born again; to be in Christ is to be a new creation. The sinful life is gone and we have a new heart. We are also the seed of Abraham, We are spiritual Hebrews and heirs to the promises that God made to Abraham. I do not speak of the literal land of Canaan, but the spiritual blessings the Lord promised Abraham.

**A GREAT SOUL BURDEN—Romans 9:3—Accursed—**Paul was a Hebrew, even though he was called to be an apostle to the Gentiles, and he had a great burden for his people. If there was a synagogue in a city where he went, he usually went there first to give them the gospel. It was not possible for Paul to give his life as a savior, or be lost for their salvation, but that was the burden he expressed in this verse. He did give his life as a sacrifice to the Lord, and he did win many to Christ.

**WHO ARE ISRAELITES?—Romans 9:4, 7—Adoption**—Jacob, the son of Isaac, whose name meant *supplanter*, was chosen by God, and after he wrestled with the angel, his name was changed to Israel, for as a prince he had prevailed. After that, his seed were called Israelites, and they were “adopted” sons and daughters. “Thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the Lord, Israel is my son, even my first-born” (Exodus 4:22). **Verse 5**—The fathers: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph; the patriarchs: Joshua, Samuel, David, and finally Christ. **Verse 6**—Under the New Covenant Paul let them know that it takes more than being a literal Israelite to be a spiritual Israelite. As pertaining to being the literal seed of Abraham, the promise came down through Isaac, not Ishmael or any of the other sons of Abraham.

**THEY WHICH ARE THE SEED—Romans 9:8—Children of God**—Paul again points out that it is not the literal seed of Abraham that are children of God, but those who are the spiritual seed—the Christians. In fact, even under the Old Covenant not all served God! How many times did they turn to idols and commit all kind of sins, so much so that God allowed them to be carried away into bondage—the northern kingdom, Israel, by Assyria and Judah by Babylon!

**KEEPING GOD’S WORD IS WHAT COUNTS—I Corinthians 7:19—Literal circumcision meant nothing**—Although the Jews put so much stress on it Paul lets the Corinthians know there was no spiritual value in it. But what really counts, and still does today, was the circumcision of the heart which shows when one keeps the commandments of God.

**WHOSOEVER—Romans 10:12, 13—Shall call**—God is no respecter of persons! God loved all the people of the world so much that He gave His only begotten Son that all could be saved. Jesus tasted death for every person; therefore, whosoever will may come.

## CONCLUSION

Down through the ages God has desired to have a people for His name’s sake. He called Abraham from the city of Ur of the Chaldees. This first call was with his father Terah and others of the family. They first came to the place the Bible calls Haran, and there Abraham and his wife Sarah lived a number of years. His father died there at the age of 205. Some time after his death, the Lord said to Abraham, “Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing” (Genesis 12:1, 2).

Abraham was around 100 years old and Sarah was 90 when the child God promised them was born. Isaac was the one the covenant

and promise came through. God was still working to have a separate people for His name's sake. As already mentioned, Jacob was the one of the two children that Isaac and Rebekah had that God chose to continue to fulfill the promise made to Abraham.

We see throughout the Old Testament how God continued to work to have a people for His name's sake. He chose Moses to lead them out of Egyptian bondage. He chose Joshua to lead them into the land of promise. He chose the young virgin called Mary to be the mother of the physical child, Jesus. Jesus ministered three and one-half years to gather out a people who would make up spiritual Israel. "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, and holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (I Peter 2:5). "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar [separate] people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

### **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

1. Who was the first person God entered into a covenant with?
2. What was the sign God gave him?
3. What did circumcision mean to Old Testament Israel?
4. What is required to be a child of God?
5. Is literal Israel still God's covenant people today?

## LESSON NUMBER FOUR FOR APRIL 23

# THE GRACE WHEREIN WE STAND

**Scriptures:** Romans 5:1, 2; I Peter 5:10, 12; Hebrews 12:28; Galatians 5:1; II Corinthians 12:9; Ephesians 6:10-13; I Corinthians 16:13.

**Romans 5:1** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:

**2** By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**I Peter 5:10** But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

**12** By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

**Hebrews 12:28** Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

**Galatians 5:1** Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

**II Corinthians 12:9** And he said unto

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

**Ephesians 6:10** Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

**11** Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

**12** For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

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

**I Corinthians 16:13** Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

**Memory Verse:** Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.—Romans 5:1, 2.

**Aim:** To reveal that God is willing to supply standing grace for all.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Romans 4  
**Tuesday** Romans 5  
**Wednesday** I Peter 5

**Thursday** II Corinthians 12  
**Friday** Galatians 5  
**Saturday** Ephesians 6

## INTRODUCTION

When God formed Adam from the dust of the earth, He breathed into him a spirit, or soul, which was made in the image of God, who, of course, is holy. The same was true of Eve. God made them free moral beings with the power of choice. In fact, they were put on probation, and as the Bible clearly shows, they broke the one law God gave them and that brought death to the soul. A price had to be paid

before they could be reconciled to God. Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, paid that price.

I would like to quote from Russell R. Byrum's book, *Christian Theology*:

"It is not the doctrine of the death of Christ that saves men, but the death itself. The atonement was made long before men attempted to formulate the doctrine concerning it. Very many devout Christians who have never attempted a formulation of the doctrine have trusted in the great truth of Christ's atonement to the saving of their souls.

"That the sufferings, humiliation, and death of Christ are vitally connected with the pardon of men's sins is a truth so frequently stated in the Scriptures that its mention seems almost superfluous. This was the burden of the message of Jesus and the apostolic ministry. It is the central thought of the sacred writings. This must be evident even to the superficial reader."

It is also clear from the reading of the Scriptures that being reconciled with God is not brought about by works of righteousness of our own. The Bible tells us that our righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight. Then how? "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, ... [Jesus] gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a [separate] people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:11, 14).

*Grace*, at least in part, means, "favor or kindness shown without regard to worth or merit of the one who receives it and in spite of what that same person deserves. Grace is one of the key attributes of God."

## MEDITATIONS

**BEING JUSTIFIED—Romans 5:1, 2—Peace with God**—All have sinned. Thank God grace is offered to all. Being justified means you have been pardoned, and you have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through this experience we then have access to the infilling of the Holy Spirit and into the grace wherein we stand. Jesus told the disciples, "Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

**THE GOD OF ALL GRACE—I Peter 5:10—Who has called us**—We see from this verse that grace means more than just unmerited favor in being forgiven of our sins, but that God's grace covers much more. We see the word *suffered* in this verse. It is speaking of the disciples suffering. Why should Christians have to suffer for doing what is right? Why did Jesus, the holy Son of God, have to suffer, even die? "They that live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

There is a devil in the world who is opposed to everything that is holy and right, and to everyone who lives holy. We also read in the Scriptures that the heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it? So there are many who are under Satan's control and are being used by him to oppose the children of God.

**A FAITHFUL BROTHER—I Peter 5:12—Silvanus**—It is understood that this faithful brother was Silas, Paul's faithful travel companion on some of his missionary trips. Thus Peter was confident that the letter he had written would be delivered to "the strangers scattered abroad." Peter was exhorting and testifying that the grace of God was able to give them what they needed to stand. That was not only true for Peter, and to those to whom he was writing, but it is still true today. God is no respecter of persons! His grace was sufficient for Paul, and His grace is sufficient for all who will trust Him.

**A KINGDOM THAT CANNOT BE MOVED—Hebrews 12:28—Let us**—There is so much confusion in the religious world about the kingdom of God. Nowhere in the Bible does it speak of a thousand year kingdom here on earth. The prophet Daniel was given a vision of a stone that was cut out without hands. That stone represented Christ and the kingdom of God! In Daniel 2:44, we are told that it shall stand forever. "In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: ... and it shall stand for ever." In Mark 1:15, Jesus said, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." To receive, or to be in this kingdom, is to be in the kingdom of grace; and by this grace, we can "serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear."

