

# **CALLED TO SHEPHERD GOD'S PEOPLE**

**200 CLASS OUTLINES FOR  
PORTABLE BIBLE SCHOOLS**

**Edited by THELMA BRAUN**

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**This Book Dedicated to:**

*Willys,  
who fathered Zaire's  
Portable School Movement  
and our three wonderful sons,  
who brought creativity and joy  
to our life and ministry in Africa.*

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## FOREWORD

This book has been prepared for a very special group of people, followers of the Lord Jesus Christ who have heard His call to serve Him in ministry to the people of villages and towns who need the Lord. You have set eight weeks aside for study and work and prayer to become equipped for the task to which the Lord has led you. You are very special people.

In this book are 200 lessons to be studied in 40 days of classes, five hours of study each day. We suggest this schedule of classes for the eight weeks:

8:00 - 8:50	Books of the Bible
8:50 - 9:40	Doctrine
9:40 - 10:30	Homiletics
10:30 - 10:50	Intermission
10:50 - 11:40	Shepherding the Flock
11:40 - 12:30	Holy Living, the first four weeks; Denominational Relationships, the second four weeks.

Afternoons and evenings may be devoted to study of the lessons, discussion of the class topics and—very important—putting the lessons into practical use by becoming fishers of men in the neighborhood of the school. These can be the most important hours of the day!

Let us give a word of caution. Some lessons may seem too lengthy, or too difficult, to be carefully understood by everyone in one hour of study. There will be the temptation to carry over the same lesson to the next day's class. But since the lessons have been carefully apportioned for every one of the 200 hours, and since every one of those 200 hours is important, it will not be possible to catch up. If there is unfinished material, continue that

class in the afternoon hours and be all prepared for the new lesson the next day!

These 40 days, set aside for the study of God's wonderful Word and preparation for His royal service, can be the most beautiful days of your life. It is our prayer that this will be true, and that after graduation you will put all that you learn into practical use in serving the Lord and leading people, some into salvation and others into growth and fellowship in Him.

# BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

## INTRODUCTION

Eight weeks is altogether too short a time to master the contents of the 66 books we call the Bible—the lifetime of the oldest person on earth would be far too short for that. But it will be possible in this course to get a taste of the riches contained in each of its pages, and to acquire the habit of searching for more every day of your life! The Word says wisely, “Study to show yourself approved before God” (2 Tim. 2:15). The better acquainted you are with the Holy Book, the more you will love it—and its Author. And that will add untold blessing to your life and to your ministry.

### My Prayer for You

*Our loving Heavenly Father, bless this reader with a strong and delightful thirst for the rich satisfying words of the eternal truth that You have written for us in your Holy Book.*

Three very helpful books were used in preparing these notes, *What the Bible Is All About*, by Henrietta C. Mears, *Briefing the Bible*, by J. Vernon McGee, and *The Compact Survey of the Bible*, by John Balchin. Further study in any one of these books would be tremendously worthwhile and rewarding in preparation for the Master's service.

# **PART ONE**

## **BOOKS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT**

### **Lesson 1 - INTRODUCTION**

The Bible is God's written revelation of His will to men. Its central theme is salvation through Jesus Christ. The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors covering approximately 1600 years. The Old Testament was written mostly in Hebrew, and the New Testament was written in Greek. The authors were kings and princes, poets and philosophers, prophets and statesmen. Some were highly educated and others were unschooled fishermen.

We shall study the Old Testament this first month of our school. It is made up of 39 books on the following subjects:

- 5 - Law
- 12 - History
- 5 - Poetry
- 17 - Prophecy (5 Major, 12 Minor)

The Bible is the greatest document available for the human race. It needs to be read, studied, and believed and obeyed.

### **Lesson 2 - GENESIS**

The first five books of the Bible were written by Moses and are called the Pentateuch. The word "Genesis" means origin, or birth. Genesis is the book of beginnings—the beginning of the world (1:1-25), of the human race (1:26-27), of sin in the world (3:1-7), of the promise of redemption (3:8-24), of family life (4:1-15), of a man-made civilization (4:16-9:29), of the nations of the world (10, 11), and of the Hebrew race (12-50).

Genesis is a history of man's failure. It begins with "God" and ends "in a coffin." Here is an outline that divides the book into two large thoughts:

- A. Entrance of sin on the earth, chs. 1-11.
  - 1. Creation, chs. 1, 2
  - 2. The fall, chs. 3, 4.
  - 3. The flood, chs. 5-9.
  - 4. Tower of Babel and confusion of tongues, chs. 10, 11.
- B. Preparation for the coming of the Redeemer, chs. 12-50.
  - 1. Abraham, the man of faith, chs. 12-23.
  - 2. Isaac, the beloved son, chs. 24-26.
  - 3. Jacob, loved and chastened by the Lord, chs. 27-36.
  - 4. Joseph, who was sold by his brothers, suffered in prison, but remained true to God, chapters. 37-50.

### **Lesson 3 - EXODUS**

**Exodus** means "the way out."

There were only seventy persons who went down into Egypt, but before they left Egypt they had grown into a nation of three million. Genesis tells of man's failure; Exodus tells of the redeeming work of a sovereign God. It begins in darkness and gloom, and ends in glory.

Exodus 12 gives us the thrilling story of the Passover, the clearest Old Testament picture of our individual salvation through faith in the shed blood of our Lord Jesus Christ. The outline of Exodus follows:

- 1. God prepares Moses, a deliverer, chs. 1-11.
- 2. Deliverance, by blood and power, chs. 12-14.
- 3. Marching to Mt. Sinai, the spiritual education of the people, chs. 15-18.
- 4. Giving of the Law, God's mirror to show us our exceeding sinfulness, chs. 19-24.

5. Blueprint and construction of the tabernacle, testifying that God was dwelling in the midst of His people, chs. 25-40.

## **Lesson 4 - LEVITICUS, NUMBERS AND DEUTERONOMY**

The Book of **Leviticus** is God's picture-book to help the children of Israel in their religious training. Every picture pointed forward to the work of Jesus Christ. It is called the Book of Atonement. "Get right," say the offerings. There are five offerings: burnt, meal, peace, sin and trespass. "Keep right," say the feasts. There are eight feasts: Sabbath, Passover, Pentecost, Trumpets, Atonement, Tabernacles, the Sabbath year, and Jubilee. The sacrifices spoke of the blood that saved. The feasts spoke of the food that sustains.

**Numbers** is the Book of Wilderness Wandering from Sinai to the border of Canaan, the land of promise. It might also be called the Book of Murmurings. The key thought is discipline. Numbers deals with the believer's walk.

Chapters 1-10 give us the divine legislation.

Chapters 11-20 tell the story of the nation's failure.

Chapters 21-36 record Israel's return to Jehovah's favor and final victory, even in the wilderness.

These are the important persons in this book: Moses, Aaron, Miriam, Joshua and Caleb.

**Deuteronomy** is a Book of Remembrance. It is a collection of the speeches and songs of Moses which he gave as his farewell to the children of Israel. This book shows the blessings of obedience and the curse of disobedience. It covers only about two months, including thirty days of mourning for Moses. Jesus often quoted from Deuteronomy. He answered the devil from its writings. Deuteronomy gives a taste of heaven on earth.

**Review:** In Genesis, we see man ruined; in Exodus, man redeemed; in Leviticus, man worshiping; in Numbers, man serving; in Deuteronomy, man learning to obey.

## **Lesson 5 - JOSHUA, JUDGES AND RUTH**

The Book of **Joshua** opens the Books of History. It is full of spiritual truth, encouragement and wisdom. Moses was dead, but the march must continue. Joshua completes what Moses began. The book about this great leader falls into two parts:

1. Conquest of the promised land, chs. 1-12.
2. Occupation of the promised land, chs. 13-24.

**Judges** is the account of the Dark Ages of the people of Israel. The people forsook God (Judges 2:13) and God forsook the people (2:23). Judges covers the period after the death of their great leader, Joshua, to the ascension of Saul to the throne of Israel. There was no king in those first 350 years in the land of promise. This phrase runs through the whole book: "Every man did what was right in his own eyes." The book shows man's constant failure and God's constant mercy. It can be outlined this way: Seven apostasies, seven servitudes to seven heathen nations, and seven deliverances!

**Ruth** speaks to us of Jesus Christ, our Kinsman-Redeemer. This book is a bright picture on the black background of the Judges and is a lovely picture of Christ and the Church. It records the events during the rule of Gideon or Jephthah. Ruth was the great-grandmother of David, the ancestor of Christ. This book tells the beginning of the Messianic family and nation into which the Messiah was to be born. Ruth was a Moabitess, of the people who were descendants of Lot, a heathen people. What a picture of God's grace, adopting the Gentiles into Christ's family!

## Lesson 6 - FIRST AND SECOND SAMUEL

**1 Samuel** is the first of the six King books. They are the two books of Samuel, of Kings and of Chronicles. The events recorded in 1 Samuel cover a period of about 115 years, from the birth of Samuel through the troublous times of Saul to the beginning of the reign of David. The book may be divided under the names of its three chief characters:

1. Samuel, God's prophet, chs. 1-7.
2. Saul, the king disobedient to God and a failure, chs. 8-15.
3. David, God's man, chs. 16-31.

**2 Samuel** - First Samuel records the failure of man's king, Saul. Second Samuel describes the enthronement of God's king, David, and the establishment of the "House of David" through which the Messiah should later come. David was a man after God's own heart—not perfect, but repentant when he failed. He was extremely versatile—shepherd boy, court musician, soldier, true friend, outcast captain, king, great general, loving father, poet, sinner, and a brokenhearted old man, but always the lover of God. The book may be divided into two parts:

1. Triumphs of David, chs. 1-10.
2. Troubles of David, chs. 11-24.

## Lesson 7 - FIRST AND SECOND KINGS

These are just a continuation of the Books of Samuel. They cover a period of 400 years and tell the growth and then the decay and division of the kingdom. The Southern Kingdom, Judah, had 20 kings, and the Northern, Israel, had 19. Both Judah and Israel were led into captivity. The powerful voices for God were Elijah, the prophet of judgment and severity, in 1 Kings, and Elisha, the prophet of grace and tenderness, in 2 Kings. These are the important parts of the two books:

1. Death of David, 1 Kings 1, 2.
2. Glory of Solomon's reign, 1 Kings 3-11.
3. Division of the Kingdom, 1 Kings 12-2 Kings 16.
4. Captivity of Israel by Assyria, 2 Kings 17.
5. Decline and captivity of Judah by Babylon, 2 Kings 18-25.

## **Lesson 8 - FIRST AND SECOND CHRONICLES**

The Books of Chronicles record the same events as the Books of Kings, but from a different perspective. In Kings the history of the nation is given from the throne; in Chronicles it is from the altar. In Kings the palace is the center; in Chronicles, it is the Temple. Kings records the political history, Chronicles the religious. Kings gives us man's viewpoint; Chronicles gives us God's. 2 Chronicles records five great revivals: under Asa, ch.15; Jehosaphat, ch. 20; Joash, chs. 23, 24; Hezekiah, chs. 29-31, and Josiah, ch. 35.

This is the outline of **1 Chronicles**:

1. Genealogies, chs. 1-9.
2. Saul's reign, ch. 10.
3. David's reign, chs. 11-29.

And here is the outline of **2 Chronicles**:

1. Solomon's reign, chs. 1-9.
2. Division of the kingdom and history of Judah, chs. 10-36.

## **Lesson 9 - EZRA, NEHEMIAH AND ESTHER**

Ezra and Nehemiah tell the story of the return of God's chosen people after their exile in Babylon. Ezra was a priest; Nehemiah was a layman. The first exodus of the children of Israel was from Egypt under Moses; the second was from Babylon under **Ezra**. Some Jews had already returned and when Ezra arrived in Jerusalem he found things even worse than he had expected. The Jews had intermarried with people of the land and

had done everything that the heathen had taught them (9:1-4). Ezra was grief-stricken (9:5-15); then the people assembled about him and came to a consciousness of the greatness of their sin (10:1-44). At once Ezra led them into a sacred covenant with God.

**Nehemiah** arrived in Jerusalem thirteen years after Ezra. He came with the authority of the king of Persia to build the walls of Jerusalem. He was a real engineer and, in spite of much opposition, the work was accomplished in 52 days.

1. Here is an outline of the two books:
2. Return from Babylon under Zerubbabel, Ezra 1-6.
3. Return from Babylon led by Ezra, Ezra 7-10
4. Rebuilding the walls, Neh. 1-7.
5. Revival and reform, Neh. 8-13.

**Esther** - The name of God does not occur in this beautiful story, but every page is full of God, who hides himself behind every word. The book teaches the providence of God. God is at the steering wheel of this universe. All the events of the book center around three feasts:

1. Feast of King Ahasuerus, king of Persia, when Vashti was rejected and the way was opened for Mordecai to bring Esther, a young orphan in his care, to be introduced to Ahasuerus and became queen, chs. 1 and 2.
2. Feast of Esther, when the Jews' enemy, Haman, was exposed and condemned to death and Mordecai was elevated, ch. 7 and 8.
3. Feast of Purim, which celebrated the deliverance of the Jews from a fearful danger, ch. 9.

## Lesson 10 - JOB

Job is the first of the five books of poetry. These books tell of the experiences of the heart. This book is perhaps the oldest book of the Bible. It gives God's answer to the problem, "Why do

godly people suffer?" The story opens with a scene in heaven, and then tells of Job's fall from prosperity to poverty. This is followed by the great discussion between Job and his friends.

1. The story opens with a scene in heaven. 1:1-12, 2:1-6, and is followed by
2. Job's fall from prosperity to poverty, 1:13-22; 2:7-10, then,
3. The great discussion between Job and his four friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu, 2:11-37:24. Finally,
4. The climax is reached, when God speaks, 38-42. Jehovah explained to Job that when men see God, something always happens. The godly are allowed to suffer so they may see themselves; then God can lift them up. He has a wise purpose in all suffering. He wants to bring out the gold as by fire.

## **Lesson 11 - PSALMS**

Psalms is a book of praise, prayer and worship. The Psalms magnify and praise the Lord. Every human experience is related to Him. The life of the believer is pictured in all of its experiences of joy and sorrow, victory and failure. The Psalms are full of Christ. They describe the whole program of His suffering and death. Someone has outlined the Psalms after the pattern of the Pentateuch:

1. Genesis section, Psalms 1 - 41, views man in a state of blessedness, then there is his fall and recovery.
2. Exodus section, Psalms 42-72, pictures Israel's ruin and redemption.
3. Leviticus section, Psalms 73-89, depicts our sanctuary in God, in both darkness and dawn.
4. Numbers section, Psalms 90-106. This section focuses on the earth, its peril and protection.
5. Deuteronomy section, Psalms 107-150. These psalms show the perfection and praise of the Word of God.

## **Lesson 12 - PROVERBS, ECCLESIASTES AND SONG OF SOLOMON**

Solomon was a great king, famous for his wisdom and riches. He wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:31,32). Solomon was a philosopher, a scientist, an architect of a temple that was one of the wonders of the world, and a king. **Proverbs** is filled with words of wisdom. It can be divided like this:

1. Counsel for young men, chs. 1-10.
2. Counsel for all men, chs. 11-20.
3. Counsel for kings and rulers, chs. 21-31.

**Ecclesiastes** is the record of all that human thinking and natural religion have been able to discover about the meaning and goal of life. The arguments in the book are not God's arguments, but God's record of man's arguments. The writer is Solomon, and the book is a dramatic autobiography of his experience and reflections while he was out of fellowship with God. Solomon may have been wise, but he did not follow his own wisdom.

The key words are "vanity"(meaningless) and "under the sun."

**Song of Solomon** has been called the Christian's Love Song. There are four important meanings found in this book:

1. It sets forth the "glory of wedded love."
2. It sets forth the love of Jehovah for Israel.
3. It is a picture of Christ and the Church.
4. It depicts the communion of Christ and the individual believer.

Personal love to Christ is the greatest need of the church today.

## **Lesson 13 - ISAIAH**

This is the first of the 17 prophetic books. The prophets were men whom God raised up during the dark days of Israel's history. They were the evangelists of the day. The period of the prophets covered 500 years from the ninth to the fourth centuries B.C. These prophets spoke fearlessly to kings and people alike of

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their sins and failures. The book of Isaiah has two distinct emphases. In the first part the prophet pictured Israel. In the last of the book he revealed Jesus bearing our load of sin, then Christ exalted and glorified.

Isaiah is a miniature Bible in structure. It has 66 chapters, just as the Bible has 66 books. There are two great divisions, just as there are in the Bible, with 39 chapters in the first, like the Old Testament, and 27 chapters in the second, like the New Testament. The book has been labeled “The Gospel According to Isaiah.” Christ’s virgin birth, His character, His life, His death, His resurrection and His second coming are all presented with definiteness and clarity.

## **Lesson 14 - JEREMIAH AND LAMENTATIONS**

Jeremiah is called the “weeping prophet.” The message he was called to give broke his own heart. It was the most unwelcome ever delivered to a people. He was called a traitor because he said they were to yield to Babylon (38:17-23). There was only one thing left for Israel to do—surrender. The “times of the Gentiles” had already begun with Babylon, the head of gold in Daniel’s vision.

Jeremiah predicted the 70 years captivity in Babylon (25:9-12). However, he saw beyond the darkness to the light, and no prophet spoke so glowingly of the future as he did (23:3-8; 30; 31; 33:15-22). Jeremiah used many object lessons given him by Jehovah in teaching the people. His message was not only unpopular—it was rejected, and his enemies even demanded his death.

It is thought that Jeremiah wrote **Lamentations**, an exquisite book of poetry of five distinct poems. It is not all sorrow. Above the clouds of the poet’s weeping over the sins of his people, God’s sun is still shining. Read 3:22-27.

## **Lesson 15 - EZEKIEL**

Ezekiel was a prophet during the captivity in Babylon. He tried to remove Israel's false hopes of an early return to Palestine and to prepare them for the news of the tragic destruction of their beloved Jerusalem.

His message was the most spiritual of the prophets', as he deals more with the person of God. He spoke in the darkest days of the nation. The people would not listen to him or to his message, so he resorted to a new method. Instead of speaking in parables, he acted them out (24:24). Ezekiel is the prophet of the glory of the Lord. Here is a quick view of the book—it focuses on the destruction of Jerusalem:

1. Pre-siege, chs. 1-24. Ezekiel began his prophesies six years before Jerusalem's destruction and kept predicting its certainty until it occurred.
2. Siege, chs. 25-32. After that, his prophesies here deal with Judah's enemies and the overthrow of these heathen nations.
3. Post-seige, chs. 33-48. Finally, the restoration and re-establishment of Judah are pictured.

## **Lesson 16 - DANIEL**

Daniel has been called the prophet of dreams because God revealed to him His secrets. He looked far into the future and is quoted most in Revelation. His life and ministry bridge the entire 70 years. He was taken captive about the age of 16 and lived to be over 90. Although he was a captive, he rose to be prime minister of Babylon. The wonderful thing is that he always remained true to Jehovah God.

This is an outline of the book:

1. The private life of Daniel, 1:1-2:3.
2. The public life of Daniel—a portrayal of the times of the Gentiles, 2:4-7:28.

3. The prophetic visions of Daniel - the prophetic history of the nation, chapters 8-12.

## Lesson 17 - HOSEA, JOEL AND AMOS

**Hosea** is the first of the 12 books known as the Minor Prophets, called that because of the amount of material written. Hosea, whose name means “salvation,” has been called the Jeremiah of the northern kingdom. He was a layman called by God to give the distinct message to wayward Israel that God loved them.

Hosea was commanded to marry a harlot, who bore him two sons and a daughter. She played the harlot again, and Hosea put her out of his home. But God commanded him to take her back and love her again.

The message was that Israel was unfaithful to God, but He loved her still and would bring her back to her homeland. The outline of Hosea:

1. The prophet and his faithless wife, Gomer, chs. 1-3.
2. The Lord and the faithless nation, Israel, chs. 4-14.

**Joel** was a prophet to Judah who wrote at the time of a terrible plague of locusts. He compared this to future judgments. He spoke of the “day of the Lord” five times, referring to judgment.

Spiritual deliverance is the great central promise of the book of Joel. Joel had the privilege of telling that God would pour forth His Spirit upon all flesh (2:32; 3:18). This was fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2:16).

**Amos** was a herdsman, and his message was addressed largely to the Northern Kingdom. He feared God so much that he feared no one else at all. Amos started his preaching by proclaiming the Lord’s judgment upon six neighboring nations. Then he came nearer home against the whole nation of Judah and Israel.

## Lesson 18 - OBADIAH, JONAH AND MICAH

**Obadiah** is the shortest book in the Old Testament—only one page, 21 verses -, but it is still significant for us today. It is the prophecy of judgment against Edom. It includes two important themes—the doom of the proud and rebellious, and the deliverance of the meek and humble. The Edomites descended from Esau, who had despised his birthright—Edom continued to be Israel’s enemy. She was destroyed, as Obadiah warned.

Obadiah, like the other prophets, predicted the coming of the day of the Lord and the establishment of Messiah’s kingdom.

The book of **Jonah** contains no prophecy, although Jonah was a prophet. It is the personal account of a major event in Jonah’s life, which was a sign of the greatest event in the history of the world—the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In this book, God prepared four things: a great fish (1:17), a gourd (4:6), a worm (4:7), and a vehement east wind (4:8). God was taking care of His prophet!

There are two events of great importance in the book: the great fish swallowing Jonah, and the huge heathen city of Ninevah being converted by an obscure foreign missionary in just a few days.

We must notice two things in this book. First, Jonah is a type of Christ in his death, burial and resurrection. Second, Jonah is also a type of Israel—disobedient to God, swallowed by the nations of the world, who will yet give her up when Christ comes. Then Israel will be witnesses of God everywhere.

**Micah** proclaimed judgment on Jerusalem and the cities of Israel. But he hastened on to words of hope. A natural warning comes from Micah’s three messages, each beginning with “Hear.”

1. The first (1:2) was addressed to all people.
2. The second (3:1) was addressed to the leaders of Israel.
3. The third (6:1) was a personal word of pleading to Israel to repent and return to God.

## Lesson 19 - NAHUM, HABAKKUK AND ZEPHANIAH

The theme of **Nahum** is the destruction of Nineveh, the city that Jonah warned. Nahum was written about 150 years after the revival of Jonah's day. The repentance did not last and Nineveh was destroyed because of her sin (3:1-7).

Nineveh is a type of all nations that turn their backs on God. The person or nation that deliberately rejects God, deliberately and fatally elects doom.

**Habakkuk** asked questions and received answers. The question, "Why do the wicked prosper?" is discussed. In all his difficulties, he went to God in prayer and waited patiently for His answer (2:1). After a sincere prayer (3:1-16), God's glory appeared.

The words, "The just shall live by his faith" (2:4) had great significance in the Reformation. These words are quoted in the New Testament: Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11 and Hebrews 10:38.

**Zephaniah** is filled with the wrath and judgment of God (1:15; 3:8), but there is the undertone of the love of God (3:17). Zephaniah denounced the various forms of idolatry. He may have been mainly responsible for the revival under Josiah.

The book begins with sorrow but ends with singing.

## Lesson 20 - HAGGAI, ZECHARIAH AND MALACHI

Most of the Old Testament prophets spoke before the captivity. Just two, Ezekiel and Daniel, prophesied during the captivity. These three, Haggai, Zechariah and Malachi, prophesied after the return.

The reconstruction and refurbishing of the Temple were the supreme passion of **Haggai**. He rebuked the people for their slowness in rebuilding it, and he encouraged and helped them in

the enterprise. His book is a series of four brief messages written over a period of four months.

His stern call to duty was a good tonic. The people arose and began to build the temple (1:12-15).

**Zechariah**, a young prophet, stood alongside the aged Haggai, strengthened the children of Israel as they built the temple and warned them not to disappoint God as their fathers had done. He painted in glowing colors the perpetual blessing that was coming to Israel in far-off ages.

Zechariah foretold the Savior more than any other prophet except Isaiah. Looking far into the future he saw Him first in humiliation and suffering, and again, in majesty and great glory.

**Malachi** is the bridge between the Old and New Testaments. A silence of 400 years lies between Malachi and the voice of John the Baptist saying "Prepare ye the way of the Lord."

The Old Testament ends with the word "curse," while the New Testament closes with a blessing. Following a period of revival (Neh. 10:28-39), the people had become spiritually cold and morally lax. Malachi came as a reformer, and he encouraged while he rebuked.

Read Malachi's solemn declaration concerning the second coming of Christ, for which we wait (3:16).

## **PART TWO**

### **BOOKS OF THE NEW TESTAMENT**

#### **Lesson 21 - INTRODUCTION TO THE GOSPELS**

The word “gospel” means “good news.” The four writers are called evangelists, which means bringer of good tidings. Matthew, Mark and Luke are called the Synoptic Gospels because, unlike John, they give a synopsis—a view together, a collective view—of Christ’s life.

The Synoptic Gospels tell of Christ’s ministry chiefly in Galilee, while John tells about Judea. The Synoptics narrate His miracles, parables and addresses to the multitudes; John presents His deeper discourses, His conversations and prayers. The three portray Christ in action; John portrays Him in meditation and communion.

All that the prophets have said leads to our Lord’s earthly life and work, and all that follows in the Epistles proceeds from them. The Gospels are the source.

The Gospels tell us **WHEN** and **HOW** Christ came.

The Epistles tell us **WHY** and **FOR WHAT** Christ came.

#### **Lesson 22 - MATTHEW**

Matthew presents Jesus as King. Written primarily for the Jew, He is presented as the Son of David. His royal genealogy is given in chapter 1 and goes back to Abraham. 29 quotations from the Old Testament are given, more than any other Gospel, showing that Christ was the fulfillment of prophecies of the Messiah.

Matthew was a tax collector at Capernaum, under the Roman law, when Jesus chose him (9:9; 10:3). The other evangelists tell

about the great feast he gave Jesus and record the significant fact that he left all to follow Him. No doubt he was a man of means.

Matthew is the Gospel of the Messiah, God's anointed One. The main purpose of the Spirit in this book is to show that Jesus of Nazareth is the predicted Messiah of whom Moses and the prophets wrote.

Matthew alone tells of the visit of the wise men from the East. The Sermon on the Mount sets forth the Constitution of the Kingdom. The word "kingdom" occurs 55 times in Matthew, for this is the Gospel of the King.

Much of Jesus' discourse in Matthew 24 and 25 is devoted to His second coming.

The ascension of Jesus is not recorded in Matthew. The curtain falls with the Messiah still on earth, for it is on earth that the Son of David is yet to reign in glory.

### **Lesson 23 - MARK**

Mark depicts Jesus as Servant. Written to the Romans, there is no genealogy. Why? Because men are not interested in the genealogy of a servant.

The writer was John Mark, the son of Mary and the cousin of Barnabas. He accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Antioch, and was the cause of some trouble between them (Acts 12:25; 13:5). Then he left them, probably because of hardships (Acts 13:13). Finally he became a great help to Paul (Col.4:10,11; 2 Tim.4:11). Peter was the means of his conversion and spoke of him as "my son" (1 Pet.5:13). We see Peter's influence in this Gospel.

This is the shortest Gospel, full of action and accomplishment. Mark wrote this Gospel in Rome, evidently for Romans. They were a busy people and believed in power and action. They cared more for deeds than for words. Few Old Testament Scriptures are quoted. Only four parables are given. There is no lengthy introduction. The words "forthwith," "straightway," "immediately," showing speed, are used 40 times.

Miracles have a leading place in Mark—20 are recorded.

## **Lesson 24 - LUKE**

Luke sets forth Jesus as the perfect Man. Written to the Greeks, his genealogy goes back to Adam, the first man, instead of to Abraham. As a perfect Man, Jesus is seen much in prayer and with angels ministering to Him.

Luke was a physician, the companion of Paul. He was the only Gentile writer of a New Testament book. He was an educated man and a keen observer. He was also the writer of the Acts. He presents Jesus as the ideal of perfect manliness.

This is the Gospel for the sinner. It shows Christ's compassionate love in becoming man to save man.

Dr. Luke has given us the fullest particulars concerning the miraculous birth of Jesus. He alone tells of the visit of the shepherds. Only Luke tells of Jesus' visit to the temple when he was 12. As a man He toiled with His hands, suffered. Five out of the six miracles in this Gospel were miracles of healing. Luke alone tells of healing Malchus' ear (22:51).

Luke's is the Gospel for the outcasts on earth. He has most to say about womanhood. His is a poetic book with beautiful songs. He speaks more of the prayers of the Lord than any other writer.

## **Lesson 25 - JOHN**

John portrays Jesus as the Son of God. Everything in this Gospel illustrates and demonstrates His divine relationship.

The author was John, "son of thunder," the "disciple whom Jesus loved." His father was Zebedee, a prosperous fisherman; his mother was Salome, a devout follower of the Lord. His brother was James.

John wrote nearly a generation after the other evangelists. He may have been around 25 when Jesus called him. He had been a follower of John the Baptist. Later in life he was banished to Patmos somewhere between 80 and 100 A.D., when all the New Testament was complete except for his own writing.

John is more elevated in tone and more exalted in view than the other Gospels. 35 times Jesus speaks of God as “my Father” in John. 25 times He says “Verily, verily,” speaking with authority.

John says that he wrote his Gospel that men might believe that Jesus is the Christ. John brings seven witnesses to this: 1:34; 1:49; 6:69; 11:27; 20:28; 20:31 and 10:36. He records seven miracles: 2:1-11; 4:46-54; 5:1-47; 6:1-14; 6:15-21; 9:1-41 and 11:1-57.

And Christ’s God-nature is revealed in the seven “I Am’s” of this book.

### **Lesson 26 - ACTS**

Luke, in his Gospel, shows what Christ “began to do” on earth. In Acts he shows what He continued to do, by the Holy Spirit.

The ascension of our Lord is the closing scene in Luke. It is the opening fact in Acts.

Acts records the acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles. His name is mentioned about 70 times. The word “witness” is used over 30 times.

The book opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the metropolis of the Jewish nation. It closes with the preaching of the gospel in Rome, the metropolis of world power. In one generation the Apostles had moved out in every direction and had preached in every nation of the then known world (Col.1:23).

In Acts 1 through 12 we find Peter witnessing to the Jews. His message is “Repent.” In Acts 13-28, we find Paul witnessing to the Gentiles. He says, “Believe.”

Acts is a fine guidebook to missions. It shows the motive for missions—bringing men to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The first church pursued a definite program in carrying out its plans—they chose a great radiating center of population for a base. The dependence was upon the Holy Spirit, and there was

great zeal. Paul's three missionary journeys were prime examples of effective missionary work.

## **Lesson 27 - ROMANS**

This is the first of the Epistles. 13 were written by Paul, so are called the Pauline Epistles. (This includes Hebrews, although we are not certain that Paul was its author.) Paul was born of pure Jewish stock. The combination of Roman citizenship, Greek education and Hebrew religion wonderfully qualified him for his great work.

Visitors from Rome, in Jerusalem for the Passover and converted at Pentecost, went back to the capital, carrying the seed of the gospel, and planted the church there. 28 years later Paul was eager to visit it and sent this letter from Corinth, where he spent three months on his third missionary journey.

The Book of Romans shows God's method of making guilty men good. It is the greatest document on our salvation.

Outline: Chapters 1-8 are doctrinal. The first three chapters (see especially 1:18 and 3:20) show the terrible sinful condition of man. The righteousness of God given through justification follows (3:21-5:11). Next comes the message of the sanctification of the saints (5:12-8:39).

Chapters 9-11 are dispensational, showing God's purpose with Israel throughout history.

The last four chapters, 12-16, are practical, showing a Christian's duty.

## **Lesson 28 - FIRST AND SECOND CORINTHIANS**

Carnal Corinth was the sin center of the Roman Empire in Paul's day. It was the most important city of all Greece. Its wealth was fabulous. Base immorality was rampant.

Against this corrupt background, Paul preached the gospel in Corinth, founded the church, and wrote these two epistles.

The Corinthians had sent a delegation with a letter (7:1, 16:17), and **First Corinthians** is Paul's answer concerning conditions in that church. Carnality had entered, and there were divisions. Christians were going to the law against Christians and behavior at the communion table was disgraceful. The women were not modest and the church membership was arguing over marriage and spiritual gifts.

In chapter 15 Paul give many proofs of Christ's resurrection and the manner of the resurrection of our bodies from the grave.

Paul wrote **Second Corinthians** to express his joy over the encouraging news of how his first letter was received, and to defend his apostleship. He gives more of his personal history in this letter than in any other.

The epistle begins with "comfort" (1:3) and closes with "comfort" (13:11).

## **Lesson 29 - GALATIANS**

During Paul's second missionary journey he founded the churches in Galatia, a rural area. Teachers of the law had followed Paul, teaching salvation by works. False teachers had begun to "bewitch" the people by telling them they must keep all kinds of ceremonies. Paul wanted them to know that nothing, no works, could bring them to Christ. Salvation comes by believing on Christ—nothing else. When Paul heard the Galatians were on the verge of accepting the views of these false teachers, the matter seemed so urgent that he wrote the letter himself (6:11).

This epistle is the Christian's Declaration of Independence. It contrasts law and grace.

It is a stern, severe and solemn message. It contains no commendation or praise or thanksgiving. No one is mentioned by name. There is emotion and strong feeling—this is a fighting epistle. It was Martin Luther's favorite epistle. It is the strongest declaration and defense of the doctrine of justification by faith in all Scripture.

## Lesson 30 - EPHESIANS

This is one of the four prison epistles (Philippians, Colossians and Philemon are the others). It shows the great mystery of the Church. It is sometimes called “Paul’s Holy of holies,” or “Paul’s third-heaven epistle.”

Paul had been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to enter Asia—where Ephesus was the prominent center—on his second missionary journey. He went into Europe as far as Corinth, after which he returned by way of Ephesus. He returned there on his third journey and had a ministry there of two years (Acts 18:19 and 19:8-10). The people of Ephesus heard more Bible teaching from Paul than did any other people. He met opposition there, but God preserved him. He loved the church at Ephesus.

An outline of this deeply spiritual book may be helpful:

1. The believer’s position—“in Christ,” “in the heavenlies,” ch. 1-3.
2. The believer’s walk, chap. 4-6.
  - Ecclesiastically, ch. 4
  - Morally, ch. 5
  - Socially, ch. 5:21-6:9
  - Martially, ch. 6:10-24.

## Lesson 31 - PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

These epistles, like Ephesians and Philemon, were written from prison.

**Philippians** is basically a “thank you” letter carried by Epaphroditus to the church at Philippi expressing the gratitude of Paul and Timothy for the gift they had received.

Paul had a special love for the church at Philippi. He had met with a group of women by the riverside and Lydia was saved. Later Paul and Silas were thrown into prison and beaten. At midnight, as they prayed and praised God, a great earthquake

rocked the prison. The jailer and his family believed in Christ and were baptized (Acts 16).

Joy is the keynote of the book: Joy in suffering, chapter 1; Joy in service, chapter 2; Joy in Christ, chapter 3, and Joy in contentment, chapter 4.

Paul wrote **Colossians** because heresy was being taught and he had to correct it. The Christians thought they should retain circumcision, their food-laws and festivals and angel intermediaries. They did not understand the idea of the deity of Christ, so they didn't understand that everything they needed could be found in Jesus.

Paul corrects them:

1. Doctrinally, chapters 1 and 2.
2. Practically, chapters 3 and 4.

## **Lesson 32 - FIRST AND SECOND THESSALONIANS**

Paul and Silas founded the church at Thessalonica on Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 17:1-10). They stayed less than a month because of the mob gathered by the Jews. The young church showed remarkable strength. Its members were chiefly Gentiles converted from heathenism and they were facing a hostile and pagan environment.

Paul was anxious to know how they were progressing. Timothy brought him news (3:6), and he wanted to encourage them to persist in faith. **1 Thessalonians** contains little doctrine but much encouragement. Paul speaks much of the second coming of Jesus (1:10; 2:19; 3:13; 4:16-18 and 5:23) as an incentive to Christian living and service.

**2 Thessalonians** was written shortly after the first. Its theme is the second coming of Christ. Some had been confused about it from the first letter. This letter announces events that will precede His coming and encourages the Christians to endure persecution, to be industrious and to wait patiently for Christ's return.

## Lesson 33 - FIRST AND SECOND TIMOTHY

The three letters, 1 and 2 Timothy and Titus, are known as pastoral epistles because they are taken up with advice given by a mature pastor to younger men who in turn would be training others for the pastoral office.

Timothy's father was Greek but his mother was Jewish. He was converted when perhaps fifteen years old when Paul visited his home town of Lystra (Acts 16:1-3; 1 Tim. 1:2). Seven years later he became Paul's missionary companion.

**1 Timothy** - After his first imprisonment Paul visited Ephesus. When he had to leave, he left Timothy in charge of the work. Timothy, a shy and sensitive person, found being left alone a sore trial. Paul wrote to him from Corinth to encourage him and give him practical advice.

The key verse is 3:15. Timothy is advised to warn against false teaching and to stress the importance of prayer. Clear instructions are given for church officers and for the qualities of a good minister.

**2 Timothy** is Paul's last letter, written while he was in a Roman dungeon, believing the time of his departure was near. He was arrested quite suddenly at Troas and had not had time to pick up his books and parchments (4:13) and his outer cloak. He was alone (4:10-12) and expected to be executed. He wrote urging Timothy to come and bring Mark with him and some of the things he had left behind.

The key themes are suffering, service, apostasy and Scripture.

## Lesson 34 - TITUS AND PHILEMON

Titus was a pure Gentile and was also one of Paul's converts (1:4). Paul gave Titus the difficult task of trying to sort out the problems in the church at Corinth (2 Cor. 7:6,7). Paul had great confidence in Titus' abilities because later he was left in Crete to

play a leading part in the life of that difficult church (1:5). Titus was a “trouble shooter,” the man to handle a delicate situation. He seems to have been a sturdier man than Timothy and probably more mature.

The letter is full of practical advice and warning against false teaching. The main theme contains counsels and exhortations relating to ministerial duties and doctrines, with special emphasis upon the maintenance of good works.

**Philemon** is a beautiful letter of intercession, pleading with Philemon to forgive Onesimus, his runaway slave, and restore him to favor.

Philemon was apparently a prosperous man (5-7, 22) and he probably was Paul’s convert (v.19). Onesimus had fled away to Rome where he came under Paul’s influence and was converted (10).

Here there is the testimonial about Onesimus’ changed character and a tender appeal for forgiveness.

## **Lesson 35 - HEBREWS**

This epistle has no signature, but many believe it was written by Paul. It was written primarily to Hebrew Christians, and its purpose was to show that the glory of the Christian dispensation far outshone the Old Testament priesthood. Christ is the perfect priest, offering the perfect sacrifice.

The first ten chapters show that the Son of God is superior to angels, to Moses, to Joshua, to Aaron and to Melchizedek. Chapters 11 through 13 show the life of faith.

## **Lesson 36 - JAMES**

The author is probably the brother of Jesus who became the leader of the church in Jerusalem (Acts 12:17;15:13). He was martyred in A.D. 62.

The letter was apparently written to the Jewish converts who lived outside the Holy Land, but its message is so clear and practical that it applies to the lives of all Christians. Its main theme is practical religion, manifesting itself in good works.

Some passages apply to Christians in particular circumstances: for those under pressure (1:2-4), for wealthy Christians (1:9-11; 5:1-6), for their attitudes as church members (2:1-9), for those in leadership (3:1), and for those who are wavering (5:19-20).

James uses vivid picture language to illustrate his teaching. Look at these examples: 1:6,11,17,23,26; 3:3,5,7,12; 4:14; 5:1-2,7.

### **Lesson 37 - FIRST AND SECOND PETER**

**1 Peter** is a letter to suffering Christians who were bewildered because they were being persecuted. It is lively and written from the heart, and it reads more like a sermon than an essay. The key word “suffering” occurs 15 or more times.

Peter talks about the glorious salvation in Christ and the believer’s life, his position and duties. He describes civil and social duties, general good citizenship and duties in the household of faith. He describes Christ as the source of hope (1:3), the sacrificial lamb (1:19), the chief corner stone (2:6), the perfect example (2:21), the ideal sufferer (2:23), the sin bearer (2:24), the shepherd of souls (2:25), and the exalted Lord (3:22).