**STAND FAST—Galatians 5:1—Made free**—Sin is bondage! Christ came to set the captive free. Having been set free, we are to "stand fast." and by the grace of God we can do so. We do not have to sin more or less every day because we have been delivered from the yoke of bondage.

**HE SAID UNTO ME—II Corinthians 12:9—Paul's plea**—Various ideas have been advanced as to what this "thorn in the flesh" might be. Weak eyes is one, among others, but it seems to me Paul tells us what it was: "And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee." Paul accepted what the Lord told him: therefore, he said: "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."

**FINALLY—Ephesians 6:10, 11—Be prepared**—Paul was nearing the end of his letter, and he encouraged them to be strong in the Lord. He instructs them: “Put on the whole armor of God.” There are many wiles of the devil that must be overcome.

**THE BATTLE IS NOT LITERAL—Ephesians 6:12—We wrestle not against flesh and blood**—That is not to say the physical has nothing to do with the battle! Jesus sweat as it were drops of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Christian must battle against social evils, against political evils, and against religious evils—spiritual wickedness.

**THE WHOLE ARMOR—Ephesians 6:13—A battle to fight**—If you know anything about a literal army and a literal war, you know that the troops on the front lines have some very difficult and dangerous conditions to face. It is true that Paul does not speak of literal warfare, but he does speak of spiritual warfare.

**WATCH YE—I Corinthians 16:13—Contend for the faith**—The word *watch* is found in a number of scriptures. It is a word we need to take heed to, for there are many evil forces in the world, even the religious world, that will try to lead each saint away from the faith. The apostle Paul tells us “there is one faith,” and Jude tells us we are to “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3). Jude said it had been “delivered” to the saints, so any “faith” that has been brought forth since that time is not the true faith.

## CONCLUSION

Thank God for the grace that has appeared to all men. When Jesus died on that old rugged cross, He tasted death for everyone, not just for a select few. The grace of God not only brought salvation to all, but that same grace can keep everyone with victory in his soul. As this lesson shows, there are battles to fight and trials to overcome, but just as the Lord told Paul, “My grace is sufficient for you.”

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Discuss the word *grace*.
2. After being saved by grace, why do we continue to need grace?
3. What is the armor of God for?
4. Why was no armor provided for the back?
5. God provides the armor. Who is to put it on?

## LESSON NUMBER FIVE FOR APRIL 30

# LIVE NO LONGER IN SIN

**Scriptures:** Romans 6:1, 2, 6, 12-23.

**Romans 6:1** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?

**2** God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

**6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

**12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

**13** Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

**14** For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

**15** What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

**16** Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants

ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

**17** But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

**18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

**19** I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

**20** For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

**21** What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

**22** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

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

**Memory Verse:** But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.—Romans 6:22.

**Aim:** To show that a true Christian does not sin after conversion.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 6</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Titus 2</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>John 5:1-18</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>I John 3</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>John 8:1-11</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I John 5</b>

### INTRODUCTION

“As a moral and spiritual being in God’s likeness, man originally was of necessity in a state of holiness and purity. According to the Word, he was placed under moral law. To this day men [but not all] everywhere are firm in the conviction that they are the subjects of moral government, directly responsible to God. And this is also the uniform teaching of the Scriptures. But the original state of holiness

was forfeited by sin; hence in this respect and to this extent the image of God was lost.”—F. G. Smith, *What The Bible Teaches*.

It was sin that caused Adam and Eve to lose the divine image that they were created with, so let us understand what we are talking about. Some people think just because an evil thought comes to mind they have sinned. Some seem to have the impression that a temptation is sin. Jesus Christ was tempted but He did no sin! Many think a mistake is sin. Let us understand that we speak of imputed sin, which is a willful act that a person commits, knowing that he is doing wrong. Sin involves a person’s will, Eve told Satan that God had said they should not eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, so there is no question about her knowing that what she did was wrong. It was sin, and it brought death to her soul. The same can be said of Adam, for both died spiritually.

Not only did Adam and Eve sin, but according to the Scriptures, death passed upon all men, and all were affected by Adam’s sin. When a child comes into the world he has spiritual life, but he also has a nature that is depraved. When he comes to the knowledge of right and wrong on one point and willingly disobeys, he has sinned and died. Does he have to remain in that state? If he becomes a Christian does he have to continue sinning? This lesson answers that question.

## MEDITATIONS

**WHAT SHALL WE SAY THEN?—Romans 6:1, 2—Paul asked a question—**In Romans 5:19-21, we read, “For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.” This being true, “Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?” The reason so many church members continue to live in sin is because they have not died to sin! You have to die to sin to be made alive to Christ.

**KNOWING—Romans 6:6—The old man is dead—**Paul further speaks of our dying to sin, and he speaks of us as being crucified, which was among the cruelest ways a criminal could be put to death in that day. In Galatians 2:20, Paul said, “I am crucified with Christ.” How could a person who had died such a death continue a life of sin? In this verse, Paul says such a death destroys the body of sin, “that henceforth we should not serve sin.”

**LET NOT—Romans 6:12—Sin does not reign—**In the religious world, it is a common expression, “This old body just has to sin.” But it is not the body that sins! We read in I Corinthians 6:18, “Flee forni-

cation, Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.” There are various ways a person can sin against his body, but sin originates in the heart, or spirit. So do not allow sin to reign *in* your body.

**PROPER USE OF THE BODY—Romans 6:13, 14**—Our bodies are not given to us to use in sinful ways. God’s plan is for the body to be the temple of the Holy Spirit; “What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost ... and ye are not your own?” The Bible informs us that if any defile this temple, him will God destroy. So we are not to yield our bodies to unrighteousness, but we are to yield them to God, as those that are alive from the dead. **Verse 14**—“For sin shall not have dominion over you.” Why? How? “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed” (John 8:36).

**NOT UNDER THE LAW—Romans 6:15—Under grace**—It is by grace, unmerited favor, that one is able to live a righteous and holy life. Notice this is the second time in this chapter that God forbids us to live in sin, and God does not require the impossible.

**KNOW YE NOT—Romans 6:16—Your choice**—We are the ones that must choose who we will serve. The choice involves life and death. If we yield ourselves to God, and become His servants, it means life; if we choose to serve sin, it means death. There are only two ways: the narrow way that leads to eternal life, or the broad way that leads to eternal death—to destruction.

**GOD BE THANKED—Romans 6:17—Obeyed from the heart**—This the real secret to living the Christian life. So many have a form of godliness but deny the power thereof. To say that God cannot give you power to live a sinless life is to say that Satan is more powerful than God. How could Paul make it any clearer than he does in these verses? “You have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.” What kind of doctrine had Paul delivered? Sin-you-must, or “God forbids you to live in sin”?

**FREE FROM SIN—Romans 6:18—Freedom in Christ**—Jesus taught that no man could serve two masters. Such is impossible! How can it be said that a person who has been made free from sin is still a servant of sin? As Paul said in verse 17: “God be thanked” that He gave His only begotten Son to come into this sin-cursed world, die on that cruel cross to open the prison house and give us a pardon! Free, yes, free indeed. A servant of righteousness.

**SERVANTS OF UNCLEANNESS—Romans 6:19—You have yielded**—Sin in the sight of God is uncleanness. It may be dressed up in a nice suit of clothes or a beautiful dress, but sin is still unclean-

ness. In our present age, there is more filth and ungodliness than ever before. The television and the movies are getting more and more ungodly as the days go by. Near nakedness is seen on our streets and public places as never before. Go back far enough and people would have been arrested for such immodest dressing. Radio stations would have had their license revoked if they had aired songs like played today. What a blessing to yield our members to righteousness unto holiness!

**FREE FROM RIGHTEOUSNESS—Romans 6:20, 21—For when**—Here again Paul clearly shows that you cannot be a Christian and live in sin. When you were free from righteousness, you were the servant of sin. Your fruit were the works of the flesh. Some are listed by Paul in Galatians 5:19-21. When you are freed from sin and become a disciple of Christ, you are indeed ashamed of many things you did in the past.

**FREEDOM IN CHRIST—Romans 6:22—But now**—The gospel of Christ is a gospel of freedom! That is why the gospel is called “good news.” Isaiah prophesied concerning the coming Redeemer: “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound” (Isaiah 61:1). Jesus told the people in Nazareth, “This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:21).

“Having been set free from sin, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

**TWO WAYS—Romans 6:23—Wages**—Whether you live for the Lord or for Satan, there are wages you receive: for the Lord, it is eternal life; for Satan, it is eternal death. Which is your choice?

## CONCLUSION

This entire chapter shows that through the grace of God in giving His only begotten Son to redeem us, we can be set free from the prison house of sin and live a righteous life in this time world.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is imputed sin?
2. Can a person commit such a sin and be a Christian?
3. How can one be made free from sin?
4. What is the fruit of an unsaved person?
5. What is the fruit of a Christian?

## LESSON NUMBER SIX FOR MAY 7

# WALKING AFTER THE SPIRIT

**Scriptures:** Romans 8:1-8, 13, 14; Galatians 5:16, 25; I Corinthians 2:12, 14; Proverbs 3:5, 6.

**Romans 8:1** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

**3** For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

**4** That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

**5** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

**6** For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

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

**8** So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

**13** For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

**14** For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

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

**25** If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**I Corinthians 2:12** Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

**14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

**6** In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

**Memory Verse:** There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.—Romans 8:1.

**Aim:** To challenge the student to allow the Holy Spirit to guide his footsteps.

## DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**

**Romans 7**

**Thursday**

**Proverbs 3**

**Tuesday**

**Romans 8:1-14**

**Friday**

**I Corinthians 2**

**Wednesday**

**Galatians 5**

**Saturday**

**I Corinthians 3**

## INTRODUCTION

“The Holy Spirit is not so commonly set forth in the Scriptures as an object of worship as is the Son, yet his worshipfulness is implied in the proofs that he is God, especially in such texts as those that warn against the danger of blaspheming him. ... Inasmuch as he is of the same substance as the Father and Son he is therefore equal with them in power and glory. But as the Son is subordinate to the

Father in the mode of his subsistence and operations in the world, so is the Holy Spirit represented as subordinate to both the Father and Son.”—R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*.

“It means much to be led by the Holy Spirit in all things. ‘For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God’ (Romans 8:14). Not only does the Father draw us by his Spirit to the fellowship of his Son, but he also promises to be with us to the end of the world (Matthew 28:20). How much it means to always recognize and obey the voice which says, ‘This is the way, walk ye in it’; to steer clear of the gulf of fanaticism on the one hand and the rocks of formalism on the other, and take the narrow way of divine guidance.”—D. O. Teasley, *The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits*.

This lesson is on the thought of “Walking After the Spirit,” but I would like to point out that there are other spirits, many of them, and we need to be aware of them, for Jesus told us that Satan himself would appear as an angel of light to deceive the very elect if possible.

## MEDITATIONS

**FREE FROM CONDEMNATION—Romans 8:1—Who walk not**—In chapter seven, Paul speaks of his experience as a Pharisee who was unable to do all he knew he should and was not able to keep from doing some things he knew he should not do. In such a state he cried out, “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (7:24). After accepting the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and being filled with the Spirit (Acts 9), he was able to say, “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Your guilt of sin is gone and you are free. Then you are in a position to “walk after the Spirit” and not after the flesh.

**TWO LAWS—Romans 8:2—Life and death**—The law of the Spirit produces life. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born of the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. So it is with all mankind. The law of sin is the law of death. No one can live free from this law if he does not have Christ in his heart, for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.

**GOD SENT HIS SON—Romans 8:3—The law could not do**—The Old Covenant could not save anyone! Yes, God gave them the law to obey but again, the law could not save. There was and is no Savior but Jesus Christ. We are not to assume from the latter part of this verse that Jesus ever committed one sin, for He did not! But He did come to earth and took upon Himself a robe of flesh and faced temptations just as the rest of the family of man. By living a holy life, He showed that it was possible for the family of man to do so by the saving grace of God. Thus He condemned sin in the flesh, regardless of what many in the religious world say.

**WALK NOT AFTER THE FLESH—Romans 8:4, 5—Life and peace**—The secret of being able to live free from sin is walking after the Spirit. Those who are unsaved are walking after the flesh and do mind the things of the flesh. That is their nature, and it is natural for them to do so. Those who live after the Spirit have the divine nature, and it is natural for them to live righteously.

**CARNALLY MINDED—Romans 8:5-8—Cannot please God**—All through the Bible two ways are presented, and you cannot walk both ways at one time. As Jesus said, “No man can serve two masters.” In these verses, Paul is dealing with these two ways. To be carnally minded and living after the flesh means death to the soul. To be carnally minded is to have a mind that is against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So those who are living to satisfy the flesh are living contrary to the law of Christ and will continue to do so until they are truly converted.

**LED BY THE SPIRIT—Romans 8:13—Mortify the deeds of the body**—Again, to live after the flesh is to live a sinful life, and imputed sin brings death. The prophet Ezekiel said, “When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it” (Ezekiel 33:13). But if you through the Spirit do die to the deeds of the body, you shall live. **Verse 14**—To be led by the Spirit of God is one of the greatest blessings you can know in this life! The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth. He will never lead you wrong. Jesus told the disciples that when the Holy Spirit came to dwell in them, He would lead and guide them into all truth.

**WALK IN THE SPIRIT—Galatians 5:16—You shall not**—There are so many verses of Scripture that set forth the two ways, and all of them give us to understand that one is the way of life and the other is the way of death. One is lived in the Spirit and the other is lived in, or after, the flesh. “For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other” (Galatians 5:17). “Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”

**LIVING RIGHT—Galatians 5:25—If we live in the Spirit**—“What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:19, 20). If we have the Holy Spirit in us and we keep Him in us, we will walk in the Spirit.

**THE SPIRIT OF THE WORLD—I Corinthians 2:12—There are many spirits**—How many people realize that they are under the influence of a spirit, good or bad? There is no other way to explain the actions of people. It was an evil spirit that influenced Eve to do what she did when she disobeyed God. The right Spirit causes you to obey.

**THE THINGS OF THE SPIRIT—I Corinthians 2:14—The natural man**—How many millions of people think the Bible is just another book written by a group of men? How many think it is a book full of contradictions? How many think it is the inspired Word of God? Those who make up the “natural man” class are the ones who fit in the first two, and the spiritually minded are the ones who fit in the last. If you want to know the truth, be a true disciple of Christ—See John 8:31, 32.

**DIRECTED BY THE LORD—Proverbs 3:5, 6—Lean not**—What a precious promise this is! However, there are conditions to be met as there with all of God’s promises. First, we must trust in the Lord with all our hearts. Secondly, we must not lean to our own understanding. Some people desire some things so much they convince themselves it is the will of God when it is not; God cannot direct such a one. In ALL thy ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct you.

## CONCLUSION

“Divine guidance does not make us infallible, yet the Holy Spirit is an infallible guide. But we being fallible and our minds being finite, we may be mistaken in the leadings of the Holy Spirit. This should not discourage us in the least, but should only cause us to press more closely to Jesus’ side and listen more carefully to his voice.”—D. O. Teasley, *The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits*.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Who is it that walks after the Spirit? After the flesh?
2. Why could the law not save the soul?
3. What does it mean to be carnally minded?
4. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit?
5. What is the difference between the spirit of the world and the Spirit of God?