**2 Peter** is a warning against corrupt teachers and scoffers. Great emphasis is laid upon the Word of God and the certainty of fulfillment of the divine promises. Like 2 Timothy, 2 Peter stresses that the end is near and that perilous times are ahead for the church.

Peter’s epistles list seven precious things: fiery trials (1:7), the blood of Christ (1:19), the living stone (2:4), Christ Himself (2:6), the meek and quiet spirit (3:4), the believer’s faith (2 Pet.1:1), and the divine promises (2 Pet.1:4).

## Lesson 38 - FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD JOHN AND JUDE

The Apostle John wrote these three letters.

**1 John**—This may be entitled “The Epistle of Certainties.” Its key words are fellowship, know and love. It lays great stress on the spiritual knowledge available to believers. The word “know” or its equivalent occurs over 30 times. The central theme is:

1. God is Life and Light, chap. 1 and 2:
2. God is Righteous Love, chap. 3 and 4:
3. Faith and Love are overcoming principles in the conflict with the world and all evil powers, chap. 5.

**2 John** was written to warn friends against heresy and association with false teachers (vs.7-11). The word “love” appears four times and “truth” five times.

**3 John** was written to Gaius, a consistent Christian given to hospitality. The subject matter centers around him and two others, Diotrephes, whom John will rebuke when they meet, and Demetrius, a model Christian of excellent reputation.

**Jude** was written by the younger brother of Jesus and James. Jude writes to a group of Christians threatened from within by men who have “slipped in” and are creating division by their false teaching. Jude’s intention is to stiffen the resistance to such teachers.

## Lesson 39 - REVELATION

This book was written by John while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos. It was written during a time of persecution (2:13) and there was worse to come (2:10), as worship of the Roman emperor became obligatory. So the letters to the churches, and the book as a whole, were needed to encourage the Christians to stand firm.

The book is difficult to understand, but it is extremely important, for it gives the picture of what is leading up to the great consummation of all prophecies, when evil is judged and Christ is established as King in eternal glory.

This is the only book in the Bible that contains a special promise to obedient readers (1:3), and pronounces a curse on those who tamper with its contents (22:18,19).

### **Lesson 40 - OUTLINE OF REVELATION**

1. Prologue 1:1-20
2. Seven letters to seven churches 2:1-3:22
3. A vision of heaven 4:1-11
4. The seven seals 5:1-8:5
5. The seven trumpets 8:6-11:19
6. Seven signs 12:2-14:20
7. The seven bowls 15:1-16:21
8. The reign and ruin of the Antichrist 17:1-20:15
9. The city of God 21:1-22:5
10. Epilogue 22:6-21

The closing chapters of Revelation contain a striking contrast to the opening chapters of Genesis.

Genesis speaks of the creation of the sun, the entrance of sin into the world, the curse pronounced, Satan's triumph and the exclusion from the "tree of life."

Revelation tells of a place where there will be no need of the sun, sin will be banished, the curse will be ended, Satan overthrown and there will be admission to the tree of life.

***“Even so, come, Lord Jesus.”***

## **DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE**

You may have decided from the title of this course that it was going to be very difficult and, perhaps, dull. But you will find, instead, that these lessons will group together the facts scattered throughout the Scripture about the important truths of our faith. The word "doctrine" really means "teaching," and these teachings will answer questions that you have had, and that your people will ask you over and over again in the future years of your ministry. By your careful study you will be able to teach them so they will not be "carried away by strange doctrines" (Heb. 13:9).

Note: Much of the material for these lessons comes from these two fine books: 100 Bible Lessons, by Douglas Alban, published by Gospel Literature Service in Bombay, India, and The Great Doctrines of the Bible, by William Evans, published by Moody Press in Chicago.

### **CONTENTS OF THIS COURSE OF STUDY**

- Section 1 - The Doctrine of God
- Section 2 - The Doctrine of Jesus Christ
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# DOCTRINES OF THE BIBLE

## SECTION 1 THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

### Lesson 1 - THE EXISTENCE OF GOD

There are many proofs that God exists. In this lesson we will consider a few of them:

1. **Proof from Scripture** - The Bible opens with the positive fact that God does exist (Gen. 1:1) and it plainly states that it is the fool who denies His existence (Psalm 14:1).
2. **Proof from creation** - The beauty and glory of the heavens testify that God exists (Psalm 19:1), and creation teaches about the eternal glory of the Godhead (Rom. 1:20).
3. **Proof from conscience** - Man is born with a universal belief in a supreme Being.
4. **Other evidences** - There are many other evidences of the existence of God, such as:
  - The world is here. Somebody or something must have brought it into being.
  - Its design shows it is the result of a superior planning mind.
  - Man has an intellectual and moral nature, showing that the Creator must be a living, intelligent, moral being.
  - Life must have a beginning, and must have come from a Being having eternal life.

**Conclusion** - Consider Heb. 11:6 -"He that comes to God must believe that He is." Let us come as children in simple faith, based on the revelation of God in Scripture and nature, believing and trusting Him completely.

## Lesson 2 - THE PERSON OF GOD

The only true knowledge about God can be gained from the Bible (Jn. 1:18; 1 Jn.4:12). Let us examine a few facts it gives about Him.

1. **His personality** - Personality is characterized by possessing knowledge, feeling and will power. Our God is an individual that is living and has definite characteristics (Jer.10:10, 1 Thess.1:9).
2. **His nature** - God is a Spirit. A spirit has neither flesh, bones or blood (Jn. 4:24).
3. **His unity** - The Lord our God is ONE God, in contrast to the plurality of pagan gods (Deut. 6:4; Isa.44:6).

**Conclusion** - The more we learn about Him, the more we realize that our God is a great God!

## Lesson 3 - THE NATURAL ATTRIBUTES OF GOD

Does the word attribute sound difficult? It simply means a quality, or a unique characteristic of something. In this lesson we will study some of the attributes of God.

1. He is **eternal** - To be the true God He must have neither beginning nor ending (Psalm 90:2; 1 Tim. 1:17).
2. He is **unchangeable** - (1 Sam. 15:29; Mal. 3:6; Jas. 1:17).
3. He is **omnipotent** - That means He possesses all power (Job 42:2; Jer. 32:27).
4. He is **omnipresent** - that is, He is present everywhere at one and the same time (Psalm 139:7-9).
5. He is **omniscient** - He has all knowledge (1 Chron. 28:9; 2 Chron. 16:9; Psalm94:11; Job 42:2; Isa. 40:28).

**Conclusion** - Poor, pitiful man must have a God with all of the attributes we have studied in this lesson. Why is each one of them essential to men?

## Lesson 4 - GOD'S MORAL ATTRIBUTES

Each one of the moral attributes of God could become the subject of a sermon. Let us notice some of them:

1. God is **holy** (Ex. 15:11; Isa. 6:3; 1 Pet. 1:16).
2. God is **righteous** (Psalm 116:5; Ezra 9:15; Jer. 12:1).
3. God is **merciful** (Psalm 103:8; Rom. 9:18).
4. God is **loving** (1 Jn. 4:8-16; Jn. 3:16; Jn. 16:27).
5. God is **faithful** (1 Cor.1:9; 2 Tim. 2:13).

In weeks ahead, consider these other moral attributes of our God: He is **glorious** (Ex. 15:11; Psalm 145:5); **gracious** (Ex. 34:6; Psalm 116:5); **longsuffering** (Num. 14:18; Micah 7:18); **jealous** (Josh. 24:19; Nahum 1:2); **compassionate** (1 Kings 8:23); **great** (2 Chron. 2:5; Psalm 86:10); **unsearchable** (Job 11:7; Psalm 145:3); **invisible** (Job 23:8,9; 1 Tim. 1:17); **good** (Psalm 25:8; Psalm 119:68); **upright** (Psalm 25:8; Psalm 92:15); **immutable** (Psalm 102:26,27; Jas. 1:17); **light** (Isa. 60:19; 1 Jn. 1:5; **true** (Jer. 10:10); **perfect** (Matt. 5:48); **incorruptible** (Rom. 1:23); **immortal** (1 Tim. 1:17; 6:16); **a consuming fire** (Heb. 12:29), and there is **none like Him** (Ex. 9:14; Deut.33:26).

**Conclusion:** The holiness of God demanded punishment for sin. How can God be both loving and demand holiness at the same time? How can He be both merciful and just at the same time to a guilty sinner? The answer can be found only in Calvary, the expression of the wrath of God against sin and the mercy of God toward the guilty sinner.

## Lesson 5 - THE TRINITY

There is one God, eternally existing and manifesting Himself to us in three Persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Consider these Scripture references that prove the Trinity:

1. **The baptism of Jesus in Matt. 3:13-17** - The Father spoke from heaven, the Son was baptized, and the Holy Spirit descended like a dove and alighted on the Savior.
2. **The baptismal formula in Matt. 28:19** - “baptizing in the Name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost.” Note that the word Name is in the singular form.
3. **The benediction of 2 Cor. 13:14** - “The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost.”
4. **The record of the creation of man uses plural terms** - Gen. 1:26: “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”

**Conclusion** - Man, too, is a tripartite (that means, having three parts) being—body, soul and spirit—for we are made in the image of God.

## SECTION 2

### THE DOCTRINE OF JESUS CHRIST

#### Lesson 6 - PROPHECIES FULFILLED

With each of these statements about Jesus you will see the Old Testament prophecy, followed by the New Testament record of its fulfillment hundreds of years later. These are amazing facts!

1. Christ would come out of Israel (Num. 24:17-19; Matt. 1:17).
2. Christ would be born of the family of David and of the tribe of Judah (Gen.49:10 and Isa. 11:1; Luke 1:31-33).
3. He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4-7).
4. He would be born of a virgin (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:18, 22, 23).

5. Christ's coming was announced by a forerunner (Isa. 40:3; Matt. 3:3).
6. The Messiah would be God (Isa. 9:6; John 1:14).
7. He would spend part of His childhood in Egypt (Hos. 11:1; Matt. 2:13-18).
8. He would suffer and make atonement for sin (Isa.53:46; 2 Cor. 5:21).
9. He would ride into Jerusalem on a colt (Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:2-5).
10. He would be given gall and vinegar in His agony on the cross (Psalm 69:21; Matt. 27:34).
11. Not a bone would be broken, contrary to Roman crucifixion practices (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33-36).
12. Men would cast lots for His garments (Psalm 22:18; Matt. 27:36).
13. He would utter certain words in His dying agony (Psalm22:1; Mark 15:34).
14. He would rise again from the dead (Psalm16:10; Acts 2:3).

**Conclusion** - Each of these prophecies is another evidence of the power and omniscience of our God!

## **Lesson 7 - THE DEITY OF CHRIST**

We know that Jesus is God for He possesses the attributes that belong only to God. Study these verses that show them.

1. He is **eternal** (Micah 5:2, also John 8:58; Col. 1:17; Rev. 1:8).
2. He is **unchangeable** (Heb. 13:8).
3. He is **omnipotent** (Luke 8:24; also Matt. 28:18).
4. He is **omnipresent** (Matt. 18:20; John 1:48; John 3:13; Matt. 28:20).
5. He is **omniscient** (Mark 11:2-6; John 2:24,25; Luke 5:22; Matt. 24:3-31).

6. He is **holy** (Mark 1:24); **sinless** (1 Pet. 2:22; John 19:4).
7. He is **just** (John 2:14-17), in the cleansing of the Temple (Acts 17:31), a righteous Judge.
8. He is **loving** (John 15:13, also John 11:36).
9. He is **merciful** (Titus 3:5). He died for us.
10. He is **faithful** (2 Tim. 2:13).

The five works of God are ascribed to Jesus: **creation** (John 1:3); **preservation** (Heb. 1:3); **forgiveness** (Luke 7:48); **raising the dead** (John 6:39) and **judgment** (John 5:22).

**Conclusion** - The fact of Jesus' resurrection is the strongest proof that He is God.

## Lesson 8 - THE HUMANITY OF CHRIST

In order to be the Savior, Jesus had to be not only divine and virgin born, but He must also be a true man (1 Tim.2:5). Notice these evidences of His humanity:

1. He was given **human names** (Matt. 1:21). The phrase "Son of man" occurs 77 times.
2. He had **human ancestry** (Matt. 1:1-16).
3. He **hungered** (Matt. 4:2) **and thirsted** (John 4:7, 19:28).
4. He **became weary** (John 4:6); He **slept** (Matt. 8:24).
5. He **loved** (Mark 10:21, John 11:36); **had compassion** (Matt. 9:36).
6. He **was angry** and **grieved** (Mark 3:4).
7. He **groaned** (John 11:33); He **wept** (John 11:35, Luke 19:41).
8. He possessed **body** (John 1:14); **soul** (Matt.26:38); and **spirit** (Luke 23:46).
9. He **died** (Heb. 9:27 and Luke 23:33).

**Conclusion** - God and man—Hallelujah, what a Savior!

## Lesson 9 - THE LIFE OF CHRIST, PART ONE

Many details are recorded about the earthly years of our Lord:

1. As God, Jesus has always existed. He was before all things.
2. His birth of the Virgin Mary is recorded by Matthew and Luke.
3. He was circumcised at the age of eight days (Luke 2:21).
4. He was taken to the Temple of Jerusalem when he was 12 (Luke 2:41-48).
5. He spent the early years of His life as a carpenter in Nazareth (Mark 6:3).
6. The first six months of His ministry were in Judea, Samaria and Galilee.
7. The second stage covered six to eight months of preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles in Capernaum and Galilee.

Here is the scope of Jesus' miracles:

- a. Over nature (Matt. 8:26,27).
- b. Over devils (Mark 5:12-13, Matt. 8:28-32; 9:32,33; 15:22-28; 17:14-18; Mark 1:23-27).
- c. Over disease - palsy (Matt.8:13; 9:6); impotent man (John 5:9); curing a withered hand (Matt. 12:13); spirit of infirmity (Luke :12); stanching a flow of blood, (Matt.9:22); cured dropsy (Luke 14:2); healed fever (Matt.8:15); gave speech to the dumb (Matt. 9:33); sight to the blind (John 9:1:38); hearing to the deaf (Matt.11:5); cured leprosy (Matt. 8:3, Luke 17:19).  
Jesus healed at least ten different kinds of sicknesses.
- d. Over death - Lazarus (John 11:43,44); Jairus' daughter (Matt. 9:18-26); son of widow of Nain (Luke 7:12-15).
- e. Miscellaneous - water to wine (John 2:1-11); feeding of 5000 (John 6:1-14); walking on sea (John 6:15-21); feeding of 4000 (Matt. 15:32-39); cursing the fig tree

(Matt. 21:18-22); finding coin in the fish's mouth (Matt. 17:27), and miraculous draught of fishes (Luke 5:1-11 and John 21:6)

- f. His own resurrection was the greatest miracle of all (1 Cor.15:4; Rom. 1:4)

## **Lesson 10 - THE LIFE OF CHRIST, CONCLUDED**

1. The third stage, the later Galilean ministry, lasted about a year in and about Galilee. Crowds followed Him. He preached the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5, 6 and 7).
2. In the next stage, the Pharisees hound Him to seek His life. Jesus travels to Capernaum, Phoenicia, Bethsaida, Caesarea and Philippi and finally re-enters Galilee.
3. The last six months were spent teaching, preaching and traveling.
4. The last week included Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the trials and death by the cross.
5. Three days later, as prophesied, Jesus rose from the dead.
6. Forty days after the resurrection He ascended visibly and bodily into heaven (Acts 1:10,11).

**Discussion** - What events in his earthly life show Christ's deity? What events demonstrated His humanity?

## **Lesson 11 - THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST**

The resurrection is mentioned 104 times in the New Testament and is the foundation doctrine of the Scriptures. Christianity is the only religion with a living originator!

### **1. Evidences of the resurrection**

- a. The empty tomb (Matt. 28:6; Luke 24:3).
- b. The testimony of angels (Matt. 28:46 and Luke 24:5-7).
- c. People talked to Him after the resurrection: Peter, Mary, Cleopas and Thomas.

- d. Jesus ate and drank, and showed his wounds.
  - e. 500 saw Him at one time (1 Cor. 15:6).
  - f. He appeared to Stephen at his martyrdom (Acts 7:56).
  - g. He appeared to Paul on the Damascus road (Acts 9:5).
  - h. Millions have proved Him to be a living Savior.
  - i. Many other infallible proofs (Acts 1:3).
2. **What His resurrection body was like:**
- a. It had flesh and bones (Luke 24:39).
  - b. It was a glorious body (Phil. 3:21).
  - c. It was an immortal body, one that will never die (Rom. 6:9).
  - d. It was a spiritual body (1 Cor. 15:44).

**Conclusion** - Today the most feared conqueror is death, but resurrection is a greater power, for it completely breaks the power of the grave.

## SECTION 3

### THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

#### Lesson 12 - THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Why do we say that the Holy Spirit is a person? Here are some reasons:

1. **The Bible uses personal pronouns in referring to the Holy Spirit.**
  - a. In John 16:7-8 and 13-15 the Greek masculine pronoun “He” is used of the Holy Spirit.
  - b. See also John 15:26.
2. **He possesses characteristics of a person.**
  - a. Will power (1 Cor. 12:11).
  - b. Intelligence (Neh. 9:20, Rom.8:27).
  - c. Knowledge (1 Cor. 2:10-12).

- d. Power (Act 1:8).
  - e. Capacity for love (Rom. 15:30).
  - f. Capacity for grief (Eph. 4:30).
- 3. He does things that only a person can do.**
- a. Searches the deep things of God (1 Cor. 2:10).
  - b. Speaks - Rev. 2:7, and cries out (Gal. 4:6).
  - c. Intercedes (Rom. 8:26).
  - d. Testifies (Jn.15:26), and teaches (Jn.14:26,16:12-14).
  - e. Leads and directs (Rom. 8:14).
  - f. Commands (Acts 16:6-7); calls men to work and gives them tasks (Acts 13:2).

He is the official Comforter (John 14:16). The Greek word “Parakletos” means “one alongside.” He is a personal companion.

**Conclusion** - The Holy Spirit is a person because He thinks, purposes, feels, knows, wills, loves and grieves, and performs the actions of a person.

## **Lesson 13 - THE DEITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is God Almighty, equal to the Father and the Son in every respect.

- 1. The Holy Spirit possesses divine attributes.**
- a. Eternal (Heb. 9:14).
  - b. Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10).
  - c. Omnipotent (Luke 1:35; Gen.1:2-7).
  - d. Omniscient (1 Cor.2:10-11).
  - e. Holiness (Luke 11:13).
  - f. Truth (1 John 5:6).
  - g. Benevolence (Neh. 9:20).
  - h. Communion (2 Cor. 13:14).
- 2. The Holy Spirit does things that only God can do.**
- a. Creation (Job 33:4).
  - b. Salvation (Cor.6:11), also sealing (Eph.1:13).
  - c. Giving life (John 6:63).

- d. Author of the new birth (John 3:5-6).
- e. Prophecy (2 Pet.1:21).
- f. Convincing men of righteousness and of judgment to come (Jn. 16:8-11).

**Assignment** - List three passages in the Old Testament, besides the ones given above, which speak of the Holy Spirit.

## **Lesson 14 - NAMES AND EMBLEMS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **1. Some of the names of the Holy Spirit:**

- a. The Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).
- b. The Spirit of Grace (Heb. 10:29).
- c. The Spirit of Burning (Matt.3:11,12 and Isa.4:4).
- d. The Spirit of Truth (Jn.14:17; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Jn.5:6).
- e. The Spirit of Life (Rom.8:2).
- f. The Spirit of Wisdom and Knowledge (Isa. 11:2; 61:1,2; Luke 4:18).
- g. The Spirit of Promise (Eph. 1:13).
- h. The Spirit of Glory (1 Pet.4:14).
- i. The Spirit of God, and of Christ (1 Cor.3:16; Rom.8:9).
- j. The Comforter (John 14:16).

### **2. Emblems of the Holy Spirit**

- a. Water (John 3:5; 7:38-39). Water fertilizes, refreshes, cleanses, is freely given, is abundant.
- b. Fire (Matt.3:11). Fire illuminates, burns, purifies, searches.
- c. Wind (John 3:8). Wind is powerful, reviving, independent, invisible but effective.
- d. Oil (Psalm 45:7). Oil consecrates, comforts, illuminates,
- e. heals.
- f. Rain and dew (Psalm 72:6). Rain is refreshing, cleansing,

- abundant, and it produces fruit.
- g. Dove (Matt. 3:16). The dove is gentle.
  - h. Voice (Isa. 6:8). The voice guides, speaks and warns.
  - i. Seal (Rev. 7:2 and Eph. 4:30). A seal authenticates and secures.

**Discussion** - How are the works of the Holy Spirit, shown in each of these emblems, important to the Christian?

## **Lesson 15 - OFFENSES AGAINST THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Some offenses against the Spirit are committed by unbelievers, and others are committed by the believer. These may overlap in some cases. The important fact is that sinning against the Spirit is fraught with terrible consequences.

### **1. Offenses committed by the unbeliever:**

- a. Resisting the Holy Ghost (Acts 7:51).
- b. Insulting the Holy Spirit (Heb. 10:29).
- c. Blaspheming the Holy Spirit (Matt. 12:31,32).

### **2. Offenses committed by the believer:**

- a. Grieving the Spirit (Eph. 4:30,31; Isa. 63:10).
- b. Lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3-4).
- c. Quenching the Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19).

**Conclusion** - Resisting has to do with the regenerating work of the Spirit. Grieving has to do with the indwelling Spirit. Quenching has to do with the enduement of the Spirit for service.

## SECTION 4

### THE DOCTRINE OF MAN

#### Lesson 16 - THE ORIGINAL CONDITION OF MAN

Man was made in the image and likeness of God—Gen. 1:26 and 9:6. Image means the shadow or outline of a figure. Likeness denotes the resemblance of that shadow to the figure.

1. The image of God does not denote physical likeness, for God is spirit.
2. The original man was intelligent. He gave names to animals (Gen. 2:19, 20). He had the power of speech, of reasoning and thought.
3. He possessed moral and spiritual abilities.

**Discussion** - How was life different for men before the fall from life today?

#### Lesson 17 - THE FALL OF MAN

The story of the fall of man is taught by other religions, as well as by Christianity. Genesis 3 gives a full account of this awful tragedy in the history of man.

This story does not tell of the entrance of sin into the universe, for Satan had already sinned and been cast out of heaven (Ezek.28:12-15 and Isa. 14:9-14). The story tells how sin entered the human race and made us sinners.

#### **1. The agent in the fall** (Gen. 3:1).

- a. Satan did not appear in his own person, but as a beautiful serpent.
- b. He made the attack when Adam and Eve were apart - there is strength in unity.
- c. He made the attack through proper appetites—the desire for food and knowledge—but they were not controlled.

#### **2. Steps leading to the fall:**

- a. Eve was too close to the tree—she should have fled the place of temptation.
- b. She was admiring the forbidden thing.
- c. She conversed with the devil.
- d. She tampered with the Word of God. She added “*neither shall your touch it,*” she subtracted “*freely,*” and she toned down the Word of God by changing “*You shall surely die*” to “*lest you die.*”

**Discussion** - What are the tactics of Satan in tempting people today? Have they changed greatly, or stayed largely the same?

## **Lesson 18 - RESULTS OF THE FALL**

### **1. Immediate results:**

- a. They became sinners— their spiritual life died (Eph.2:1).
- b. Their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked.
- b. They hid from the presence of God—guilt follows sin and sin separates man from God.

### **2. God pronounces curses (Gen. 3:14-19).**

- a. On the serpent: Cursed above every beast of the field.
- b. On the woman: Pain and sorrow in childbirth.
- c. On the man: The ground cursed to bring forth thorns and thistles. His life to be one of sorrow; to make a living with perspiration. To die and return to the dust from which he came.

### **3. Eventual results:**

- a. All men are now sinners before God (Rom. 5:12).
- b. The whole world rests under condemnation (Rom. 3:19).
- c. Unregenerate men are regarded as children of the devil, not sons of God (John 8:44).
- d. The whole human race has become captive to Satan (2 Cor. 4:4).
- e. The entire nature of man mentally, morally,

spiritually and physically, has been affected by sin (Eph. 4:18; Rom. 7:18).

**Conclusion** - With the fall of man God promised a Redeemer and the plan of salvation (Gen.3:15). God fulfilled this about 4000 years later at Calvary.

## **SECTION FIVE**

### **THE DOCTRINES OF SALVATION**

#### **Lesson 19 - REPENTANCE**

Repentance is a very prominent subject in the Scriptures, being mentioned over 100 times.

##### **1. Definition of repentance:**

- a. Negative—it is not merely sorrow for sin. Many weep over sin, but immediately return to it. Judas Iscariot and Esau (Heb.12:17) showed sorrow for sin, but they did not repent.
- b. Positive—it is a change of mind that leads to a change of conduct (Matt. 21:28-32).

##### **2. Importance of repentance:**

- a. Repentance was the theme of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-2).
- b. Jesus preached repentance (Matt. 4:17).
- c. He commanded His disciples to preach repentance (Mark 6:12).
- d. After Pentecost the disciples preached repentance (Acts 2:38 and Acts 20:21).
- e. It is God's wish that all repent (2 Pet. 3:9).
- f. Failure to obey God will lead to eternal damnation (Luke 13:3).

### **3. The results of repentance:**

- a. All heaven is made glad (Luke 15:7,10).
- b. It brings pardon and forgiveness of sin (Isa.55:7 and Acts 3:19).
- c. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon the penitent (Acts 2:38).

**Assignment** - Prepare a sermon outline on repentance, using one of the texts listed above.

## **Lesson 20 - FAITH**

Faith is fundamental to Christian creed and conduct, for we are saved by faith (Eph.2:8). As Christ conversed with people and healed them, He looked for the characteristics of faith in each one.

Do you remember these incidents?

1. The Syrophenician woman had persevering faith (Mark 7:26).
2. The centurion manifested a humble faith (Matt. 8:8-10).
3. The blind man showed an earnest faith (Mark 10:51).

### **1. Definition of faith:**

- a. Faith is belief, trust, fidelity and loyalty (Heb. 11:1).  
The faith that saves is a personal trust in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- b. There are two kinds of faith in regard to salvation:
  - Head belief—a knowledge of the historical Christ and a general acceptance of the Bible.
  - Heart belief—faith from the heart that causes the person to act on his faith. True faith in Christ is believing to the extent of receiving Him (John 1:12 and Col. 2:6). Neither knowledge nor assent is true faith; true faith involves appropriation.

### **2. Some results of faith:**

- a. We are saved by faith (Gen. 15:6; Rom.5:1; Gal.3:26).

- b. We are sanctified by faith (Acts 26:18).
- c. Rest, peace, assurance and joy come through faith (Isa.26:3; Phil.4:6; Heb.4:1-3; 1 Pet.1:5).
- d. We do exploits for God through faith (Heb.11:32-40; Matt.21:21; John 14:12).

**Discussion** - Give examples of head and heart faith that you have observed.

## **Lesson 21 - REGENERATION, OR THE NEW BIRTH**

There is no other way of becoming a Christian but by being born from above.

### **1. What is regeneration?**

- a. Regeneration is not baptism. Baptism is a Church ordinance signifying that one is already a Christian.
- b. It is not reformation. Reformation is a human act of turning away from some sins, while regeneration is spiritual quickening, a revolution, the supernatural act of God.
- c. Regeneration is a spiritual quickening, a new birth, a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:1).

### **2. The necessity of the new birth**

- a. Everyone must be born again—there are no exceptions (John 3:3-7; Gal. 6:15).
- b. The sinful condition of man demands it (Jn. 3:6; Jer.13:23; Rom.7:18; Rom. 8:8).
- c. The holiness of God demands it (Heb. 12:14).

### **3. The means of regeneration**

- a. Regeneration is a divine work (John 1:13; Tit. 3:5; John 3:5). It is altogether and absolutely the work of God.
- b. There is also a human side (John 1:2 and 13) bring the two thoughts—divine and human—together in regeneration “Those who received Him...were born of God.”

**Conclusion** - Man is regenerated by accepting the message of the gospel (1 Cor.4:15; James 1:18, 1 Pet. 1:23), and by personally accepting Jesus Christ (John 1:12,13 and Gal. 3:26).

## **Lesson 22 - JUSTIFICATION**

### **1. Its meaning**

- a. It is a change in man's relation or standing before God. Regeneration has to do with the change of the believer's nature, justification, with the change of his standing before God. It is more than pardon; to justify means to declare righteous.
- b. Justification is the judicial act of God whereby those who put faith in Christ are declared righteous in His eyes, and free from guilt and sin.

### **2. Justification consists of two elements:**

- a. The forgiveness of sin, and the removal of all its guilt and punishment (Micah 7:18,19; Acts 13:38; Rom. 8:1,33,34).
- b. The imputation (giving) of Christ's righteousness, and restoration to God's favor (2 Chron. 20:7, James 2:23; Rom. 5:17-21).

### **3. The method of justification**

- a. Negatively—not by works of the Law (Rom. 3:20 and 28; Gal. 2:16 and 3:10).
- b. Positively—by God's free grace (Rom. 3:24).
- c. By the Blood of Jesus Christ—the grace of justification (Rom. 3:24; 5:9, 2 Cor.5:21; Heb.9:22).
- d. By believing in Jesus Christ—the condition of justification (Gal.2:16; Rom.3:26; Gal.3:10; Acts 13:39).

**Discussion** - How does justification differ from pardon?

## Lesson 23 - ADOPTION

### 1. The meaning of adoption

“Adoption” means “the placing of a son.” It is a legal term used by the Romans. It means the taking by one man of the son of another to be his son, so that that son has the same position and all the advantages of a son by birth. See Gal.4:5; Rom. 8:15,23; 9:4; Eph. 1:5.

Exodus 2:10 and Heb.11:24 furnish two splendid illustrations of the Scriptural sense and use of adoption.

### 2. Some of the blessings of adoption:

- a. We are objects of God’s peculiar love (John 17:23) and His fatherly care (Luke 12:27-33).
- b. We have the family name (1 John 3:1; Eph.3:14,15), the family likeness (Rom.8:29); family love (John 13:35; 1 John 3:14); a filial spirit (Rom.8:15; Gal.4:6); and a family service (John 14:23,24; 15:8).
- c. We receive fatherly chastisement (Heb.12:5-11); fatherly comfort (Isa.66:13; 2 Cor.1:4), and an inheritance (1 Pet.1:3-5; Rom. 8:17).

### 3. The evidence of sonship

Those who are adopted into God’s family:

- a. Are led by the Spirit (Rom. 8:4; Gal. 5:18).
- b. Have a childlike confidence in God (Gal. 4:5,6).
- c. Have liberty of access to God (Eph. 3:12).
- d. Have love for the brethren (1 John 2:9-11, 5:2).
- e. Are obedient (1 John 5:1-3).

**Discussion** - What are some of the differences in being a son of God and a servant of God?

## Lesson 24 - SANCTIFICATION

Sanctification has to do with our character and conduct. Justification is what God does for us, while sanctification is what God does in us.

### 1. The Meaning of Sanctification

There are two thoughts in this definition:

- a. Separation from evil (2 Chron. 29:5,15-18; 1 Thess. 4:3). Sanctification has to do with the turning away from all that is sinful and that is defiling to soul and body.
- b. Dedication unto God (Lev. 27:14,16; Num. 8:17, John 10:36). Whatever is devoted exclusively to the service of God is sanctified.
- c. It is used of God (Ezek. 36:23).

### 2. Time of Sanctification

Sanctification may be viewed as past, present and future; or instantaneous, progressive and complete.

- a. Instantaneous (1 Cor. 6:11; Heb. 10:10,14). By a simple act of faith in Christ the believer is put at once into a state of sanctification.
- b. Progressive (2 Pet. 3:18; 2 Cor. 3:18; 1 Thess. 3:12). We are being transformed from one degree of character, or glory, to another.
- c. Complete and final sanctification (1 Thess. 5:23; 1 Thess. 3:13).

### 3. The Means of Sanctification

The means are both divine and human: both God and man cooperating towards the desired end.

- a. From the divine side, it is the work of the Triune God
  - God the Father (1 Thess. 5:23,24; John 17:17).
  - Jesus Christ the Son (Heb.10:10; Eph.5:25,27; 1 Cor.1:30).
  - The Holy Spirit (1 Pet.1:2; 2 Thess.2:13).
- b. From the human side:
  - Faith in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ (1

Cor.1:30). Herein lies the secret of a holy life – momentary appropriation of Jesus Christ in all the riches of His grace for every need as it arises.

- The study of the Scriptures and obedience to them (John 17:17; Eph. 5:26; John 15:3).

**Discussion** - Discuss the time elements in sanctification, that is, when does each phase occur?

## **Lesson 25 - PRAYER**

The Christian life cannot be sustained without prayer; it is the Christian's vital breath.

### **1. The Importance of Prayer**

- a. The neglect of prayer is grievous to the Lord (Isa. 43:21,22; Isa. 64:6,7).
- b. Many evils come because of the lack of prayer (Zeph. 1:4-6; Dan. 9:13,14).
- c. It is a sin to neglect prayer (1 Sam. 12:23).
- d. To continue in prayer is a positive command (Col.4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17).
- e. Prayer is God's method for us to receive His gifts (Dan. 9:3; Matt. 7:17-11, 9:24-29; Luke 11:13).
- f. The Apostles regarded prayer as their most important activity (Acts 6:4; Rom.1:9).

### **2. How to Pray.**

Prayer should consist of at least four parts—remember the word ACTS.

- a. Adoration - praise and worship of God (Psalm 95:6).
- b. Confession - repentance from every known sin (Psalm32:5).
- c. Thanksgiving (Phil. 4:6).
- d. Supplication - intercession, requests, petitions, desires (1 Tim. 2:1).

### **3. Hindrances to Prayer**

- a. Unbelief (James 1:6-7).
  - b. An unforgiving spirit (Mark 11:25).
  - c. Iniquity (Psalm 66:18).
  - d. Asking amiss (James 4:3).
- 4. Some Prayer Promises** - Mark 11:24; John 15:7; 1 John 5:14,15; Eph. 3:12,20; Phil. 4:19; Phil. 4:6; Matt. 7:7,8; Luke 11:9-13; Heb. 4:16.

**Discussion** - What are some recent answers to prayer you have received? What are you praying for now?

## **SECTION 6**

### **THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH**

#### **Lesson 26 - DEFINITION AND FOUNDING OF THE CHURCH**

The supreme business of God in this age is the gathering of the Church.

#### **1. Definition of the Church**

- a. The Christian Church is a New Testament institution beginning with Pentecost and ending probably with the Rapture, the Second Coming of Christ.
- b. The word “Church” comes from the Greek word “Ecclesia” meaning “to call out from.” Christians are called out from the world system to be “in Christ” (1 Cor. 1:2).
- c. The word Church can refer to a local group of believers (Col.4:15).
- d. It can also mean the Church universal (1 Cor. 15:9). This term includes all Christians everywhere.

- e. The visible Church consists of those whose names are on local church rolls, whether saved or not. The invisible Church is made up of those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life (Rev. 21:27).
- f. The Church militant refers to the true Church on earth. The Church triumphant refers to the section of the Church already in heaven.

## **2. The founding of the Church**

- a. The Church was founded by Jesus Christ on Peter's confession (Matt.16:16-18) that Jesus was— and is—the Son of God, the Messiah. Our Savior did not build the church on Peter, but on the truth declared in Peter's words.
- b. Historically, the Church was founded at Pentecost (Acts 2) when the Spirit descended. See Acts 2:47, Acts 1:13; 5:12; 2:46; 12:12.

**Discussion** - What are several different meanings of the word "church"?

## **Lesson 27 - MEMBERSHIP IN AND PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH**

### **1. Conditions of membership in the Church**

- a. Repentance (Acts 2:38).
- b. Faith in Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Son of God (Matt. 16:16-18).
- c. Salvation, regeneration, the new birth (Acts 2:47).
- d. Baptism in the Name of the Trinity (Acts 2:38).
- e. Continuing in the Apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42).

### **2. The purpose of the Church**

- a. To worship and glorify Christ on the earth (Eph.1:4-6).
- b. To evangelize the world with the gospel (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15).

- c. To teach and instruct Christians (Eph. 4:11-15; 1 Thess. 5:11; 1 Cor. 12:1-31).
- d. To witness constantly (Acts 1:8).

**Discussion** - What mistakes are commonly made about church membership?

## **Lesson 28 - SYMBOLS AND ORDINANCES OF THE CHURCH**

### **1. Biblical symbols of the Church**

- a. Body— Christ is the Head and we are members of His body (Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22,23; Col. 2:19).
- b. A temple, building or dwelling place for God’s Spirit (Eph. 2:20,21). Christ is the chief cornerstone, and we are different parts of the building.
- c. Bride of Christ (2 Cor. 11:2). Christ is the bridegroom (John 3:29). The wedding will take place in Rev. 19:1.

### **2. The ordinances of the Church**

There are two of them:

- a. Baptism (Matt. 28:19,20; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38-41; Acts 8:36-40; Acts 10:47,48).
- b. The Lord’s Supper (Acts 2:42-46; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:20-34).

**Discussion** - Explain the meaning of being a church member, as pictured in the symbols of the Church listed above.

# SECTION 7

## DOCTRINE OF THE SCRIPTURES

### Lesson 29 - THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE

#### 1. Some facts about the Bible

- a. The Bible is a library of 66 books; the Old Testament contains 39, the New Testament 27.
- b. It was written by 36 to 40 authors of different types of people in different parts of the world, over a period of 1,600 years.
- c. The Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew, with parts of Daniel and Ezra in Aramaic. The New Testament was written in Greek.
- d. The Bible is the oldest book in existence. It required 16 centuries to write it; the first writer died 1450 years before the last writer was born.

#### 2. The meaning of inspiration

- a. The Greek word for inspiration is theopneustos meaning God breathed; theo = God; pneustos = breathed (2 Tim. 3:16).
- b. Holy men of God, overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, wrote at His command and were kept from all error.

#### 3. The Bible claims inspiration

- a. For the writers (2 Pet. 1:21).
- b. For the writings (2 Tim. 3:16).
- c. For the words (1 Cor. 2:13; 2 Pet. 3:2).

**Discussion** - Which of the unique qualities of the Bible impresses you most?

## **Lesson 30 - TWO SEVENS ABOUT THE BIBLE**

### **1. Seven crowning wonders of the Bible.**

- a. The wonder of its formation; one book written in one place in one language, another book written in another country centuries later in another language.
- b. The wonder of its unification; it is a library of 66 books, yet only one book, for it has only one author, the Holy Spirit. There are no contradictions.
- c. The wonder of its age; it is the most ancient of all books.
- d. The wonder of its sale; it is the best seller of all time.
- e. The wonder of its interest; it is the only book that is read by all ages of mankind—by sages and children, in all nations.
- f. The wonder of its language; written largely by uneducated men, it is considered a literary masterpiece.
- g. The wonder of its preservation. Time and again kings and governments have sought to burn and abolish it. Yet God has preserved it for us today and it is found in almost every home.

### **2. Seven symbols used to illustrate the Word of God**

- a. A sword that convicts the hearer (Heb.4:12).
- b. A hammer that breaks the resistance of the hearer (Jer. 23:29).
- c. A seed, a living Word that gives birth to the hearer (1 Pet. 1:23).
- d. A mirror, revealing the individual to himself (James 1:23,25).
- e. A fire, consuming the dross in the hearer (Jer. 20:9 and 23:29).
- f. A lamp, guiding the believer day by day (Psalm 119:105).
- g. Food, feeding the soul (1 Pet. 2:2; 1 Cor. 3:2; Rom. 10:17).

**Assignment** - Prepare an object lesson, using one of the symbols of the Word of God.

### **Lesson 31 - WHY PREACH THE WORD OF GOD?**

- 1. Conviction of sin** comes through preaching the Word of God (Acts 2:14:37). In Peter's Pentecost sermon nine out of 23 verses are quotations from the Old Testament.
- 2. Faith** comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom.10:17).
- 3. Cleansing** comes from the Word (2 Cor. 7:1). The promises are the words of God.
- 4. Assurance** comes from the Word of God (1 John 5:13).
- 5. Comfort** comes from the Word (1 Thess. 4:18). These words are the words recorded in the Bible.
- 6. Truth** comes from the Word of God (Acts 17:11).
- 7. The new birth** comes from the Word (1 Pet.1:23).