## LESSON NUMBER SEVEN FOR MAY 14

# MORE THAN CONQUERORS

**Scriptures:** Romans 8:31-39; I John 4:4; I John 5:4, 5; Luke 10:19; Romans 12:21.

**Romans 8:31** What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

**32** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

**33** Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

**34** Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

**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.

**38** For I am persuaded, that neither

death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

**39** Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**I John 5:4** For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

**5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

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

**Romans 12:21** Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

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

**Aim:** To encourage the student to overcome opposition to his faith.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Romans 8:26-39  
**Tuesday** I John 4  
**Wednesday** Psalm 103

**Thursday** Romans 12  
**Friday** Luke 10  
**Saturday** Matthew 4

### INTRODUCTION

“Throughout the generations of humanity people have been annoyed by a pestilent, pernicious family; the heads of this family are known as ‘Doubt and fear.’ These two will attack anyone, whether saved or unsaved, saint or sinner. Their offspring, or children, are known as: Indecision, Gloom, Sadness, Timidity, Temptation, Allurement, Trial, Test, Trouble, Confusion, Oppression, and a host of relatives all of whom make it their business to join their forces to harass well-meaning souls in order to discourage them and turn them into the way of destruction.

“So long as we are in this world we are still human beings and will come in contact with the ills and cares, burdens and misfortunes, heartaches, trials, temptations, disappointments, and troubles of life. The snares and allurements of Satan are on every side, but there is a way of safety for the weakest Christian.”—E. E. Byrum.

I trust the study of this lesson will be a help to each student in overcoming the opposition to your faith.

## MEDITATIONS

**WHAT CONCLUSION SHOULD WE COME TO?—Romans 8:31—What shall we say?**—In verse 28, Paul says, “We know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.” It may not always seem so, and at times we may not understand why things happen as they do, but one thing we can know, “If God be for us” there is no foe that can overcome us.

**WHAT LOVE—Romans 8:32—Spared not**—If God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son—His most precious Gift—then why should we doubt that He will give us other things of lesser value? Every promise in the Book is true! God stands back of all.

**A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS—Romans 8:33-35—Who shall?**—This verse, along with the next two, show the safety of the state of those who have believed the gospel of the grace of God. Who can charge God of respecting one person over another? God justifies all who come to Him sincerely. It is Christ who died, and He died for all, and rose the third day. He is now making intercession for us.

**PERSECUTION COMES TO ALL—Romans 8:36—For thy sake**—*As it is written* is also a quote from Psalm 44:22. We are told in the Scriptures that all who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. The apostle Paul, the writer of this epistle, knew much suffering as he made his missionary journeys.

**THE CHRISTIAN WARFARE—Romans 8:37—Fight the good fight of faith**—The weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through Him who loved us and gave Himself for us. By God’s grace, we can say that we are more than conquerors. Jesus did not teach that the Christian life would always be easy, but He did promise us grace to face whatever may come our way.

**HAVE A MADE UP MIND—Romans 8:38, 39—For I am**—It is very important that we have a made up mind. As Paul said, “For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (I Corinthians 2:2). Let us look at the things Paul has listed: death; it is appointed for all mankind, but I don’t think that

was what Paul was thinking of. I would say he was speaking of being put to death for Christ's sake. Angels; not all *angels* are heavenly! Satan has them also. Principalities, nor powers; Paul had to face political powers as well as religious powers. Paul boldly testified before Festus and King Agrippa.

**WITH GOD—I John 4:4—Overcome them**—John speaks of many spirits. All spirits but the Holy Spirit are against God and must be overcome. With Christ in your heart, you can overcome.

**LIVING BY FAITH—I John 5:4—Born of God**—The Christian, with faith in God and in His Word, are the only ones who can overcome this sinful world. John said that the whole world lies in wickedness. But thank God, there is a highway of holiness for the redeemed to walk on. **Verse 5**—John said that we are not to believe every spirit. He is the only Bible writer who speaks of the “antichrist.” We find four verses in this little book with that word. None of them speak of some great leader in the political-religious world. In fact, John said that there were many antichrists in his day.

**HOLY GHOST POWER—Luke 10:19—I give you**—We are not to understand that Jesus is speaking of us walking on literal serpents. As the verse says, “I give you power over all the power of the enemy.”

**DO WHAT IS RIGHT—Romans 12:21—Be not overcome**—The instructions given in this short verse is full of meaning! It takes power to return good for evil, and Satan will do his utmost to overcome everyone who is living the Christian life. Living the Christian is a life of faith. Habakkuk said, “The just shall live by his faith.”

## CONCLUSION

“The prophets of old foretold the coming of Jesus and what would happen. ... When He came He did what the prophets had said He would do. He preached the gospel of the kingdom, forgave sins, spoke peace to the souls of men, cast out devils, healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, and performed many miracles. He was persecuted, crucified, buried in a tomb, arose from the dead, afterward ascended into heaven.”—E. E. Byrum.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How willing is God to give good things to His children?
2. Who or what can separate us from God?
3. How important is it to be persuaded about the truth?
4. How does one overcome the world?
5. Where does a Christian's power come from?

## LESSON NUMBER EIGHT FOR MAY 21

# THE GOODNESS AND SEVERITY OF GOD

**Scriptures:** Romans 11:22; Ephesians 5:5-7; Romans 2:3-11.

**Romans 11:22** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

**Ephesians 5:5** For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.

**6** Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

**7** Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

**Romans 2:3** And thinkest thou this, O man, that judgest them which do such things, and doest the same, that thou shalt escape the judgment of God?

**4** Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffer-

ing; not knowing that the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?

**5** But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;

**6** Who will render to every man according to his deeds:

**7** To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

**8** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath,

**9** Tribulation and anguish, upon every soul of man that doeth evil, of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile;

**10** But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile:

**11** For there is no respect of persons with God.

**Memory Verse:** Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

—Romans 11:22.

**Aim:** To remind the student of God's wrath as well as His goodness.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**      **Romans 11**  
**Tuesday**    **Ephesians 5**  
**Wednesday** **Romans 2**

**Thursday**    **Genesis 6**  
**Friday**        **Genesis 13**  
**Saturday**     **Acts 5**

### INTRODUCTION

God has given mankind laws to guide them through this life. If those laws are obeyed, they will bring good rewards. If they are disobeyed, they will bring the opposite. God would not be God if He allowed His creation to disregard His laws and there be no punishment for their evil acts. For example: the flood, the destruction of Sodom, and the punishment of the literal nation of Israel. Because of David's sin, his house was to have trouble the rest of his days. Various other things show God rewards the good and punishes the evil.

If you will take time to read Deuteronomy 28, you will see the first 14 verses record the blessings God promised the Hebrews. The first verse reads like this: “And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.” Starting with verse 15 on through verse 68, you will read what God said He would do to them, and what they would suffer if they did not obey Him.

## MEDITATIONS

**GOD’S FAIRNESS—Romans 11:22—Behold therefore—**Paul speaks of the Jews who were cut off because of their rejecting the true Messiah, and the Gentiles who had been grafted in. He informs them that they must continue in the truth of the gospel, or they, too, would be cut off. God did not show respect of persons.

**SIN CAN NEVER ENTER THERE—Ephesians 5:5—For this ye know—**This is something that a lot of people do not know today! People think they can commit adultery, lie, cheat, and do a lot of other things, including committing suicide, and still when they die, they have gone to heaven. But Jesus said that if you die in your sins, where He is you cannot come. He also said, “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it” (Matthew 7:13, 14). **Verse 6—**There are many deceivers in the world today, and in the religious world many of them are teaching that you must commit sin more or less every day, but still when you die, you are going to be with the Lord. **Verse 7—**Do not believe them! Believe what the Bible teaches: “Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.”

**CONSIDER—Romans 2:3—O man—**If you will read from verse 18 through verse 32 of chapter one, you will see what Paul is talking about. Those in verse three are judging and condemning others while doing some of the same things themselves; and yet, they thought they would escape the judgment of God. Why?

**GOD IS MERCIFUL—Romans 2:4—Riches of His goodness—**On this verse, Clarke comments: “Wilt thou render of none effect that marked benevolence of God towards thee which has given so many superior advantages, and that forbearance which has tolerated thy many miscarriages, and that longsuffering which, after repeated provocations, still continues to bear with thee?” None can come to God and say, “I deserve to be forgiven because I did not do some of the things that others did.” All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. It was His goodness that led us to repentance!

**SIN HARDENS HEARTS—Romans 2:5—After thy hardness—**It seems that some have hardened their hearts so hard that nothing moves them! They can be told of God's love, of Christ's suffering and dying on the cross for their sins, and it means nothing to them. They are indeed treasuring up unto themselves the wrath of God. **Verse 6—**They will be judged along with everyone. Even the infidel, who says that there is no God, will be at the judgment and will answer for his deeds.

**BOTH WILL BE THERE—Romans 2:7—To them—**Yes, there are some in this sinful world who have accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and are seeking to so live that they will have eternal life. **Verse 8—**But there are billions that "do not the truth" and are living unrighteous lives who will suffer the wrath of God. **Verse 9—**The Hebrews who were God's covenant people under the Old Testament will face the same Judge the Gentiles will face.

**A GLORIOUS REWARD—Romans 2:10, 11—Glory, honour, and peace—**The mind cannot grasp the reward that awaits those who live a righteous life and die in the faith, for Jesus tasted death for everyone. Whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely, for there is no respect of persons with God.

## CONCLUSION

"Though Christians appreciate the value of rational evidences of immortality, yet they are not dependent upon them for ground for their faith in this truth, but find the surest and fullest proof of the doctrine in the Scriptures. Immortality, like many other truths, is more clearly revealed in the New Testament, but it is by no means absent from the Old, as has been sometimes erroneously affirmed. ... When the Sadducees, who denied the resurrection, came to Jesus with a question relating thereto, Jesus answered them with an argument based on the words of God to Moses at the burning bush, 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. God is not the God of the dead, but of the living' (Matthew 22:32). ... The Scriptures represent the future punishment of the wicked as being in a place which is called *hell* in the common English Bible."—R. R. Byrum, *Christian Theology*. It is just as eternal as heaven is.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. God has given us a law to live by. What is the reward for obeying?
2. What is the reward for disobeying?
3. Are there rewards in this life for obeying or disobeying?
4. Is God just in regard to the reward for disobeying?
5. Which reward are you living for?

## LESSON NUMBER NINE FOR MAY 28

# A LIVING SACRIFICE

**Scriptures:** Romans 12:1-3; Galatians 2:20; 5:24; 6:14; II Timothy 2:19-21; I Chronicles 29:5.

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

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

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

**Galatians 2:20** I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

**Galatians 5:24** And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the

affections and lusts.

**Galatians 6:14** But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.

**II Timothy 2:19** Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

**20** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

**21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

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

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

**Aim:** To challenge the student to make a full surrender to God.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 12</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>II Timothy 2</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>I Chronicles 29</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Galatians 2</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>I Thessalonians 4</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Galatians 6</b>

### INTRODUCTION

We read in Jeremiah 17:9, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" We read in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." We read in Galatians 3:22, "But the scripture hath concluded all under sin." So before we can be a living sacrifice, there must be a definite change take place in our hearts and lives. First, a sinner must come to Christ with a broken and a contrite heart, repent of his sins, and then believe that

the Lord has forgiven him. We read in the Scriptures about justification. This is the what happens when one is forgiven. Then we read about regeneration, or being born again. This is the second phase of the first work of grace. When a person is justified-regenerated, he becomes a member of the Church of God and is in a position to begin living a holy life. However, there are additional things that must follow, which are dealt with in this lesson.

## MEDITATIONS

**SOMETHING TO DO—Romans 12:1, 2—Present your bodies —** Paul is instructing “brethren,” and he is telling them to present their bodies a living sacrifice, holy unto God, which is only a reasonable thing to do. This is a requirement that must be met to receive the Holy Spirit in the experience of sanctification. Paul told the church at Corinth that their bodies were to be the temple of the Holy Ghost. **Verse 2—Not conformed to this world—**The word *conform* means “pattern after.” There is no way one can be a true Christian, let alone a living sacrifice, while conforming to the world. One must be transformed, changed, receive the mind of Christ, and prove in his life what is the will of God. God has a will for everyone.

**BE HUMBLE—Romans 12:3—Think soberly—**Pride is one thing that seems to be a problem to many, and it is one thing that God hates. Paul did not say you could not think anything of yourself, but not to think “more highly” of yourself than you ought. You must think soberly and realize that God has given every child of God a measure of faith.

**A DEATH TO DIE—Galatians 2:20—I am crucified—**Paul said that he was crucified with Christ. Crucifixion was one of the most cruel ways the Romans had to put a person to death. It was usually reserved for the most notable criminals, so Paul was making himself a living sacrifice, for he went on to say: “Nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me.” The reason Paul was able to say what he did was because Christ gave His life for him, and not for him only. Jesus tasted death for every man.

**A CHANGED LIFE—Galatians 5:24—They that are Christ’s—**Why is it that the doctrine of sin-you-must is so widely taught and accepted? How can it be that he who has died to “the flesh” (which means he has died to sin) continue therein? The Scriptures clearly teach, “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live” (Romans 8:13).

**NOT IN MAN—Galatians 6:14—God forbid—**Living the Christian life—a *living sacrifice*—is not something one can do in himself, and it is not something to boast about. Jesus gave a parable about a certain one who trusted in his own righteousness: “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee

stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men ... I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner." Our own righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight.

**A SURE FOUNDATION—II Timothy 2:19—The foundation of God**—Paul spoke not only of a foundation, but an entire building, for he said that the Lord knows those who are His. His redeemed make up the house of God, the Church of God, which is built on the prophets and apostles, Jesus Christ being the Chief cornerstone. **Verse 20**—In the Church of God, there are some who are pastors, teachers, and deacons. Some hold no office, yet are faithful members who are living the Christian life. According to this verse, there are some who are not really in the church, but profess to be. Hymeneus and Philetus and their followers were examples.

**HE THAT TAKES HEED—II Timothy 2:21—Purge himself**—“He who takes heed to his ways and to his doctrines, and walks with God will separate himself, not only from all false doctrine, but from all wicked men, and thus be sanctified and proper to be employed by the Master in every good word and work.”—Clarke.

**DAVID WANTED A HOUSE FOR GOD—I Chronicles 29:5—Gold for gold**—The Lord did not permit David to build the temple, but he did all he could in gathering material for his son, Solomon, to use: “Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God ... Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house.” Since David had gathered all he could and had given of his own personal goods, he was in a position to challenge Israel to give: “And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the Lord?” Have you consecrated yourself “a living sacrifice” to the Lord?

## CONCLUSION

Paul said in the first verse of this lesson, “Present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.” Also, 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).

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Did Jesus Christ give His all for us?
2. Can one conform to the world and be a living sacrifice for God?
3. Where and what is God’s temple today?
4. What does sanctification have to do with being a living sacrifice?
5. Have you given your all to the Lord?

## LESSON NUMBER TEN FOR JUNE 4

# LOVE WORKS NO ILL

**Scriptures:** Romans 13:8-10; Romans 12:9, 10; I John 3:16-18; Galatians 5:13, 14; I Peter 1:22; I Peter 3:8, 9; I Thessalonians 3:12.

**Romans 13:8** Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

**9** For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

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

**Romans 12:9** Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.

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

**I John 3:16** Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**17** But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

**18** My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

**Galatians 5:13** For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

**14** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

**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.

**I Thessalonians 3:12** And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you.

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

**Aim:** To reveal the evidence of true, godly love.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday**      **Romans 13**  
**Tuesday**    **I Peter 1**  
**Wednesday** **I Peter 3**

**Thursday**    **Galatians 5**  
**Friday**        **I Thessalonians 3**  
**Saturday**     **I Corinthians 13**

### INTRODUCTION

“Love—the high esteem which God has for His human children and the high regard which they, in turn, should have for Him and other people. Because of the hundreds of references to love in the Bible, it is certainly the most remarkable book of love in the world. It records the greatest love story ever written—God’s unconditional love for us that sent His Son to die on the cross (John 3:16; I John 4:10).