**Conclusion** - Next to Christ and the Holy Spirit, the Bible is God's third greatest gift to the world.

## **SECTION 8 THE DOCTRINE OF ANGELS**

### **Lesson 32 - WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT ANGELS**

- 1. Their existence**
  - a. The word "angel" first occurs in Gen. 16:7 when the angel of the Lord ministered to Hagar after Sarah mistreated her.
  - b. There are many other references to angels in the Old Testament (Psalm 104:4; Dan. 10:12,13; 2 Sam. 14:20; Psalm 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15,16).

- c. Jesus believed in angels (Matt. 18:10; Mark 13:32 and 8:38; Matt. 13:41 and 26:53).
- d. Paul and other Apostles believed in them (2 Thess. 1:17; Col. 2:18; John 1:51; Rev. 12:7;22:9; 1 Pet. 3:22; 2 Pet. 2:11; Jude 9).

## **2. The nature of angels**

- a. They are created beings, not the spirits of the departed (Col. 1:16).
- b. They are spirits (Psalm 104:4), but sometimes they appeared in visible form (Gen. 19; Judges 2:1; 6:11-22; Matt. 1:20; John 20:12).
- c. They are strong (Psalm 103:20; 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Sam. 24:15,16).
- d. They are immortal (Luke 20:35,36).
- e. They are innumerable (Rev.5:11; Heb.12:22; Matt.26:53).

## **3. The fall of angels**

Originally all angels were created good, but some fell (2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6). We do not know the cause of their fall, perhaps pride and disobedience, the sins that caused Satan's downfall (Ezek. 28).

**Discussion** - Study the verses that tell of Satan's fall and discuss the reasons for it.

# **Lesson 33 - THE WORK OF ANGELS**

## **1. The work of the fallen angels who are now free**

- a. They oppose God's purposes (Dan. 10:10-14).
- b. They afflict God's people (Luke 13:16; Matt. 17:15-18).
- c. They execute Satan's purposes (Matt.25:41; 12:26,27).
- d. They hinder the spiritual life of God's people (Eph.6:12).
- e. They try to deceive God's people (1 Sam. 28:7-20).

There is no hope for their redemption (Jude 6:2; 2 Pet. 2:4; Matt. 25:41). Their final doom will be in the eternal fire.

## **2. The work of angels**

- a. In heaven—to honor, worship and serve the Lord God – (Rev. 5:11-12, 8:3-4).
- b. On earth— running errands for the Lord; showing Hagar a fountain; appearing before Joshua with a drawn sword; releasing chains from Peter; opening prison doors, feeding, strengthening and defending God’s people, etc.
- c. To exercise God’s judgments and purposes (Num. 22:22; Acts 12:23; Matt. 13:41).
- d. To guide believers (Acts 8:26).
- e. To assist, protect and strengthen saints; Elijah after Mt. Carmel (1 Kings 19); Daniel in the lions’ den (Dan. 6:22); Jesus in Gethsemane (Matt. 4:11).
- f. They will accompany our Lord when He returns (Matt. 25:31 and 1 Thess. 1:7-8).
- g. They take the Lord’s children to heaven at death (Luke 16:22).

**Discussion** - Have you experienced the help of angels in your life?

## **SECTION 9**

### **THE DOCTRINE OF SATAN**

#### **Lesson 34 - THE GREATEST ENEMY OF GOD AND MAN**

### **1. Satan’s origin**

- a. Satan is described in Ezek. 28:12-19. He was perfect in beauty, perhaps the chiefest angel. Then sin and iniquity entered into him because of his pride and he was cast out of heaven.

- b. He is also described in Isa. 14:12-17. He was called Lucifer, son of the morning. His pride led him to want to be like the Most High God, so he was cast out.
- c. Satan is a real person, possessing life, intelligence, will power and feelings.

## 2. Satan's character

- a. He is a thief, stealing the Word of God from hearts (Matt. 13:19).
- b. He is subtle (2 Cor. 11:3).
- c. He is a murderer (John 8:44).
- d. He is a liar (John 8:44).
- e. He is a deceiver (Rev. 12:9).

**Discussion** - Do you feel that Satan is becoming more active in the world in these days? Why is he, in your opinion?

## Lesson 35 - THE DEFEATED ENEMY

### 1. Satan's titles

- a. Angel of light (2 Cor. 2:13-15).
- b. Roaring lion (1 Pet. 5:8).
- c. Prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2).
- d. Power of darkness (Col. 1:13).
- e. Great dragon, serpent, the devil, Satan (Rev. 12:9).
- f. Prince of this world (John 14:30).
- g. God of this world (2 Cor. 4:4).
- h. King of the bottomless pit, whose Hebrew name is Abaddon (Rev. 9:11).

### 2. The destiny of Satan

- a. As far as the Christian is concerned, he is a conquered enemy (John 12:31; 16:9,10; 1 John 3:8; Col. 2:15).
- b. He is under a perpetual curse (Gen. 3:14; Isa. 65:25).
- c. He will be cast alive into the lake of fire, there to be tormented forever and ever (Matt. 25:41; Rev. 20:10).

**Conclusion** - Satan is mighty, but God is *Al*mighty. Satan was forever defeated at Calvary. Let us constantly claim victory over him through the Blood of Calvary (Rev. 12:11).

## **SECTION 10**

### **DOCTRINE OF THE LAST THINGS**

#### **Lesson 36 - THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

The Second Coming of Christ is said to be mentioned 318 times in the 260 chapters of the New Testament, the subject of one in every 25 verses. One out of every 30 verses in the Bible mentions this doctrine; to every one mention of the Lord's first coming, the second coming is mentioned eight times.

#### **1. How is Christ coming?**

- a. Secretly at the Rapture (1 Thess. 5:2; Matt. 24:44; Matt.24:50).
- b. Publicly at the Revelation (Rev. 1:7).

#### **2. Where is Christ coming to?**

- a. At the Rapture we will meet Him in the air (1 Thess.4:17).
- b. At the Revelation, we will descend with Him to the earth (Zech.14:4).

#### **3. Signs of His Coming**

- a. 2 Tim.3:17 lists 23 signs of His coming, most of which are very evident today. Matt. 24:5-7 and 12-38 lists ten signs.
- b. We ought to plan and work as if Jesus were not coming for another century, but live a holy and pure life as if He were coming today (1 Thess. 3:12-13).
- c. The last prayer of the Bible is "Even so come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).

**Discussion** - In the Scriptures listed under "Signs of His Coming," what conditions are present in these days?

## **Lesson 37 - THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD**

### **1. This doctrine is clearly taught in Scripture.**

- a. In the Old Testament (Job 19:25-27; Psalm 16:9; 17:15; Dan. 12:1-3). Actual resurrections are recorded in 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:32-35 and 13:21.
- b. In the New Testament—in the teaching of Jesus (John 5:28,29; 6:39,40,44,54; Luke 14:13,14; 20:35,36) and of the Apostles (Acts 24:15; 1 Cor. 15; 1 Thess. 4:14-16; Phil. 3:11; Rev. 20:4-6,13).

### **2. The nature of the resurrection body**

- a. Of the believer—see 1 Cor.15:
  - Not flesh and blood (vs. 50,51; also Heb. 2:14; 2 Cor. 5:1-6; Luke 24:39); “flesh and bones”— not pure spirit, a real body.
  - Incorruptible (vs. 42). No decay, sickness, pain.
  - Glorious (vs.43, also the Transfiguration in Matt.17; Rev.1:13-17).
  - Powerful (vs. 43)—not tired, weak.
  - A spiritual body ( vs. 44). The spirit will be the life of the body.
  - Heavenly (vs. 47-49).
- b. Of the unbeliever—the Scriptures are silent.

### **3. The time of the resurrection**

- a. Of the righteous (1 Cor.15:23 and 1 Thess.4:14-17). The resurrection of the believer is connected with the coming of Christ.
- b. Of the wicked (John 5:28-29; Dan. 12:2; Rev. 20:5; Rev. 20:12). The resurrection of the wicked is always connected with the judgment, and that takes place at the close of the Day of the Lord. Rev.20:4-6 indicates that at least a thousand years elapse between the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked.

**Conclusion** - How will our resurrection bodies be different from the bodies we have today?

## Lesson 38 - THE JUDGMENT

A day of judgment is appointed for the world, in which the wicked are judged and the righteous rewarded (Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27). The Judge is Christ—the Man of the Cross is the Man of the Throne (John 5:22, 23, 27; 2 Tim. 4:1; 2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 10:42; 17:31).

As there is more than one resurrection, so there is more than one judgment. There was the judgment by flood in the days of Noah and of the confusion of languages at the Tower of Babel.

The Bible speaks of at least seven different judgments:

- 1. Judgment at the Cross**—Satan’s power over the believer was broken and the sins of the believer were judged and put away (John 5:24; 1 Pet. 2:24).
- 2. The believers’ self-judgment** (1 Cor. 11:31-32). This is continual and constant.
- 3. The judgment of believers** at the Bema, the “judgment seat of Christ” (2 Cor. 5:10). At the Second Coming of Christ, the believer will be judged for his works. Rewards will be given for the works that remain after the test by fire (1 Cor. 3:13).
- 4. The judgment of the Jews**—during the Great Tribulation (Ezek. 20:34-38; Jer. 33:7; Luke 23:18; Acts 7:51).
- 5. The judgment of the Gentile nations** (Matt. 25:32); at the Second Coming of Christ in the Valley of Jehoshaphat (Joel 3:2; Matt. 25:41 and 34).
- 6. Judgment of the fallen angels** (1 Cor. 6:3; Jude 6; 2 Pet. 2:4).
- 7. The Judgment of the wicked dead**, those who have never been born again, who did not rise at the first resurrection or had not been raptured (Rev. 20:12). It will take place at the Great White Throne (Rev. 20:11), after

the thousand-year millennial period (Rev. 20:5). The ungodly will be cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:15).

**Discussion** - What are the judgments that concern you?

## **Lesson 39 - FINAL DESTINY OF THE WICKED**

There are 162 texts in the New Testament alone which speak of the doom that awaits the impenitent, 70 of which were uttered by Jesus Himself.

The wicked who reject Christ will be sent to hell (Psalm 9:17).

### **1. Definition—What is hell?**

- a. Banishment from the presence of God (2 Thess. 1:9).
- b. A place of torment and punishment (Luke 16:23).

### **2. Description of hell**

- a. It was originally prepared for the devil and his wicked angels (Matt. 25:41). But men who reject heaven through the Savior must accompany Satan there.
- b. It is a place of punishment (Matt. 25:46).
- c. It is a place of torment (Luke 16:23).
- d. A place of fire (Matt.13:42, 50; Rev. 20:15; Rev. 14:10; Matt. 3:12; Isa. 33:14).
- e. A place of worms (Mark 9:44, 46, 48).
- f. In Luke 16 man had the ability to recognize others (vs.23); to pray, though the prayer was denied (vs.27), and he desired water and a messenger to warn his brothers not to come (vs.24-27).
- g. Hell is eternal, everlasting.

**Conclusion** - The facts about eternal punishment should spur us on to greater efforts to win the lost!

## **Lesson 40 - THE FINAL REWARD OF THE RIGHTEOUS**

Death to the believer is just falling asleep in Jesus Christ (1 Thess. 4:14), then the person suddenly awakes in the Lord's presence (Phil. 1:23).

### **1. The future glory of believers**

- a. To be with Christ (John 14:3).
- b. To behold His face (Psalm 17:15; 2 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:4).
- c. To behold the glory of Christ (John 17:24).
- d. To be glorified with Christ (Rom. 8:17,18).
- e. To reign with Christ (2 Tim. 2:12).
- f. To inherit all things (Rev. 21:7).
- g. To shine as the stars (Dan. 12:3).

### **2. Crowns that believers may win**

- a. Incorruptible crown (1 Cor. 9:24-25); crown for runners (Heb. 12:1).
- b. Crown of rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19); the crown for soul winners.
- c. Crown of righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8); for those who love His appearing. Everyone ought to win this crown.
- d. Crown of life (James 1:12); for faithful ones, even unto death (Rev. 2:10); the Martyr's crown.
- e. Crown of glory (1 Pet. 5:4); for under-shepherds, pastors, missionaries, teachers.

### **3. Heaven—What is it?**

- a. Home of the Lord God (Matt. 6:9. 2 Cor. 12:2). "First heaven" is where birds fly. "Second heaven" is where astronauts go. "Third heaven" is the home of God.
- b. A building, made by God, not man-made (2 Cor. 5:1).
- c. The kingdom of God and of Christ (Eph. 5:5).
- d. The Father's house (John 14:2).

- e. A place without death, tears, sorrow, crying or pain (Rev. 21:4). Without night or darkness (Rev. 22:3-5). Without hunger, thirst or excessive heat (Rev. 7:16).
- f. A place with new created things—the river of life, the tree of life, new service, new relationships, new light (Rev. 22:4).

**Conclusion** - Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people. Our goal must be to arrive there, and to be accompanied by a host of others redeemed because of our labors for Him!

# HOMILETICS

The dictionary defines homiletics as the art of preaching, and this course is concerned with assisting the development of that art in each of the students. But it should be understood that preaching is far more than simply standing in front of a group of people and speaking effectively. It is really—or it should be—communicating the personal message of God to human hearts. Paul writes very forcefully about that truth: “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved it is the **power** of God” (1 Cor. 1:18). This course asks you to work diligently to perfect the art of preaching, so that God’s power may be released for the salvation and edification of many.

In the limited pages that we have, we shall not be able to touch upon the mechanics of delivery—use of the voice and gestures, for example—for that can be observed and commented upon by the teacher in class time when sermons are being delivered. These lessons will instruct about the content of sermons and give examples of the outstanding types.

It should be noted that the material for the other portable school courses is divided into lessons for each day’s classes, but much of the homiletics course has been arranged a bit more loosely into weekly units. This will allow for flexibility in the class for the practical work of preparing and presenting sermons. This material comes largely from the fine book, How to Prepare Sermons, by William Evans, published by Moody Press.

# HOMILETICS

## WEEK ONE - Day 1: WHAT IS PREACHING?

Preaching is the proclamation of the Good News of salvation through man to men. Its two elements are a man and a message—personality and truth.

The preacher is separated by God for the specific work of preaching the gospel. He deals with God in behalf of men; he deals with men in behalf of God. He must be a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. The effect of such a life and such preaching is that many will be added to the Lord (Acts 11:24).

The sermon is a part of the preacher; it must be the expression of his very life and experience. The experience of the truth must be in the preacher himself before he can proclaim it with convicting force in and through the sermon.

**Discussion** - What are the essential elements in the preparation of an effective preacher's life? What are some personality traits which may defeat his ministry?

## Day 2: TEXT OF THE SERMON

### 1. There are many advantages in having an aptly chosen text:

- a. It awakens the interest of the audience. "What will he say about that?"
- b. It gains the confidence of the audience. "This is the Word of God!"
- c. It gives the preacher authority and boldness. "Thus saith the Lord" gives the authority of heaven.
- d. It will keep the preacher's mind from wandering.
- e. It will keep the preacher Biblical.

**2. General principles which govern the choice of a text:**

- a. The preacher must study the spiritual needs of the people.
- b. He should consider the cycle of truth he has preached. Have some doctrines of truth been omitted? It is good, at the beginning of the year, to draw up a list of subjects to preach during the year.
- c. He should consider his own ability to present the subject. Some themes will be too difficult for the young preacher to handle.

**3. These principles are a great help in the choice of a text:**

- a. The constant reading of the Word of God is essential.
- b. The use of a notebook is extremely helpful.
- c. The reading of good books stimulates fresh thoughts.
- d. The guidance of the Holy Spirit is paramount. The man who is living continually under the influence and power of the Holy Spirit will scarcely ever be at a loss for something to preach about.

**Assignment** - Make a list of 10 texts which you will preach on in the coming months.

**Day 3: THE SERMON'S TOPIC**

The wise choice and proper wording of the theme is extremely important. Consider these suggestions:

1. The preacher should know his theme thoroughly.
2. The theme should be one that the people can understand. It must not be over the people's head.
3. The theme should not be trivial—it must have weight and dignity.
4. The preacher should have a definite aim in treating his theme. Preaching for conversions and decisions is essential.

5. The theme should be suitable to time, place and occasion. At Easter he should preach on the resurrection of Christ, etc.

**Discussion** - What are some themes that are not worth treating in a Sunday sermon? What are some that are?

#### **Day 4: GATHERING SERMON MATERIAL**

Reading good books will enrich a preacher's thoughts. Too, he needs to be alert to daily events. Think about them, pray about them and relate them to Scripture. Christ was always observant, and His sermons abound with illustrations taken from things He had seen and heard.

The preacher should carry a notebook, so he can jot down the things he sees and hears that impress him, and then he should think about them.

The preacher must be gathering constantly.

**Discussion** - What are some local events of the past month that suggest useful sermon thoughts? Write the ideas and their application to be listed in your notebook.

#### **Day 5: ARRANGING SERMON MATERIAL**

A proper arrangement of sermon material is extremely important. The preacher ought to arrange his material so it will all converge in the main purpose of the sermon.

##### **Advantages in the arrangement of sermon material:**

1. To the preacher—whatever is clearly and logically arranged is easy to memorize.
2. To the sermon—the effectiveness of a sermon depends greatly on a clear and logical arrangement.
3. To the audience—whatever makes it easy for the congregation to remember and carry away the Bible

teaching is worth the toil of good preparation. Good arrangement on the part of the preacher is absolutely necessary for good following on the part of the audience.

**Discussion** - What are some examples of poor arrangement in sermons, and why?

## **WEEK TWO - Day 1: GOOD SERMON ARRANGEMENT**

### **Qualities of a good sermon arrangement:**

1. **One theme** - The preacher should have only one theme in his sermon and concentrate all his argument, proof, testimony and illustrations toward enforcing that single theme.
2. A **logical connection** between the divisions of the sermon. The argument should first be made to the intellect, then an appeal to the emotions, and finally to the will.
3. Every sermon needs an **outline**, just as a man's body needs a skeleton. Generally speaking, the plan of a sermon should be easy to follow. Outlines that are striking are easily remembered. Some preachers, for this reason, make their outlines so each general heading begins with the same word or sound. Others use the law of opposites and contrasts.

One sermon could have these headings:

#### **Theme - The Transfiguration**

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 1. Place   | 3. Persons |
| 2. Purpose | 4. Power   |

Another sermon had these headings:

#### **Theme - How to Become a Christian**

- |           |             |
|-----------|-------------|
| 1. Admit  | 3. Submit   |
| 2. Commit | 4. Transmit |

**Assignment** - Prepare an outline using the same letter for each main point.

## **Day 2: INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON**

Every good sermon or message divides itself into three parts: the introduction, the body or argument, and the conclusion.

An introduction to a sermon is like spices to a sauce—it gives flavor to the meat of the sermon. There are exceptions—brevity of time or an informal talk—but as a general rule, it is best to introduce the subject.

### **The purpose of an introduction:**

1. To awaken interest in the theme. It is the business of the speaker to present his matter so interestingly that the audience cannot help but listen and be interested.
2. To prepare the audience for what is to follow.

### **Sources of an introduction:**

1. General familiarity with the text or theme. To introduce Psalm 23:4-6, the preacher might give this introduction: “How often this text has lighted up death beds and comforted the bereaved.”
2. Historical setting of the text.
3. Geography of the Bible.
4. Customs and antiquities of the Bible.
5. Circumstances peculiar to the writer and those addressed.
6. The occasion - Easter or Christmas.

**Assignment** - Prepare an introduction to an Easter sermon.

## **Day 3: QUALITIES OF A GOOD INTRODUCTION**

1. Not too loud, sensational or emotional. It is too soon to make an appeal to the emotions. It is best to begin by speaking slowly and in a low tone of voice, warming up to the subject gradually, then working up to a climax.

2. Not too long. A lengthy introduction tires the people.
3. Carefully prepared. It is good to write it out fully. First impressions are lasting, therefore one must carefully prepare the introduction.

**Assignment** - Write a good introduction to a sermon on Romans 1:16-17. Share it with the class.

### **Day 4: BODY OF THE SERMON**

The sermon may have as many divisions as the topic calls for and can be handled. It may have perhaps three, perhaps even seven. The divisions should be natural and logical in their order and transition from one to another. Sometimes they are announced, but not always.