“There are two Greek words we find for love. One is *Phileo*, which means ‘to have ardent affection and feeling.’ The other is *Agapao*,

which means 'to have esteem' or 'high regard.' The word *agape* is the term of Christianity. This word for love is used several ways in the Scriptures. Agape love expresses the nature of God and the love He would have us to have for one another. As someone has said, 'Love can only be known from the actions it prompts.'"—*Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*.

## MEDITATIONS

**OBEDY THE WORD—Romans 13:8—Love one another**—Some people have misunderstood the first part of this verse. It does not mean you cannot buy a house or a car on monthly payments. As long as you make your payments you don't "owe" the bank! This part of the verse refers back to chapter 13, where we are told to show due respect and obedience to civil authority. As to Christians, Paul goes on to say that what we owe is love for one another; and in doing this, we are fulfilling the law of Christ. **Verse 9**—A person who has true love in his heart for his brother, or others, will not be guilty of the things spoken of in this verse. He will love his neighbor.

**A GOOD NEIGHBOR—Romans 13:10—Worketh no ill**—Love will not cause one to return evil for evil, but rather good for evil. Christians are different! They will endeavor to help where they can, for your neighbor is not limited to the one who lives next door. The good Samaritan is an example of this.

**LOVE IS GREATLY NEEDED—Romans 12:9—Without dissimulation**—This simply means your love is to be real! To pretend to love someone when you don't is being hypocritical. That is one of the things you need to abhor, among many other things. **Verse 10**—Being kind to all men with brotherly love and in honor preferring one another requires a spirit of humility.

**UNDERSTANDING LOVE WE ARE TO HAVE—I John 3:16—The love of God**—Consider the love of God. God loved His Son so much, yet His love for us was so great it caused Him to restrain Himself and allow sinful men to crucify Jesus! Since God loved us so much, John said that we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**LOVE IN ACTION—I John 3:17—This world's good**—There are many needy people in this world, and there are organizations that are working to help such people, but that does not excuse the Christian from his duty to help those he can, especially to those who are brethren, as John spoke of in verse 16. **Verse 18**—Here again, we are reminded that our love must be real. As was stated in the Introduction, "Love can only be known from the actions it prompts."

**OLD COVENANT EXPIRED—Galatians 5:13—Called unto liberty**—Reading a couple verses before this one, we see that Paul was teaching that the Old Covenant had expired, that it was not nec-

essary to circumcise the children, along with other practices, which were only types of the real things that were to come. However, they were not to use the liberty they had in a sinful way, for there was a new law in force that forbade living after the flesh. **Verse 14**—The law of love was in effect, and “love worketh no ill to his neighbor.”

**THE WAY TO HAVE A PURE HEART—I Peter 1:22—In obeying the truth**—Jesus said, “If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31, 32). The truth liberates you from the bondage of sin. It is no wonder that so many professed Christians still live in sin! To be a true Christian, you must obey the Word of God. In the experience of salvation, the love of the world, ill-will toward others, etc., is removed and true love is given to fill the heart.

**A GREAT NEED—I Peter 3:8—Finally**—When the Word of God is lived out in our hearts, we will strive to be of one mind. Jesus prayed for His disciples to be one. The apostle Paul told the saints at Corinth that there should be no divisions among them, and that they all should speak the same thing. Peter tells us that we are not only to be of one mind, but to have compassion for one another, to love as brethren, be pitiful, and to be courteous. What a different world we would have if this teaching was put into practice! **Verse 9**—If the verse we have just considered was put into practice, we would not have what Peter speaks of in the first part of this verse. Obey the Word and you will have God’s blessings.

**A WORLDWIDE NEED—I Thessalonians 3:12—The Lord make you to increase**—This lesson has dealt with the thought of our loving one another as brethren. Paul points out here that our love is not just for other saints, but it is to be shown to all men. He also points out that our love is to increase.

## CONCLUSION

Love is something taught throughout the Bible, especially in the New Testament. The “Great Commandment” is found in both: “And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength” (Mark 12:30). It is safe to say that the more we love God, the more we will love one another. The love chapter (I Corinthians 13) tells us some of the things love does for us. One of those is: “Love never fails.”

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. Why is love so important in living the Christian life?
2. What is the meaning of the Greek word *agapao*?
3. Can a person really love in word alone (I John 3:18)?
4. What is the connection between love and unity?
5. What is the fulfilling of the law?

## LESSON NUMBER ELEVEN FOR JUNE 11

# THE KINGDOM OF GOD

**Scriptures:** Romans 14:17; Mark 1:14, 15; 9:1; Luke 8:1; 16:16; 17:20, 21; Daniel 2:44; John 3:3.

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

**Mark 1:14** Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God,

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

**Mark 9:1** And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

**Luke 8:1** And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were with him.

**Luke 16:16** The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the king-

dom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it.

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

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

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

**John 3:3** Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

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

**Aim:** To show that the kingdom of God is not something yet in the future, but is a present reality.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Romans 14  
**Tuesday** Daniel 2  
**Wednesday** Mark 1

**Thursday** Mark 9  
**Friday** Luke 8  
**Saturday** Luke 17

### INTRODUCTION

“The notion that the Messiah would establish a literal kingdom upon the earth originated with the Jews. Many of them placed literal interpretations upon those prophecies which relate to the coming of Christ, and as a result they expected him to establish a temporal throne, subdue the nations, and restore again the kingdom of Israel. This gross error led them to reject Christ, oppose his spiritual kingdom, and consent unto his death. Because he did not meet their expectations, he became a stumbling-block to them. At one time they tried to ‘take him by force, and make him a king,’ but he departed from them” (John 6:15).—H. M. Riggle, *The Kingdom of God*.

Jesus was born a King, and He said He had a kingdom: “My kingdom is not of this world.” But He had no plans for a literal kingdom; certainly, not one of a thousand years. Since Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again of the Word and the Spirit—John 3:5—to enter the kingdom, we understand His kingdom is spiritual and not literal. We trust the study of this lesson will be a blessing to you.

## MEDITATIONS

**WHAT THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT—Romans 14:17—But righteousness**—We understand by Paul’s words that the kingdom of God is not “meat and drink.” He is saying that it is not a literal kingdom. Then he tells us what it is: “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” This lets us know that there are different phases of the kingdom. What is described here is the experience phase, which is obtained by an experience of salvation.

**JESUS PREACHING—Mark 1:14, 15—The time**—John was the forerunner of Jesus. After John was put in prison, Jesus came preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. Part of His message was: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand.” What He was talking about was the prophecy of Daniel 2:44: “In the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom.” And He did! It is at hand now; it is not yet out in the future.

**JESUS SPEAKS AGAIN—Mark 9:1—Some standing here**—There is no one who was standing there still alive today! The kingdom came with power on the Day of Pentecost.

**AFTER BEING IN A PHARISEE’S HOME—Luke 8:1—He went**—While in the home a woman washed Jesus’ feet by wetting them with her tears and drying them with her hair. Jesus forgave her of her sins. Later, Jesus and the twelve went through a number of towns and He preached to them the good news of the kingdom of God. He did not tell the people it was way out in the future.

**OLD COVENANT ENDED—Luke 16:16—Since that time**—Jesus brought in the New Covenant, and with it came the good news of the kingdom of God. We understand from this verse that it takes putting forth some effort to enter into the kingdom of God. Satan will do all he can to keep people from entering the kingdom of God, but they can if they really desire to. We also see from this verse that there were those who were pressing their way in. A question is in order: How could souls be entering into the kingdom of God if it did not exist?

**NOT WHAT YOU EXPECT—Luke 17:20, 21—When He was demanded**—The Pharisees demanded of Jesus to know when the kingdom of God should come. They were expecting a literal kingdom set up there in their country with a literal king sitting on a literal throne. Jesus told them that the kingdom of God was not that kind of a kingdom, and they would never see such a kingdom.