#### **The divisions should answer these questions:**

1. **What?** - The first division should deal with a statement and definition of the subject. There should be no misunderstanding of the subject after this division. It is an address to the intellect, not to the emotions or the will.
2. **Why?** - This division should set forth the necessity, reason or proof of the subject. It asks: Why is it true? Why should I believe it or accept it? How may it be proven? Is it reasonable?
3. **How?** - This sets forth the manner and method by which the theme of the sermon may be brought about, or the conditions under which it may be received or fulfilled. There are three thoughts usually present in the treatment of this division: God's part, man's part, and the question of means.
4. **What then?** - This leads to application, and is perhaps the most important part. It makes it a personal matter. We must persuade men to decide for Christ, to live a holy life before Him.

**Assignment** - Prepare an outline for the body of a sermon on Rom. 1:16,17.

### **Day 5: CONCLUSION OF THE SERMON**

The last five minutes are the most important part of the sermon—what a mistake to neglect thorough preparation of it! Sometimes an effective conclusion is a recapitulation of the divisions and leading thoughts—a grand resume in a few striking, well-chosen, soul-moving sentences, or a pointed illustration. Sometimes a poem or the verse of a well-known hymn is used. Or the sermon may be finished by the use of one striking sentence. The conclusion should be no longer than the introduction, perhaps from three to five minutes.

**Assignment** - Prepare a stirring conclusion to your sermon on Romans 1:16-17.

### **Day 5: ILLUSTRATIONS AND THEIR USE**

Jesus' discourses abound in anecdotes, illustrations and similes. He set forth by His example the value of illustrations in preaching more than anyone else. The use of illustrations is a great help to the audience to enable them to carry home the truth of the sermon.

#### **The purpose of illustrations:**

1. They throw light on the subject. They are like windows in a house—they let light in.
2. They explain.
3. They prove.
4. They give ornamentation.
5. They can bring conviction.

### **The sources of illustrations:**

1. One should be on the lookout everywhere. Christ used the lilies, the raven, salt, a candle, a bushel, a long-faced hypocrite, gnats, moths, large gates and small gates, a needle's eye, yeast in bread, a mustard seed, a fishing net, debtors and creditors, etc.
2. Other sources include: newspapers, history, animals, vegetables, children, and many objects.

**Discussion** - Tell some good illustrations for the truth in John 3 that we must be “born again.”

**NOTE:** For the rest of the course, the students will prepare an outline for each type of sermon, then preach the sermon. Don't forget to include in your sermon outline an introduction, illustrations and a conclusion.

## **WEEK THREE - BIOGRAPHICAL SERMONS**

The life of a Bible character is presented in this type of sermon. Example:

### **The Four Surrenders of Abraham**

1. To leave country and kindred (Gen. 12:1).
2. Separation from Lot (Gen. 13:9).
3. Cast out Hagar and Ishmael (Gen. 21:10).
4. Offering of Isaac (Gen. 22).

## **WEEK FOUR: NARRATIVE SERMONS**

In these sermons an event of Scripture is portrayed. Example of a narrative sermon outline:

### ***Daniel in the Lion's Den***

**Theme:** God cares for His children

**Introduction:** Story of the young men in a land of captivity

**Text:** Daniel 6:19-23

**Outline:**

1. Diabolical Plot (Dan. 6:1-9).
2. Daily Practice (vs. 10).
3. Divine Provision (vss. 21-24).

**Conclusion** - Daniel could face danger with perfect confidence, because he was on intimate terms with his God. Are you walking closely enough to Him that you can face whatever life may have in store for you?

## WEEK FIVE - TEXTUAL SERMONS

The textual sermon occupies itself chiefly with one certain thought contained in a verse or short segment of verses. The verse must be carefully analyzed. Example of a textual sermon:

### *A Gift with No Restrictions*

**Theme:** Consecration

**Text:** Romans 12:1

**Introduction:** The word consecration means: to devote, separate, dedicate or set apart for the glory of God. Consecration is abdicating the rulership of our lives in favor of King Jesus. Who is boss in your life?

1. Who can be consecrated?  
“I beseech **you**, therefore, **brethren**.” Those cleansed by the blood of Christ, members of God’s family. Not only the great, mighty or talented, but this is open to **every** believer.
2. The appeal to consecration— “**by the mercies of God**.” We are not commanded by force or authority, but by His mercies. Not prompted by fear, but by love and mercies. Some of God’s mercies: salvation, sanctification, indwelling of the Holy Spirit, daily help, health, heaven after death, friends, church.

3. The act of consecration— “**Present your bodies.**”
  - a. It is voluntary—giving a present. We are not forced to do it.
  - b. It is personal—your bodies. Our lives, everything we have.
  - c. It is sacrificial—“a living sacrifice.” It is putting our lives on the altar, as Abraham presented Isaac.
4. The argument for consecration—“reasonable service.” If we have been truly redeemed, then it is only reasonable that we give Him our puny service.
5. What am I to consecrate?—“your bodies.” Our bodies are not our own. They have been redeemed by Christ with His blood.
  - a. Our physical strength— praise God for health and use it for Him.
  - b. Our feet to run errands of mercy— to take the gospel to someone.
  - c. Our hands to do works of kindness and lift the fallen.
  - d. Our eyes to seek out the needy and the perishing.
  - e. Our ears to hear the cry of the distressed and seek them for Him.
  - f. Our heart, symbol of the inner man, the real self. This is what He wants more than anything else (2 Cor. 8:5).

**Conclusion** - Consecration is a process. It is daily, a moment-by-moment yielding to the Master. Even now, consecrate your all to the Savior.

**Caution:** Never take it back. A gift is given to be reclaimed no more.

## WEEK SIX - TOPICAL SERMONS

A topic, or subject, is the focus of this type of sermon. A Bible concordance is very helpful in preparing it, for verses may be used from many parts of the Word. An example of a Topical Sermon follows:

### *Come and Drink*

**Theme:** The Water of Life

**Text:** “Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink’ (John 7:37).

**Introduction:** Have you ever been deprived of water? Do you know what it’s like to want water more than anything else? (Continue the thought of importance of water.)

#### **Outline:**

1. Water of life—its character
  - a. Living (John 4:10).
  - b. Clear (Rev. 22:1).
  - c. Pure (Rev. 22:1).
  - d. Abundant (Ezek. 47:1-9).
  - e. Free (Rev. 21:6).
2. For whom is it provided?
  - a. The thirsty (Rev. 21:6).
  - b. Whosoever (Rev. 22:17).
3. The way to obtain it
  - a. Come (Rev. 22:17).
  - b. Take (Rev. 22:17).

**Conclusion** - For the student to prepare.

## WEEKS SEVEN AND EIGHT - EXPOSITORY SERMONS

The Expository Sermon differs from the types already studied in that it is occupied more fully with the exposition of the Scripture itself, while the textual and topical sermons usually explore only one thought or topic suggested by the text. It is usually thought that expository preaching is superior to other types.

These are some of the **advantages of expository preaching:**

1. It produces Biblical preachers and hearers. The preacher and his audience will be kept Biblical.
2. It conforms to the Biblical idea of preaching. This was Jesus' method (Luke 4), Stephen's (Acts 7 and 8), Paul's (Acts 28), and Peter's (Acts 2 and 3).
3. It is wider in scope. It gives a greater opportunity for the practical application of truth to the lives of the hearers.

There are possibly some **disadvantages:**

1. It can become monotonous for the congregation.
2. The preacher can become lazy. There is the danger of reading verse after verse of a chosen text and passing a few comments on them, rather than forcefully proclaiming the truth of the passage.
3. The text may be too long, confusing the audience.
4. Sometimes this preaching is too confining, keeping the preacher from dealing with current topics. The expository sermon should have one central theme, so that there will be unity of thought. Texts should be chosen from different parts of the Bible to avoid the monotony mentioned above, and the preaching should not be all theory, but very practical.

Example of an expository sermon:

### *Life from a Death*

**Theme:** The Death of Jesus Christ

**Text:** Rom. 5:6-11: “For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly,” etc.

**Introduction:** Its place in Pauline teaching

**Outline:**

1. Someone died
  - a. This is an ordinary fact—everyone dies.
  - b. But this is an extraordinary fact when we remember:
    - The character of the One who died.
    - He could have avoided death.
    - The claims associated with His death.
2. The people for whom Christ died.
  - a. Sinners, ungodly, weak, enemies.
  - b. Meaning of the words “died for them.”
3. The purpose of Christ’s death
  - a. Negatively: Not to induce (coax) God to love men.
  - b. Positively: That man might be changed.
    - Justified
    - Reconciled
    - Saved from wrath
    - Saved by His life

**Conclusion -**

1. Do we recognize the significance of that cross?
2. Is it nothing to us? Or, is it the most significant?
3. How great our love should be to Him because of that death!

## SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK

Peter wrote, “Feed the flock of God which is among you” (1Peter 5:2). Undoubtedly he was remembering that day when Jesus asked him three times if he loved Him (John 21: 15-17). Each time Jesus followed the question by telling him to feed the lambs and the sheep. Today Jesus gives that same command to His followers whom He has called to be His representatives in the villages and towns of this country.

There was another part of Peter’s instructions to the young under-shepherds. Not only were they to feed the flock, but they were to “take the oversight” of it and to be “examples to the flock.” This means that they were to be concerned about the problems, the questions, the burdens that would come upon the flock, and at all times to set the pattern for life and conduct.

These lessons deal with a variety of subjects—with preaching, with counseling, with living as ambassadors of the Most High God. The words of Peter express the goal of the course—“Be shepherds of God’s flock... And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away” (1 Pet. 5:4).

The book *Preachers and People*, by R. Stanley, published by Blessing Books in Vellore, India was an extremely helpful source for many of the valuable truths found in these lessons.

# **SHEPHERDING THE FLOCK**

## **Lesson 1 - PREACH THE WORD**

Preaching that brings fruit that lasts is based upon the Word of God. The study of God's Word has played a vital role in the revivals recorded in the Old Testament, particularly under King Josiah (2 Kings 22:8-11) and Ezra (Ezra 7:10). Amos prophesied of days of famine of the Word of the Lord (Amos 8:11,12), and those days may be already upon us! From many pulpits are heard stories and experiences, but very little exposition of God's Word.

Milk is good, but for how long? No maturity is possible without strong meat.

Paul said to preach the Word (2 Tim. 4:2-4). This is essential.

**Discussion** - Study the passages noted above and discuss the effect of preaching based solidly on the Word of God.

## **Lesson 2 - WHY WE NEED REVIVAL**

Revival is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end, the end being evangelism. Revival is not evangelism, but revival begets evangelism. David prayed, "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation... then... sinners shall be converted (Psalm 51:12,13). Evan Roberts of the Welsh Revival prayed, "Lord, bend the Church and bless the world!"

Most of the revivals of the past have given birth to great missionary and evangelistic movements. But some died out too soon, one of the main causes being the failure of the leaders to channel the revival blessings into aggressive evangelism and soul-winning.

God is not interested in pouring out His Spirit upon His people just to excite them or make them feel good. No! He is interested in the “world”!

One of the reasons for the delay in revival is that we do not yet know why we need revival.

**Discussion** - What conditions in your congregations indicate a need for revival? Make this a subject for prayer together.

### **Lesson 3 - PREACHING FOR REVIVAL**

Are your people cold, uninterested in the things of the Lord? Are there dissensions, jealousies, evil speaking among your flock? Are they committing sins—stealing, lying? Are they reverting to heathen practices? They need revival!

Revival means to come back to life—there is a difference between evangelism and revival. A sinner needs evangelism to bring him to the Lord. But the born-again person who has fallen into sin and coldness needs to be revived.

**1. How to get revival**—2 Chron. 7:14 gives four simple, concise steps:

- a. Humble themselves.
- b. Pray.
- c. Seek My Face.
- d. Turn from their wicked ways.

**2. Results of revival**

- a. God will hear your prayers.
- b. He will forgive your sin.
- c. He will heal and strengthen your lives.

Are you thirsty for revival? Pray for it, and preach it strongly!

**Discussion** - How can you communicate the thirst for revival to your flock? Give practical plans that can be carried out.

## Lesson 4 - PRAYING FOR REVIVAL

The need of prayer as a preparation for revival cannot be over-emphasized. Prayer here is more than a simple petition for revival. It means self-examination and confession of sins (Rev. 2:23). It's a time of remembering our broken vows before the Lord (Ecc.5:1-6) and the wrongs we have committed against others (Matt.5:23,24).

Prayer leads to true humility, because in His presence we realize our nothingness and His holiness (Isa. 6:1-5). It is an expression of our inadequacy and a pleading for His strength and power (Matt. 26:41).

God is pleased with such sacrifices, and His fire will invariably fall on them (Psalm 51:17-19). When Elijah repaired the altar of the Lord, the fire fell. When Jesus prayed heaven was opened. When the early church prayed, the place was shaken.

Prayer releases the power of the Spirit to affect the earth. God makes and breaks His men on their knees.

**Discussion** - Meditate upon the verses above and comment upon the effects of prayer in each instance.

## Lesson 5 - LOVE, A DUAL MINISTRY

Just before His ascension Jesus asked Peter the searching question, "Do you love Me?" (John 21:15-17). Love is the foundation and capstone for a Christian minister.

When Jesus first called him it was to be a **fisher of men** (Matt. 4:19). Now He commissions Him to be a **shepherd of men** (John 21:15-17). You need love both for soul-winning and shepherding. One is **love for the lost** and the other is **love for the found**. Souls must be **brought in** and **brought up!**

**Discussion** - What are some practical ways of demonstrating your love for the lost? for the saved?

## Lesson 6 - PUBLIC MINISTRY

The under-shepherd's greatest privilege is to stand and preach the gospel. This will involve both studying and experience, and will require the blessing of God to be effective to the conversion of sinners and strengthening of believers.

He must remember to give the whole counsel of God which will include evangelism, Bible doctrine, teaching, reproofs, exhortations and warnings (Acts 20:27).

He must learn to pray publicly, and that can be learned only by much private prayer in the secret place. In the pastoral prayer he lifts the congregation into the presence of God in an atmosphere of sublime worship.

He must also learn to read the Scriptures clearly, reverently and distinctly, so that all can understand (Neh. 8:8).

He is commanded to "feed the Church of God" (Acts 20:28), by preaching sermons and Bible lessons that are applicable to the listeners' individual needs.

He is to protect the flock from false teachings and false teachers (Acts 20:29-30), and he has the responsibility to care for the poor of his flock (Acts 11:29-30).

He has the privilege of leading his people into reaching out to the lost, and to unchurched areas.

At the close of the service he has the responsibility of expressing God's blessing upon the people (Num. 6:23-26; Rev. 1:4-5).

The serious question in 2 Cor. 2:16, "Who is sufficient for these things?" has a triumphant answer in 2 Cor. 3:5, "Our sufficiency is of God!"

**Discussion** - Which of the responsibilities listed above will be most difficult to fulfill? Which do you consider the most important?

## **Lesson 7 - KEEP A BALANCE IN YOUR MINISTRY**

We must avoid extremes in preaching and practice lest we become spiritual eccentrics. Preach about the love of God and about His holiness that cannot tolerate sin, about heaven and hell, about a close walk with God in communion and about practical methods of serving Him, about revival and evangelism, etc. Paul was able to say “I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.”

It will be helpful to keep a list of all the sermon topics you preach and to prepare a preaching schedule for several months ahead. Your mind and your heart will be gaining information and strength, and you will be guarded from omitting truths from the rich counsel of God.

**Assignment** - Make a tentative list of sermon subjects for a three-month period.

## **Lesson 8 - PERIODIC EVALUATION**

It is good to set aside a day every month and a couple of days once or twice a year for self-examination and evaluation. Are you realizing your goals? Are you seeing fruit? Success and blessing can blind our eyes to the extent of the remaining task, and a sudden disaster can make us forget the progress that has been made. Standing back for a clear perception of the course of the ministry will permit a helpful evaluation. Mistakes may need to be corrected—even John the Apostle made the mistake of worshipping the angel twice and was corrected (Rev.19:10; 22:8,9)—and practices changed.

Jesus said, “Come apart.”

**Discussion** - What are some of the goals you should strive toward in the beginning of your ministry?

## Lesson 9 - MINISTRY OF COUNSELING

The under-shepherd must be able to talk to people individually about salvation and about their personal problems. At times he must point out discrepancies in their testimony (Matt.18:15-17).

He must learn to comfort the bereaved and the sorrowing.

He should enter the personal lives of his people and become a part of the family (Rom. 12:15).

He must remember that he is in a very special way the representative of the Lord Jesus here on earth at all times.

**Discussion** - What are some common events in your village that offer good opportunities for Christian counseling and help?

## Lesson 10 - ENCOURAGING FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship is based on an intimate family relationship to Christ and His family. Christians need to be together, to talk together, to pray together, to sing together, to laugh together, to weep together, just to be together (1 John 1:7; 1:3).

### 1. The purpose of fellowship

- a. To strengthen one another, both in services and in happy times of meal sharing. The men should be brought together for a meal, the women for an evening of sharing, the young people for games—and all of these around the Word of God. Christians will be strengthened and outsiders attracted.
- b. To encourage one another in the hard places of life. We can't tell when a heart is aching—we can make the burden lighter.
- c. To share experiences for the benefit of all; our testimony may prevent someone from making a similar error.
- d. To share the thrill of answered prayer (Psalm 50:15). This will surely encourage others to pray.

- e. To weep with them who weep (Rom. 12:15). Those who are bereaved should be given the fellowship of tears, of sorrow, of suffering.
- f. To exhort the backslider to return to God.

## **2. Results of Christian fellowship**

- a. We learn to walk in the light (1 John 1:7).
- b. We learn to suffer together (Phil. 3:10).
- c. We learn to serve together (Col. 4:7).
- d. We learn to comfort one another (1 Thess. 4:18).
- e. We learn to pray for one another (1 Thess. 5:25).
- f. We learn to bear one another's burdens (Gal. 6:2).
- g. We learn to rejoice with the joyful (Rom. 12:15).  
Joy is contagious.
- h. We grow and glow for the Lord (2 Pet. 3:18).

**Discussion** - What type of social fellowship would be helpful in your congregation?

## **Lesson 11 - EVANGELISTIC PREACHING**

There are limitless topics for the man of God to use for his sermons. He must be careful about keeping a balance in his subjects. There is the danger of assuming that sermons on salvation are not needed, and all attention is focused on polishing the saints, not on making new ones.

The fact is that often people are members of the local church but have never become a part of Christ's body, the true church. But salvation is real, and without it a man is lost eternally. A church built on unconverted members will have no life, no message, no transforming power.

The church leader must remember Ezekiel's solemn words about the watchman who failed to sound a warning (Ezek. 33:6).

**Assignment** - List a number of texts and topics appropriate for an evangelistic sermon.

## Lesson 12 - ASSURANCE OF SALVATION

What if one of your flock has doubts about whether he is really saved?

Assurance of salvation is necessary if a believer is to help others spiritually. To have that assurance is to be absolutely confident that we are saved and that if we died suddenly we would go immediately to heaven (John 10:28-29).

### 1. Basis of assurance of salvation

- a. Witness of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6).
- b. The Word of God (1 John 5:10, 13; John 5:24; Rom.10:13). Say to Satan: "The Word of God says that if I believe on Jesus Christ I have eternal life. On \_\_\_\_\_ (give the date) I believed on Jesus, therefore I have eternal life. I am saved. My sins are forgiven. I am on my way to heaven!"
- c. The changed life (1 John 3:14; 2 Cor. 5:17).

### 2. Hindrances to an assurance of salvation

- a. Failure to trust the Word of God.
- b. Worldliness.
- c. Lack of the fullness of the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39).
- d. Sin and backsliding (1 John 1:9).

**Caution:** Be careful in persuading people that they are saved. This is the work of the Holy Spirit who knows and searches the heart.

**Assignment** - The students may pair off and dialogue with each other, one of them playing the role of an uncertain believer and the other leading him to assurance in the Word of God.

## Lesson 13 - DISCIPLING NEW CONVERTS

A new believer is a babe in Christ and must have tender loving care, just like a tiny baby new to this world.

The first week in a convert's life is extremely important, for Satan will do all he can to plant doubts in his heart. Visit with him every day and read the Word and pray together.

Prepare opportunities for him to share his new found faith; this will strengthen him and will be an effective witness to unsaved friends.

Undoubtedly your denomination has a catechism course preparing the convert for baptism. Begin the lessons immediately after the confession of faith.

The young Christian must be thoroughly saturated with the Word of God— it is the genuine milk that will allow him to grow (1 Pet. 2:2). See that he becomes a member of a Bible study.

Here is the fine opportunity for a Big Brother/Little Brother or Sister pairing. Carefully match the new believer with a mature, caring Christian who will lead and pray him into the riches of God's love.

**Discussion** - How can you encourage young Christians in your congregation? How can you set up a Big Brother/Little Brother pairing?

### **Lesson 14 - WHY WITNESS?**

*Scriptures: Matt. 10:32, 33; Rom. 10:9*

#### **1. The necessity of confessing Christ audibly**

- a. Christ commanded it (Matt. 10:32-33).
- b. It is a source of help and strength in our own lives. A witnessing Christian is not liable to backslide.
- c. It solves many problems. Others know what you stand for and respect you for a clear-cut stand. The world despises a weak, cowardly, secret Christian. Temptations to visit worldly places are halted.
- d. Because of what Christ has done for you.

## **2. Methods of confessing Christ**

- a Publicly in church services, prayer meetings, testimony services, etc.
- b. Privately in daily conversation with friends, relatives and neighbors. This is possibly the most difficult, yet most essential, method.
- c. Publicly, in baptism and joining a good church.
- d. By constant attendance at church services and the communion table.
- e. A public confession must be made repeatedly (Jer.20:9).

**Note:** The Christian life that is not confessed will starve and die!

**Discussion** - Who of your acquaintances is an effective witness? How can others be encouraged to begin witnessing?

## **Lesson 15 - GETTING SOUL-WINNERS STARTED**

God continues to be calling, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” (Isa. 6:8). That lament is still true today, “the laborers are few” (Lk.10:2). The church seems to be increasing in number of people who will send others, but decreasing painfully in a corps of personal soul-winners.

What can you do about it? You should do all you can to change this situation. We cannot get our country evangelized until every Christian is made a soul-winner. There are four specific things you can do:

1. Lead by example!
2. Preach a series of sermons on the importance of soul-winning (see Lesson 15).
3. Announce a soul-winner’s training class and begin a series of lessons.
4. Try to find a work-study book or article on soul-winning and circulate it among your people.

You will fail in your calling if you neglect scattering your supporters into the streets out-where-the-sinners-are and make each one a soul-winner!

**Assignment** - How can we teach our people by example to be witnesses? Prepare three specific ideas.

## **Lesson 16 - REASONS FOR SOUL-WINNING**

Few are called to be preachers, but every born-again Christian is called to be a soul-winner. You must lead your people into the joy of soul-winning. "Soul-winning is a definite effort to lead a definite person to accept a definite Savior at a definite time" — Billy Sunday.

### **1. Reasons for being a soul-winner**

- a. The worth of a soul (Mark 8:35-38).
- b. The fact of hell.
- c. The sufferings of Christ on the cross for each sinner.
- d. The emptiness and folly of this world.
- e. The desire to have the family circle complete in heaven.
- f. The glories of heaven.
- g. The personal rewards that are offered to faithful soul winners.

### **2. Needs of a personal worker**

- a. He must be saved himself and sure of his salvation.
- b. He must live a pure life.
- c. He must work in a spirit of love.
- d. He must have a fair knowledge of the Bible and know how to use it.
- e. He must be a man of prayer.
- f. He must be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- g. He must have a compassion for lost souls.

**Discussion** - Why is each of the needs listed above important?

## Lesson 17 - HOW TO WITNESS

### 1. How to witness

- a. A witness for Christ must be saved himself.
- b. Tell the simple facts of your conversion and the change in your life.
- c. Tell about answers to prayer you have received (Psalm 50:15).
- d. Tell how Christ satisfies you completely.
- e. Tell about personal victory over sin and temptations.
- f. Tell about your favorite verses in the Bible, and how God spoke to you this morning from a particular passage of Scripture.
- g. Give your friends the gospel of Christ. Tell them about Him.

### 2. Hindrances to confessing Christ

- a. Fear of man (2 Tim. 1:7; 1 John 4:18; Phil. 4:13).
- b. Shame (2 Tim. 1:8).
- c. Impure life (1 John 1:9).

**Note:** Read Ezek. 33:8 to discover the danger of not witnessing!

**Assignment** - Prepare a testimony based on the facts of your conversion and describe the changes it brought in your life.

## Lesson 18 - WITNESSING PLANS

1. “**Four Spiritual Laws**” is perhaps the most widely used witnessing tool today, and it is very effective.
2. The **Wordless Book**, with its black, red, white, gold and green pages, also has an excellent ministry, especially with children.
3. Another way to present the plan of salvation to children is by **use of the fingers of your hand**. No equipment or book is necessary.

- a. First finger—God loves you (John 3:16).
  - b. Second finger—All have sinned (Rom. 3:23).
  - c. Third finger— Christ died to pay for your sin (1 Cor.15:3).
  - d. Fourth finger—Believe Christ died for your sin (John 1:12).
  - e. Fifth finger—When you believe, you receive everlasting life (Rom.6:23).
4. Others may prefer to use the **Roman Road**. Point out the verses in the Bible as you explain them.
    - a. Man’s need (Rom. 3:23).
    - b. Sin’s penalty (Rom. 6:23).
    - c. God’s provision (Rom. 5:8).
    - d. Man’s response (Rom. 10:9).
  5. A **marked New Testament** is an excellent way to have someone read with you through chosen verses on salvation, for the inquirer may appreciate the trouble you have gone to in preparing the Bible. Put a tab with the number 1 showing at the top on the page of Rom.3:23. A highlight pen might make the verse easier to find quickly. In the margin, write “See page    for 2,” indicating the page number for Rom.6:23 where you have placed the tab. Continue in this way through the following verses, explaining each one: John 1:12; 1 John 1:9; Rev.3:20; 1 John 5:10-13.

**Assignment** - Decide which of these plans you want to teach. Drill the class on the verses, then have them play the role of a seeker and the soul-winner. Then have them reverse the role, the seeker becoming the soul-winner. Insist that every interview must end asking for a definite commitment, and then a prayer asking for forgiveness.

## Lesson 19 - TEACHING ABOUT GIVING

Giving to the Lord may seem a hard burden to your people. Plant these thoughts in their hearts, so it will become a joy.

### **How are we to give to the Lord?**

1. Systematically (1 Cor. 16:2)—“Upon the first day of the week.” We are to give every week of the year. Be businesslike in your giving, and God will reward your honesty.
2. Individually (1 Cor. 16:2)—“let every one of you.” This is not only for the head of the home, but mother and children too. It is for the rich and the poor.
3. Proportionately (1 Cor. 16:2)—“as God hath prospered.” We ought to give the tithes plus offerings. God gives abundantly to those who give to Him.
4. Cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7)—not grudgingly.
5. Sacrificially (2 Cor. 8:2)—they gave out of their deep poverty. The widow gave two mites, which was all of her living. God measures gifts by how much is left, not by how much we give.

Blessings follow generous gifts to the Lord (Acts 20:35; Matt. 6:20; Mal. 3:10).

One more word: your people will not tithe if *you* are not a cheerful giver.

**Discussion** - Does your church follow Scriptural methods in receiving its offerings? What improvements should be made?

## Lesson 20 - HOW TO EXHORT

God graciously provides a way of cleansing from the attack of sin. When we confess (1 John 1:9), He cleanses. But there is a danger of hardening, if sin is not confessed. Heb. 3:13 says, “Exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you

be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Keeping sin away by exhortation is essential for fellowship.

When the leader notices a shortcoming in a brother, he should be moved with concern, and he should not shrink from exhorting the brother. How should he do it?

1. There must be a gentle spirit (Luke 9:54-56; 1 Thess. 2:11; Matt. 12:20).
2. We must speak in all humility (Rom. 12:10; Eph. 4:2).
3. We must use the Word (2 Tim. 3:16-4:2; Col. 3:15).
4. It should be under the Spirit’s guidance (Eph. 5:18,19).
5. The scriptural way to correct is privately (Matt. 18:15).

For three years Paul ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears (Acts 20:31).

**Discussion** - What will be the result of exhorting a person harshly? publicly? How can you prevent this?

## **Lesson 21 - HOW TO DEAL WITH SIN IN THE FLOCK**

- 1. The Biblical procedure** (Matt. 18:15-17).
  - a. Go to the erring one alone to exhort him to repent.
  - b. If he resists, take two or three others as witnesses.
  - c. If he continues to harden his heart, inform the church.
  - d. If he continues to resist, he will be considered a sinning heathen man.
- 2. Reasons for discipline**
  - a. False doctrine (Titus 1:13). The false teaching of cults sometimes deceives believers. This must be guarded against.
  - b. Open sin (1 Tim. 5:20).
  - c. Immorality (1 Cor. 5:1-5).
- 3. How to correct a sinning brother**
  - a. In humility (1 Cor. 10:12).
  - b. In sincerity (Matt. 7:3-5).
  - c. In love (1 Cor. 13:4).

- d. By Scripture.
- e. By testimony and by experience.

**Assignment** - Is there someone in your congregation living in sin? How will you deal with that situation?

## **Lesson 22 - DEALING WITH BACKSLIDING**

Often we find someone who was a strong Christian but now is backslidden. Remember the solemn warning of 1 Cor. 10:12 and Prov. 16:18. No one backslides suddenly. Many little things enter in slowly and undermine the life.

### **1. The true causes of backsliding**

- a. Failure to pray.
- b. Failure to read the Bible (2 Tim. 2:15).
- c. Failure to attend church (Heb. 10:25).
- d. Failure to obey the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30).
- e. Failure to confess Christ (Matt. 10:33).
- f. Failure to walk in the light (1 John 1:7).

### **2. The results of backsliding**

- a. A loss of power, of peace, of joy and happiness.
- b. Murmuring and darkness will cloud the daily pathway.
- c. The loss of rewards, and the person will “suffer loss.”
- d. Some teach that it may even lead to the loss of the soul.

### **3. God’s invitation to return** (Jer. 3:22; Hosea 14:4)

The true Christian hates backsliding—Psalm 101:3: “I will set no wicked thing before my eyes.” The true object on which to set the gaze (Heb. 12:2). Paul’s goal was Christ (Phil.3:14).

**Assignment** - Ask yourself if there are any backslidden Christians in your village. Plan how you will try to win them back to Christ. Pray for them, along with your congregation.

## Lesson 23 - DIVORCE

What if a home in your congregation is threatened by the plague of divorce? Through all the world, divorce represents one of the major problems of family living. It is a tragedy because it undermines the home, the basis of society. It is doubly tragic in the church, for the Christian home is a sacred institution inaugurated by God and the symbol of Christ's union with His Church. There lies the reason for Satan's attack upon marriage.

Only misery follows in its wake: broken homes, bruised and broken hearts, homeless children, delinquent youth, loneliness and tears.

There is only one Scriptural grounds for divorce, and that is fornication (Matt. 19:9). That means illicit sexual relations, probably habitual, with a third party. Even then, divorce is not commanded, it is permitted only in unusual and extreme cases.

Do all you can to reconcile the partners having difficulties. Here are some suggestions:

1. Clearly instruct that a marriage contract is for life "till death breaks it," (Matt. 19:6). In marriage God performs a miracle when two individuals become one person. Only God is permitted to break that union by taking one of the partners in death.
2. If there are children, their welfare should be considered, for they suffer most.
3. Point out that divorce is a public admission of utter failure.
4. Plead with each partner to get right with the Lord, and then with one another. Confession and repentance with mutual sharing will restore any marriage.

If a reconciliation takes place, let both husband and wife solemnly renew their vow for "better or worse, till death do us part." Encourage them to continually woo each other; each needs a great deal of affection. Assure them that they must continually ask God for a holy love for each other.

**Discussion** - What are the most important ingredients of a Christian home? What are injurious influences?

## **Lesson 24 - ADULTERY**

The spiritual leader must sound God's warning against the sin of adultery. The seventh commandment has never been abolished (Ex. 20:14 and 17).

Only by seeing how God hates adultery can we see the sanctity of marriage. Do you remember that God commanded the death penalty—death for both—for adultery (Lev.20:10)? The spiritual leader himself must avoid all taint and appearance of sexual misconduct.

There is no question about it—adultery and fornication lead to hell (Prov. 7:27; Prov. 9:13-17; 1 Cor. 6:9,10).

**Discussion** - Have the Christians in your area become more careless about sexual sins in this generation? What are the results?

## **Lesson 25 - WITCHCRAFT**

It's a common occurrence—parents in Africa bring their babies to the front of the church for baptism or dedication, and if the little dress is lifted, there can be seen a string (fetish) around the baby's waist. Is this permissible? Absolutely not! Fetishes are a tool of witchcraft, and the Bible makes it very clear that to use witchcraft, or sorcery, is to be in complicity with evil spirits. Look at the verses: Ex. 22:18; Acts 19:18,19; Gal. 5:20 and Rev. 22:15.

The terror of the poison cup and witchcraft held many lands in darkness until the coming of the light of the gospel. Still today, the devil tries to persuade people to revert to the old pagan darkness. But Christ will have no fellowship with darkness.

Those who practice magic arts—witchcraft and sorcery—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulphur (Rev.21:8).

Each person must choose whom he will serve, but he cannot serve two masters. The fetishes must be burned when Christ is accepted as Savior and Lord.

**Discussion** - What witchcraft practices are in use in your part of the country? What can you do to eliminate them?

## **Lesson 26 - WHY TO PREACH AGAINST DRINKING**

Everyone realizes that alcoholism is a curse, destroying the drinker, the family, and the community. There are many verses in the Bible that warn us against the evils of alcohol. Like sin, it is insidious and addicting, holding its victim with the intention to “rob, kill and destroy.”

“Do not be drunk in wine...but be filled in the Spirit” (Eph. 5.18). Wine is a controlling substance. It causes us to be a different person than who God created us to be. Rather than wine, be controlled by the Spirit of God who fills you with love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, gentleness, and self-control (Gal. 5.22-23).

Look at what is said about John the Baptist. “He shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink” (Luke 1:15). The Greek word used in the New Testament for wine is *oinos*. It is a fermented drink. Jesus said, “You don’t put wine (*oinos*) in old wine skins. It will burst them.” The first mention of wine in the Bible is in Gen. 9:21 and tells of Noah being drunk and the calamity that fell on his son Ham.

1. Wine makes fools out of us. It is a deceiver (Prov. 20.1; Hos. 4.11).
2. Church leaders must not be given to wine (Titus 1.7). The Greek word used here is *paroinos* (*para* + *oinos* = near to wine, tarrying at wine).
3. Wine is addicting and destructive (Prov. 23.29-35).

4. It destroys your wisdom, your reason, and your ministry (Isaiah 28.7).
5. Becoming drunk is listed along with other sins (Gal. 5.19-21; Rom. 13.13-14).

### **Reasons why the Christian should not drink:**

1. His body is the temple of the Holy Ghost and should not be defiled in any way.
2. He is a witness for Christ, and if he takes even a tiny sip, a weaker brother might be tempted to take a larger portion.
3. He is his brother's keeper (Gen.4:9), and has a responsibility to help his brother live a pure, upright life.

### **There are many other reasons why everyone, whether a Christian or not, should completely avoid drinking.**

1. It is a costly waste of money (Deut. 21:18-21; Prov. 23:20).
2. For the safety of others on the highway.
3. Drinking aids in breaking up homes.

William Gladstone said, "Strong drink is more destructive than war, pestilence and famine."

Because one taste leads to another, one glass to another, the only safe, Scriptural conclusion is complete abstinence under ALL circumstances.

**Discussion** - Are there other reasons that a Christian should not drink?

## **Lesson 27- HELPING CHRISTIANS WHO SUFFER**

Many good Christians are calling out to God. "Why? Why must I suffer like this?" Friends sometimes, like those of Job, will cruelly judge them and say it is because of some evil in their lives. The witchdoctor may accuse someone of putting a curse on the person having severe or fiery trials. But for the true Christian, life has a plan, for God has a purpose for each life (Rom. 8:28).

## **1. Why do sufferings come?**

- a. Sometimes, as a result of sin (John 5:14; Miriam in Num. 12:10; King Asa in 2 Chron. 16:12).
- b. That the works of God might be made manifest (John 9:2-3).
- c. For the glory of God (John 11:4; Phil. 1:29).
- d. The work of the enemy—with God’s permissive will—(Job in the book of Job; Mark 5:1-5; Luke 13:16; Acts 10:38). God knows your load limit, the amount that you can endure.
- e. Chastisement—child training (Heb. 12:5-13).

## **2. Our response to suffering**

- a. We may despise it, rebelling instead of submitting. This attitude leads to hardness.
- b. We may faint under it, but we need not, for His grace is sufficient (2 Cor. 12:9).
- c. We may accept and bear it, but with sadness.
- d. We may joyfully yield to the will of God—this is the highest form of victory.

**Assignment** - Write a list of from 3 to 7 people in your flock who are suffering. Make a plan of ministering to each. Involve others from your flock in this ministry.

## **Lesson 28 - MINISTERING TO THE SICK**

Christians become ill, and the Lord’s servant must minister to them faithfully, assuring them of God’s love and concern. Let us consider some approaches to the problem of sickness.

### **1. Is God capable of healing miracles?**

- a. The Bible tells the true stories of many miracles. The greatest miracle was the resurrection of Jesus, but many others were performed.
- b. Our God is a miracle-working God. Jehovah Raphi (Ex. 15:26) is one of His names, “I am the Lord who healeth

thee.” See Psalm 103:3; Matt. 19:26; Luke 18:27. He is still the Great Physician today.

## **2. Anointing of the sick in James 5:14-20.**

- a. The sick are to call in the elders.
- b. The elders are to pray the prayer of faith and anoint the sick one with oil.
- c. James speaks of confessing faults one to another.

## **3. Some sicknesses are not healed.**

- a. In Acts 28, Paul performed two miracles. But he prayed three times for deliverance from sickness and it was denied him (2 Cor. 12:7-10). One purpose of the sickness was to keep Paul humble.
- b. If we were always healed, then we would never die.

The Christian worker must strengthen the sick person with the Word of God. How tragic if he is allowed to revert to fetishes and become soul-sick as well as physically sick.

A deathbed scene with the saint relaxed and happy in the will of God is a blessed parting. Jesus promises, “My strength is sufficient”—even in sickness.

**Discussion** - What are some Scripture passages that will comfort the sick?

## **Lesson 29 - MINISTRY IN TIME OF DEATH**

Life is an unsubstantial, flimsy thing. It is here today and gone tomorrow. Of all men born on the earth, only Elijah and Enoch have escaped death. Of all those living today, every one will die, except for the Lord’s children who will meet Him in the air at the Rapture. Heb. 9:27 is very true.

The Christian worker has a heavy responsibility when the Grim Reaper visits his congregation. Family and friends are in deep grief, for parting is always painful. The believers should be organized to spend time with the mourners, to take meals to them, to assist in preparing the corpse and the grave for burial. Weep

with those who weep, to show Christ's compassion to the brokenhearted.

If the deceased was a believer, comforting the bereaved is far easier, for the soul of the loved one has already found peace and joy. Truly, to be with Christ is far better than anything this world can offer. The funeral, in spite of the grief of parting, should be a celebration.

In the time of death the Christian leader must take a firm stand against the reversion to pagan practices on the part of the family. Wailing to the spirits, burying articles of wealth, drinking and superstitious rites have no place in a Christian burial, but unsaved relatives and friends often try hard to introduce the elements of hopelessness and terror that accompany their perception of death. Stand firm against it. Rally the Christians to stay on the scene until the body has been committed to the earth, singing and praying and assisting in every way possible.

The sermon should serve warning to all that life is only a moment of time in which to prepare for the long, long eternity.

A wise man told his disciples to prepare for death the day before they died. But they objected, "We may die tomorrow."

"True," he replied, "then prepare today."

**Discussion** - What are other practical ways of helping when someone of your congregation dies?

### **Lesson 30 - COUNSELING ENGAGED COUPLES**

An engagement is the announcement to the community that the couple plans to marry soon—likely within the year. For the couple it is a time of getting better acquainted and ascertaining whether or not they are prepared and really meant for each other. But they must not take liberties one with the other, for they are not married. It is important for future happiness that both be virgins at marriage. Marriage privileges **MUST** be reserved until

after marriage, lest love turn to hate and mutual respect be lost completely (2 Sam. 13:15).