A quote from Adam Clarke: “The kingdom of God, the glorious religion of the Messiah, does not come in such a way as to be discerned only by sagacious critics, or is only to be seen by those who are scrupulously watching for it; it is not of such a nature as to be confined to one place, so that men might say of it, Behold it is only here, or only there.” With the words “within you,” Jesus is speaking of the experience phase of the kingdom.

**FOUR EARTHLY KINGDOMS—Daniel 2:44—Shall the God of heaven**—The image had four parts: gold, silver, brass, and iron and clay. The four kingdoms: Babylon, Medo-Persian, Greek, and Roman. There was a fifth kingdom! The stone spoken of in verse 34 represented Jesus Christ and the kingdom of God. Note: It was the stone that struck the image on his feet and legs. This was the fourth literal kingdom, the Roman, so this was to happen during the reign of the Roman kingdom. Jesus Christ came into this world during the rule of the Roman kingdom, so this lets us know when “the kingdom of God came with power.” Those who put this yet out in the future are misrepresenting the truth of the Word of God.

**A SPIRITUAL KINGDOM—John 3:3—Born again**—As was stated in the Introduction, Jesus told Nicodemus one must be born of the Word and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. Thus the kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. If it were a literal kingdom, one would have to have a physical birth to enter it, but the Scriptures inform us that flesh and blood cannot enter the kingdom of God.

## CONCLUSION

I mentioned earlier that there were different phases to the kingdom of God: in the universal phase, all are in it. “The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity” (Matthew 13:41). The phase that the redeemed are in are those that have been born again. This phase and the church are the same! Christ is King of the kingdom, and Christ is the Head of the church. The experience phase, Romans 14:17: “righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” “The kingdom of God is within you” (Luke 17:21). The eternal phase: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom of God prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Matthew 25:34).

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. What is the duration of the kingdom of God?
2. How does one get into the kingdom?
3. Will there be a literal kingdom of a thousand years on earth?
4. What literal kingdom was ruling when Jesus was born?
5. What does “the stone” in Daniel 2:34 symbolize?

## LESSON NUMBER TWELVE FOR JUNE 18

# THE COMFORT OF THE SCRIPTURES

**Scriptures:** Romans 15:4; John 5:39; Acts 17:11; II Thessalonians 2:16, 17; II Timothy 3:14, 15; II Corinthians 1:3, 4; 13:11; John 14:27; I Thessalonians 4:18.

**Romans 15:4** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

**John 5:39** Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

**II Thessalonians 2:16** Now our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God, even our Father, which hath loved us, and hath given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,

**17** Comfort your hearts, and stablish you in every good word and work.

**II Timothy 3:14** But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

**Memory Verse:** For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.—Romans 15:4.

**Aim:** To examine how the Christian receives comfort from the written Word of God.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Romans 15:1-12</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>John 14</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>II Thessalonians 2</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Acts 17</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>II Corinthians 3</b>	<b>Saturday</b>	<b>I Thessalonians 4</b>

### INTRODUCTION

The Book we call the Bible is estimated to have been written over a period of fifteen hundred years. The number of men used of God in writing the books of the Bible is not known for certain, but scholars have estimated that between thirty-five and forty men had a part in writing them. The men came from various walks of life—kings, shepherds, fishermen, and other occupations.

D. O Teasley in his book, *The Bible and How to Interpret It*, says: "The fixing of the canon [of the Old Testament], having been a gradual process, no exact date for its settlement can safely be given. The settlement of the New Testament was a gradual process. Each book was tried—not only by the usual methods of ascertaining the genuineness of a book, but in the fires of human need and experience." One thing we know for certain is that the Books of the Bible were inspired by God, and in that sense we can say that God is the author.

Another quote from Teasley: "The Bible is the greatest book in the world. Ever since there has been a Bible, men have endeavored to fathom its unfathomable depths of knowledge. What we do know of the Bible is so extremely satisfying that we constantly thirst for more.

"Even though no man has ever known all about the Bible, yet we never tire in our efforts to understand it."

The Old Testament was written mostly in the Hebrew language with a very small portion written in the Aramaic language. The New Testament was written in Greek.

I trust the study of this lesson will help you to be able to find comfort in the Scriptures. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." "Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart."

## MEDITATIONS

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE—Romans 15:4—Written aforetime**—Paul refers to the Old Testament Scriptures, for at that time not all of the New Testament was written and gathered into one book. There is much in what we call the Old Testament that is good for us today. The Old Covenant expired at the death of Jesus, but the Old Covenant was a small part of the Old Testament Scriptures. What Christian has not gained much comfort in reading the Psalms and the victories of various Old Testament heroes?

**IMPORTANT TO DO—John 5:39—They are they which testify of me**—Again, Jesus speaks of the Old Testament Scriptures, for that is all they had at that time. There is much in those Scriptures about Jesus Christ, especially Isaiah. Eternal life was taught in the Old Testament. For instance: Ezekiel 33:15, 16, "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. 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." If we are to have eternal life, we must do what Ezekiel said.

**PAUL GOES TO EUROPE—Acts 17:11—Searched the Scriptures**—Paul had ministered in Philippi, and from there he went to Thessalonica, where he won some to the Lord, but he also met with

much opposition. From there he went to Berea, and he found those who were ready to listen to what he taught. Even so, they searched the Scriptures daily to see if he was saying was the truth. Everyone not only has a right to do that, but are instructed to do it! “Let no man deceive you with vain words” (Ephesians 5:6).

**TRUTH IS IMPORTANT—II Thessalonians 2:16—Hath loved us**—The Lord loved us so much that He gave His life for us. God our Father loved us so much that He gave His only begotten Son. And they have given us everlasting consolation through their grace. **Verse 17**—The above facts should be a comfort to us and to help us to be established in the work we are striving to do for the Lord.

**DO NOT DEPART—II Timothy 3:14—Continue**—Paul is encouraging Timothy to continue in the things which he had learned. Demas had left Paul, for he loved this present world. Doubtless others had departed from the faith. Timothy had learned much truth from Paul who had faithfully lived the gospel before him. Now Paul was admonishing Timothy to continue in what he had learned.

**A RELIGIOUS BACKGROUND—II Timothy 3:15—From a child**—Timothy had a God-fearing mother and grandmother, and they had exposed him to the Scriptures. Just how much truth he knew we are not able to say. It seems that Timothy was converted when Paul passed through that area on his first missionary trip. Paul had Timothy to start traveling with him on his second missionary trip.

**LIVING IN A TROUBLED WORLD—II Corinthians 1:3—Blessed be God**—John said in his day, “The whole world lies in wickedness,” and the city of Corinth was no exception. Paul, in his second letter to the Church of God, opened his second letter with a warm and loving greeting: “Grace be to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” (verse 2). He went on to say that God was the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort. If it were not for the mercy of God, where would we be today? But He is not only the Father of mercies, but “the God of all comfort.” *Webster* says, in part, for the word *comfort*: “to soothe in distress or sorrow; ease the misery or grief of; bring consolation or hope.” So it good to know this “God of all comfort.”

**HELP OTHERS—II Corinthians 1:4—Comfort them**—God comforts us in all our tribulations so that we may comfort those who are in trouble! We live in a real world. There are many who are in trouble, and where it is possible it is the duty of the Christian to lend a helping hand. When you pass through some trial, test, or trouble, you are in a better position to help others.

**LIVING THE GOSPEL—II Corinthians 13:11—Finally, brethren**—Paul lists a number of things in this verse that is a very

important part of a Christian's life: be perfect—meaning be mature; be of good comfort—see comments on verse 3; be of one mind—be in unity, speak the same thing; live in peace—peace with God and peace with all saints. In fact, as far as it lies in you, live peaceably with all men. Do these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

**PEACE IN THE STORM—John 14:27—Peace I leave with you**—The world cannot give that which it does not have! Jesus Christ was preparing to return to the Father and promised to send them another Comforter. He also said, “I leave my peace with you.” What a blessing peace is, and the Christian has it in real salvation!

**CHRIST WILL RETURN—I Thessalonians 4:18—Comfort one another**—The saints in Thessalonica were troubled because some of their loved ones were dying and Christ had not returned as they had expected. Paul told them they had nothing to worry about, that they would not be left behind, there would be a resurrection, all would be caught up together, and since this would happen “comfort one another with these words.”

## CONCLUSION

Since the Word of God offers us comfort and hope, we need to study it, hide it in our hearts, and use it in our daily lives. Men through the ages have tried to destroy the Bible, to prove it is full of lies, mistakes, and is unreliable. Those who have accepted it for what it is, the inspired Word of God, have found it to be true and have been comforted by it in many trying times of life. Let us remember that Jesus Christ is the living Word of God—John 1:1-14—and He is full of grace and truth.

## FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION

1. How do Christians receive comfort from the Word of God?
2. What are some of the promises in the Scriptures that have been a comfort to you?
3. What does II Corinthians 1:4 tell us to do after the Lord has comforted us?
4. Why were the saints at Thessalonica troubled?
5. Do you think Timothy was a comfort to Paul?

## LESSON NUMBER THIRTEEN FOR JUNE 25

# JOY AND PEACE IN BELIEVING

**Scriptures:** Romans 15:13; John 3:16; Acts 10:43; I John 5:1, 5; I Peter 1:8; John 6:35; 7:38; 12:46; Romans 10:10, 11; Mark 9:23.

**Romans 15:13** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

**John 3:16** For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

**Acts 10:43** To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.

**I John 5:1** Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him.

**5** Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

**I Peter 1:8** Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not,

yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

**John 6:35** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

**John 7:38** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

**John 12:46** I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness.

**Romans 10:10** For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

**11** For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

**Mark 9:23** Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.

**Memory Verse:** Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.—Romans 15:13.

**Aim:** To show that believing on Christ has its rewards.

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

**Monday** Romans 15:13-33

**Tuesday** Romans 16

**Wednesday** I Peter 1

**Thursday** John 6

**Friday** Acts 10

**Saturday** John 3:1-21

## INTRODUCTION

### We Have a Hope

*Blessed hope we have within us is an anchor to the soul,  
It is both steadfast and sure;  
It is founded on the promises of Father's written word,  
And 'twill evermore endure.*

*We have a hope within our souls,  
Brighter than the perfect day:  
God has given us his Spirit,  
And we want the world to hear it.*

*All our doubts are passed away.—William G. Schell*

What would it be like to try to live in this present world and not have any hope? A life of misery! Part of the meaning of *hope* is, “a person or thing on which one may base some hope.” The prophet Joel said, “The Lord will be the hope of his people” (Joel 3:16).

## MEDITATIONS

**FAITH AND HOPE—Romans 15:13—The God of hope**—The writer of Hebrews said, “Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (11:1). Anyone who really knows God knows He is the God of hope. In believing in the God of hope, it will bring joy and peace to your soul. Through the power of the Holy Spirit in your life you may abound in hope.

**BELIEVING ON CHRIST—John 3:16—God so loved**—One of the most familiar verses in the Bible, and one of the most meaningful verses. Every Christian is a child of God, but this verse speaks of the One who was begotten by the power of God in the womb of a virgin named Mary. The only One so begotten, and the only One who was able to be the Savior of mankind, through which it is possible to have eternal life. “Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God” (I John 3:1).

**MANY WITNESSES—Acts 10:43—All the prophets**—All the prophets directly, or indirectly, gave witness of the coming Messiah. Many of the verses in the Old Testament that you find the word *Lord* is speaking of the One we know as Jesus Christ. That is the only name given among men whereby we can receive remission of sins.

**ONLY ONE MEDIATOR—I John 5:1—Whosoever**—“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life” (verse 12). It takes more than a head belief to be born of God. One must believe in his heart. If you really believe, you will love Him and show it by your actions. **Verse 5**—Another proof that you believe Jesus to be the Son of God is that you will have power to overcome the world. A child of God does not love the world.

**GOD IS A SPIRIT—I Peter 1:8—Yet believing**—According to the Scriptures, no human being has actually seen God, but that does not keep one from believing. With that believing, you are able to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. There are rewards in believing!

**SALVATION IS REAL—John 6:35—Never hunger**—Jesus said that He was the bread of life, and I believe Him. Many did not, and they went away saying, “This is a hard saying.” But those who have eaten of Him are satisfied. Israel ate manna and hungered again. We can eat of the bread of life and never hunger for anything else.

**THE INFLUENCE OF BELIEVING—John 7:38—Out of his belly**—Once an individual believes on Christ, he becomes a vessel for

God to fill and pour out upon others. The living waters that flow out of the believer originate with the Lord. Jesus gave the woman at the well that living water which is salvation with all its treasures. She immediately went into the city to share her newfound joy and peace. Many believed on Jesus as a result; others believed because they heard Him themselves. But, in each case, the believer received his own portion of living water and consequently allowed that water, which was full of peace and joy flow out from his life and influence others for righteousness. Something good always happens to the man or woman who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ!

**MUCH DARKNESS—John 12:46—I am come—**There is much darkness in the world, not only as far as sin and evil, but in the religious world as well. Two of the largest religious groups in the world number between two and three billion people. One of those two do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world. In fact, they don't believe there is a Savior. Among those who call themselves Christians, some do not believe you can be saved from all your sins and live a holy life. Nevertheless, Jesus came into the world a light. *Light* is understood here as truth. Darkness is sin, evil, and false doctrines.

If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, and one another.

**A CHANGE OF HEART—Romans 10:10—With the heart—**The prophet said that the Lord takes out the stony heart and gives a heart of flesh. Salvation is not in religious rituals or ceremonies, but in a changed heart, which means a change in the way we live. **Verse 11—**One who has a new heart certainly has nothing to be ashamed of. Jesus said that if we are ashamed of Him, He would be ashamed of us.

**A FATHER IN NEED—Mark 9:23—If you can believe—**A son was vexed with demons. The nine disciples could not cast them out. Jesus appeared and the son's father said to Him, "If you can do anything, have compassion on us." Jesus said to the father, "It is not whether I can do anything, but can you believe?" The answer, "Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief." The son was delivered and healed.

## CONCLUSION

The father in Mark 9 was rewarded for the faith he did have! We have spoken of only a few rewards in this lesson. There are many, but the greatest of all is being delivered out of the prison house of sin—out of darkness—into the marvelous liberty and light of being a child of God. This liberty and freedom is offered to all, for Jesus tasted death for everyone, and whosoever will may come and drink of the water of life freely.

## **FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION**

1. What does it really mean to believe on Christ?
2. Why is it that millions say that they believe on Christ but you see no change in their lives?
3. How many ways are there to have eternal life?
4. What did the prophet say about the heart?
5. What does it take to be able to overcome the world?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said He was the bread of life?
7. Have you experienced the joy and peace of believing on Christ?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

*Gems from the Book of Romans*

ADULT & YOUNG PEOPLE

**FOR THIS QUARTER:**

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<b>L#3... April 16</b>	<b>Circumcision of the Heart</b>	<b>Page 9</b>
<b>L#4... April 23</b>	<b>The Grace Wherein We Stand</b>	<b>Page 13</b>
<b>L#5... April 30</b>	<b>Live No Longer in Sin</b>	<b>Page 17</b>
<b>L#6... May 7</b>	<b>Walking After the Spirit</b>	<b>Page 21</b>
<b>L#7... May 14</b>	<b>More Than Conquerors</b>	<b>Page 25</b>
<b>L#8... May 21</b>	<b>The Goodness and Severity of God</b>	<b>Page 28</b>
<b>L#9... May 28</b>	<b>A Living Sacrifice</b>	<b>Page 31</b>
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<b>L#11... June 11</b>	<b>The Kingdom of God</b>	<b>Page 37</b>
<b>L#12... June 18</b>	<b>The Comfort of the Scriptures</b>	<b>Page 40</b>
<b>L#13... June 25</b>	<b>Joy and Peace in Believing</b>	<b>Page 44</b>