This is the ideal time for the church leader to instruct the couple on establishing a Christian home, referring to Eph. 5 and Titus 2. Let both learn to pray together over every problem and misunderstanding. Encourage them to express their love for each other throughout life, both by act and word.

Marriage is the oldest human institution. Next to salvation, the choice of a partner may be the greatest decision a young person has to make. The spiritual leader must give strong counsel and support in this crucial period.

### **Principles of a happy marriage:**

1. Christians may only marry Christians (2 Cor. 6:14-17).
2. Pray much and seek God's will.
3. Wait to marry until you know the other person thoroughly, both good points and bad points. Hasty marriages are dangerous.
4. Wait for love. Infatuation is not sufficient. Marriage is for life, and it will take godly love to make a happy home.
5. Wait until you are old enough to marry. Marriage is for adults, not children, for it carries heavy responsibilities.
6. Wait until moral problems are settled. Never marry a man to reform him.
7. Wait for the approval of the girl's parents. This is very important.
8. Wait for a measure of financial stability, not wealth, but some security.
9. Insist on a public Christian wedding. Never for a moment consider elopement or a secret marriage. Marriage is far too sacred for this.

**Assignment** - Prepare a lesson for a young people's class on steps to lead to a happy marriage.

## Lesson 31 - HOW TO COUNSEL A CHILDLESS COUPLE

When a married couple expects to have children and years pass without a baby's arrival, their disappointment grows and often steals their Christian victory. They see their friends coming into the church leading their little tots and holding their tiny babies, and they ask, "Why hasn't God answered our prayers?" Some become bitter and leave the church. Some turn to the witch doctor and throw away their savings—and their relationship with God. Barren couples need your prayer, your counsel and your support. They often say like Rachel, "Give me children, or I'll die" (Gen. 30:1).

Hannah's years of sterility and the supportive conduct of her husband can be a model and blessing to the childless couple. Hannah had no children, but the beautiful loyalty of Elkanah is shown in verse 5 of 1 Samuel 1. "He loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb." The husband of a barren woman has no right to send her back to her family. He must be an Elkanah!

For the Hannahs in your congregation, point out these truths:

1. They must continue in prayer, as Hannah prayed. God had closed her womb for a purpose, and in His time He opened her womb. God gave Abraham and Sarah a baby when they were too old to have one (Gen. 21:2). Psalm 113:9 is a good verse!
2. Relax, and be happy in the Lord. Don't nag your husband like Rachel. Be thankful for the blessings you have and let your face show your joy. Gloominess will only kill your husband's love and make you a miserable person.
3. If the Lord doesn't give you children, you can still have a mother's heart and show your love to other children. There are orphans and neglected children who need care. Having a Bible club or Sunday School class will give you the opportunity to have spiritual children.

Deborah became a "mother in Israel" (Judges 5:7).

**Discussion** - Discuss ministries that childless women of your congregation may develop. How can you encourage them?

## Lesson 32 - MINISTRY TO WIDOWS

Your congregation probably has some older women, widows, who love the Lord and are faithful in the services. They may feel unneeded and lonely. They too should be using their gifts in the service of the Lord (1 Pet. 4:10). Speak to them of these widows:

1. Naomi became the nurse of her grandchild (Ruth 4:16) and was able to pass along her faith to generations to come. Grandmothers can be a great help in the **care of little children** of the parish, and they will receive love in return.
2. The widow of Zarephath hosted a man of God (1 Kings 17). Older women can perform a valuable service of **hospitality**.
3. Anna was a widow of 84 years who “served God with fastings and prayers day and night, and . . . spoke of Him to all” (Luke 2:36-38). Older women make wonderful **prayer warriors**.
4. Another chose to **give to God** “all the livelihood that she had” (Luke 21:4).
5. Possibly Dorcas, who comforted many and made coats and garments for them, was a widow, because those who stood by weeping were widows (Acts 9:39). She **helped those in need**.
6. Lois had a part in preparing her grandson Timothy for his ministry (2 Tim.1:5).

This period of life may be wonderfully fruitful. How much better than simply awaiting the call to eternity!

**Discussion** - Review the ideas suggested by these Scriptures for widows’ ministries. Can you add others?

## **Lesson 33 - CHRISTIANS WITH UNSAVED SPOUSES**

Marriage partners who stand alone in the faith need special care and encouragement. Your counsel to them should include the following instructions:

1. Do not allow a rift to develop between you and your spouse because of your spiritual experiences.
2. Never make your spouse feel inferior.
3. Shower more love upon your partner. Express your love more freely because now the love of God has been poured out in your heart.
4. Don't share your problems with outsiders.
5. Let a godly atmosphere characterize your home.
6. Be a happy person. Let a sweet spirit clothe you.

**Discussion** - How can the church leader form bridges of friendship with these unsaved spouses? What activities can you propose that will attract them to the church and its people . . . and to its Christ?

## **Lesson 34 -OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S DAY**

The Lord's Day, Sunday, is a New Testament fact that has its roots in the Sabbath of the Old Testament.

- 1. Contrast between the Sabbath and the Lord's day**
  - a. The Sabbath is the seventh day, and the Lord's day is the first day of the week.
  - b. The Sabbath commemorates God's creation rest, while the Lord's Day commemorates Christ's resurrection.
  - c. The Sabbath was for the Jews, and the Lord's day is for the Church of Jesus Christ.
- 2. The Apostolic Church kept the first day of the week.**
  - a. Jesus remained in the grave long enough to fulfill the Jewish Sabbath, and arose on the first Easter Sunday (Matt.28:1).

- b. Regular church services are described here (Acts 20:7).
  - c. Instructions for Sunday church collections (1 Cor. 16:2).
  - d. John spoke of the “Lord’s day” (Rev.1:10).
- 3. The true way to keep the Lord’s day.**
- a. Delight in the Lord. Make it a special day of worship, prayer and praise.
  - b. Cease from your own pleasure. This is a day for HIS pleasure. Visit the sick and do other acts of mercy for HIM.
  - c. Make it a day that honors the Lord. Six days we work and earn our living, but the seventh belongs to Him.

**Discussion** - What common Sunday activities are not appropriate for the Lord’s day?

### **Lesson 35 – FATHER’S DAY**

God has placed the husband as head of the home (Gen.18:19; Eph. 5:23). Christian fathers need encouragement to perform their duties as priest of the family. Why not have a special service to honor the fathers of the congregation? Advertise it well in advance, and announce that all the children, even adult ones, will sit with their fathers. Have a father read the Scripture, and another pray. You might recognize the oldest father in the audience, the youngest, and the one with the most children.

The sermon will focus on the Biblical standard for a Christ-honoring father. He must love his wife (Eph. 5:25), loving in health, in sickness, in poverty and in prosperity. He must be faithful to her, and comfort her in times of sorrow (1 Sam. 1:8).

The father must be an active partner in the training and discipline of the children for the Lord (Prov. 22:6). He is responsible to establish a family altar for daily family worship. He is responsible for grace at meals. Together the parents will pray and work to bring the children to the Lord at an early age (Matt. 19:13-14).

He must love his wife and his family, but he must love Christ more. The Christian father will always put Christ first in his life (Luke 14:26).

**Assignment** - Prepare a list of sermon themes appropriate for Fathers Day services.

### **Lesson 36 – MOTHER’S DAY**

Good wives and good mothers are wonderful gifts from the Lord (Prov. 31:10). Wives need appreciation and praise, and the church should be careful to honor their ministry in the home and their testimony.

A service honoring mothers might have a song by children dedicated to mothers, and a tribute to his mother by an older child. Each child might bring a flower to present to his mother. The sermon will probably be based on a woman of the Bible.

**Assignment** - Plan the program for a Mothers Day service for your congregation, listing those who will take part and what each will do.

### **Lesson 37 - ESTABLISHING A FAMILY ALTAR**

The secret of a successful Christian home is in the family altar, where Christ is recognized as the head of the home and the family joins to worship and learn of Him.

If you describe the practice of family devotions and urge the Christians to begin, some may be persuaded, but others won't really understand what to do. Why not have a demonstration in one of the services? Choose a family and meet with them to prepare an example of the family altar. They may begin with a chorus or the verse of some familiar hymn. All the children old enough to read may take turns in reading the Scripture, and the smaller ones might recite a verse already memorized. Perhaps the father will make some brief remarks about the Scripture passage,

and he will close the period with prayer. After the family has left the platform, a short message may be given about the importance of parents and children gathering together for family worship.

The family giving the demonstration will be strengthened, and other families may be persuaded to begin family devotions in their homes.

What a difference that will make to every member of the family!

**Assignment** - Let the class demonstrate a family altar service.

### **Lesson 38 - REACHING THE WHOLE FAMILY**

One of the most important ministries you will have will be to direct whole families on the way to heaven. This you will do by leading parents to be obedient to God in passing on His truth to their children. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Preach publicly and counsel privately about the responsibility of parents to surround their children with the Word of God. Deut. 6:6-9 and Proverbs 6:20-23 are fine texts for this, as well as Psalm 119:11.
2. Encourage parents to open their homes and lives to their children's Christian friends. Show them the importance of being enthusiastic, loyal and whole-hearted Christians and church supporters for the sake of their children. One of the essentials for a strong family is a love for God that permeates the parents.
3. Keep your congregation family-oriented. Encourage the believers to pray for and support the children of other families. Have activities that will acquaint the older people with all the children and young people of the congregation. God's people should not be victims of a generation gap.
4. Instruct parents of grown children about the evils of a severe dowry system. Many young people fall into sin

because of the demands of an excessive dowry payment that makes holy matrimony impossible for many years.

Children are a wonderful gift from the Lord, and leading them to the Savior will be a great joy to the parents in your congregation, a joy that will last through eternity.

**Discussion** - Consider each of the four points given above. Will they be practical helps for your congregation? Can you suggest other thoughts?

### **Lesson 39 - MOBILIZING LAYMEN FOR SERVICE**

Very possibly you are the most capable person in your congregation in leadership abilities, and you will be strongly tempted to carry all the work of the church on your own shoulders. But that would be a sad, sad mistake. Why?

First of all, read 1 Pet. 4:10. The instruction is very clear. “Each one should use whatever gift he has to serve others.” To grow in the Lord your people must exercise their gifts, and you must train and encourage them. A pond that has no outlet becomes stagnant. Streams of living water should be flowing out from your lay Christians.

Form a gospel team. One can be the song leader, another a soloist. Perhaps one can play the guitar, one can give a testimony. Assign them parts in your worship service. Ask some to lead in prayer cells, or home Bible studies. Some can teach Sunday School classes, others might conduct children’s clubs through the week. Develop a puppet ministry. And above all else, teach them the art of leading someone to Christ.

**Discussion** – What are some other ways your lay people can be led to express their love of the Lord in service to Him?

## Lesson 40 - USING THE GIFTS OF WOMEN

The women of your congregation should not be allowed to be mere onlookers to the work of the Lord. They have gifts that will bring blessing to the congregation, glory to the Lord, and strength to their own spirits.

Study the women of your flock. Do what you can to inspire and prepare them to serve their Lord in one of these ministries:

### 1. Among women

- a. As a deaconess—visiting the sick or grieving.
- b. In a prayer cell—leading or being the hostess.
- c. Leading a Bible study.
- d. Discipling young Christians, perhaps in a Big Sister/Little Sister role.

### 2. Among children

- a. Teaching a Sunday school class.
- b. Leading neighborhood clubs.

### 3. In the home

- a. Training their children to follow the Lord.
- b. Showing hospitality both to fellow Christians and to the unsaved.
- c. As a help-meet to her husband, encouraging him if he is saved, and endeavoring to reach him for Christ, if he is unsaved.

**Discussion** - What other ministries can you add for the women of your flock?

# **HOLY LIVING**

## **PREPARATION FOR HOLY SERVICE**

**INTRODUCTION:** - These lessons may be the most important of all the portable school courses, for “out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matt. 12:34). Only a holy life can produce spiritual fruit, and the Christian worker must be on constant guard against anything that might steal his inner victory and destroy his testimony.

Much of this material comes from the book *100 Bible Lessons*, by Douglas Alban, and from *Preachers and People*, by Rev. R. Stanley, and *The Ideal Woman*, by Dr. Lilian Stanley.

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# HOLY LIVING

## Lesson 1 - FEAR THE LORD

There are wrong and right kinds of fear. “Fear not” is a precious message of Scripture, used about 50 times, and with its variations it is used 366 times. Remember the Lord’s words, “It is I, be not afraid”? But the fear of the Lord is something we must have. See these verses: Job 28:28; Psalm 19:9; 2 Samuel 23:3; Deuteronomy 6:13.

### 1. Here are some things we are not to fear:

- a. Idols or other gods (2 Kings 17:38).
- b. Man—see Saul’s mistake in 1 Samuel 15:24. Notice Proverbs 29:25.
- c. Earthly calamities, for they signify the near return of our Savior (Luke 21:25-28).
- d. Future punishments (Hebrews 10:27).
- e. We are not to fear “fear,” for the believer casts his fears on the Lord (1 Pet. 5:7).

Only one fear remains, and that is the holy fear of the Lord God.

### 2. What is the fear of the Lord?

- a. It is a hatred of evil (Prov. 8:13).
- b. It is wisdom (Psalm 111:10).
- c. It is a treasure (Prov. 15:16; Isaiah 33:6).
- d. It is a fountain of life (Prov. 14:27).
- e. It is clean (Psalm 19:9).
- f. It endures forever (Psalm 19:9).
- g. It is godly (Heb. 12:28).

### 3. What are the results of fearing the Lord?

- a. It brings pleasure to the Lord (Psalm 147:11).
- b. It brings acceptance with God (Acts 10:35).
- c. It causes the Lord to comfort His children (Psalm 103:13).

- d. It brings blessings (Psalm 112:1).
- e. It brings separation from evil (Prov. 16:6).
- f. It brings Christian fellowship (Mal. 3:16).
- g. It brings answered prayer (Psalm 145:19).
- h. It brings long life (Prov. 10:27).

**Discussion** - Have the class discuss ways to conquer the weakness of a fearful heart. Then discuss the wisdom of fearing the Lord.

## **Lesson 2 - THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE** (Ephesians 5:18)

Every believer possesses the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16), but the Spirit may reside and not preside in his life. He may be a resident, but not the president. As we yield control of our lives, He fills us more and more with Himself (Luke 11:13). The infilling is received when the believer consciously recognizes the Holy Spirit as being in full control of his life, completely governing every detail.

The original Greek is in the imperative progressive—**keep on being filled**. The filling must be constant and continuous. The Apostle Peter was filled with the Spirit in Acts 2:4, again in Acts 4:8, and again in 4:31. Each day needs its new fullness.

### **1. Conditions of being filled by the Holy Spirit:**

- a. Forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38).
- b. Sonship (Gal. 4:6).
- c. The desire to be filled (John 7:37-39, also Isaiah 44:3).
- d. Faith (John 7:39).
- e. Obedience (Acts 5:32).
- f. Waiting (Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4). Be unhurried.
- g. Prayer (Luke 11:13).
- h. Appropriate the fact (John 1:12).

## **2. Results of being Spirit-filled**

- a. Power to witness (Acts 1:8).
- b. Power to live a victorious Christian life (Acts 20:22-24).
- c. Glory will accrue to the Lord (John 16:14).

**Conclusion:** We are not reservoirs, but channels. We must overflow. Blessings must pour out. Notice the Bible pictures of the working of the Holy Spirit:

1. An overflowing spring (John 4:14).
2. An overflowing fountain (John 7:37-39).
3. Abundance of sap in the tree (Rom. 8:11).
4. Overflowing waters (Eph. 5:18).

**Discussion** - Perhaps some members of the class have recognized that they are not experiencing the filling of the Spirit. A time of confession and prayer may be a means of great blessing.

## **Lesson 3 - RESISTING THE DEVIL (1 Peter 5:8-9)**

We should never forget that Satan attacks every true child of God. This lesson will give some practical ways to ward off those attacks.

- 1. Ways in which Satan attacks Christians (2 Cor 2:11).**
  - a. He makes us lazy.
  - b. He weighs us down with the pressure of duties.
  - c. He oppresses us with nerves, moodiness and daydreaming.
  - d. We have hurt feelings, and become touchy.
  - e. Criticism discourages us—we forget that we must be prepared to receive it.
  - f. Discouragement.
  - g. The temptation to spiritual pride.

## **2. How to resist the devil**

- a. Recognize the problem as an attack of the devil (James 4:7).
- b. Resist, fight, draw the sword (Eph. 6:11).
- c. Use the armor listed in Ephesians 6:10-18.
- d. Put on Christ (Rom. 13:14).
- e. Use the Word (Matthew 4:4,7 and 10).
- f. Use your will power by saying “I will not sin. I resolve by the power of the indwelling Christ to overcome and be victorious over sin.”
- g. Prayer (Eph. 6:18).
- h. Plead the blood of Christ to cover you—“and they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb” (Rev. 12:11).

**Discussion** - What experiences have you had of Satanic attack? What was the most effective means of defeating it?

## **Lesson 4 - HOW TO FIND THE LORD’S WILL**

The problem that faces every Christian is how to determine the will of God. There is a divine blueprint for each one of God’s people, suited to our personalities, talents, needs and environment (Eph. 2:10).

God’s plan for you is very personal, just for you (Psalm 32:8).

It is very detailed (Psalm 37:23).

It is definite and specific (Isaiah 30:21).

God wants us to inquire about His plan (Psalm 143:8), and to be much in prayer for daily detail.

And His plan is always good, acceptable, perfect for each particular believer (Rom.12:2).

### **1. God’s plan always includes these features:**

- a. Separation from sin unto holiness (1 Thess. 4:3).
- b. Prayer and thanksgiving (1 Thess. 5:17-18).
- c. Doing good works (1 Pet. 2:15).

## **2. Methods of guidance**

- a. God often guides through verses of Scripture. Saturate yourself with the Word of God. God's will is never contrary to the Bible.
- b. An inner conviction that is given by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:16; Acts 13:2; John 16:13).
- c. Through circumstances. God closes one door and opens another. Nothing happens to the child of God by accident.
- d. Sometimes, by putting out a fleece (Judges 6:37-39), but care must be taken to not arrange the circumstances.

## **3. George Mueller's formula for finding guidance:**

- a. Surrender your own will. Have no definite choice in the matter. Be absolutely neutral.
- b. Seek the Spirit's will through God's Word.
- c. Note providential circumstances.
- d. Pray for guidance.
- e. Wait on God.

**Discussion** - Have you had definite experiences of God's guidance? How did you determine His leading?

## **Lesson 5 - THE QUIET TIME**

The quiet time is the secret of a Christian's victorious living. Without it, spiritual defeat is certain.

### **1. Abraham's excellent example for the morning quiet time:**

- a. He got up early in the morning. This is an excellent practice.
- b. He had a special place to meet God. We should, too.
- c. He did this daily, not spasmodically.
- d. He stood before the Lord, waiting for the Lord to speak to him.

## **2. Material for the quiet time:**

- a. A Bible—read it faithfully according to a set plan.
- b. A notebook and pen—record some lesson from the Word.
- c. A book with prayer requests—and space for the answers.

## **3. A plan for the quiet time:**

- a. Have your quiet time at the same time each day if possible.
- b. Aim at a systematic plan, probably half time reading and half time praying.
- c. Don't be rigid. Continue praying, if the Spirit leads. If the Word shines with new light, read on and be filled.
- d. A suggested order: a brief prayer, Bible reading, and then prayer. Use the Word as a basis for prayer and petition.

## **Lesson 6 - SEPARATION (1 John 2:15)**

“Love not the world . . .” What does the word “world” mean here? The next verse explains it: it means this present world system which is controlled by Satan.

### **1. Some things we know are wrong:**

- a. Marriage between a believer and an unbeliever is forbidden (2 Cor. 6:14-17; Amos 3:3).
- b. All unrighteousness and all works of darkness (2 Cor. 6:14). This may also include business partnerships.
- c. Belial (the old devil), and infidels (2 Cor. 6:15).
- d. Idols (2 Cor. 6:16).
- e. False teachers (1 Tim. 6:5).
- f. All known forms of sin and immorality (drinking, etc.) (1 Pet. 1:16).

## 2. Basic rules to follow:

- a. I must separate from anything that might overthrow my faith in God.
- b. I must separate from anything that would destroy my testimony.
- c. I must separate from anything that would debase my morals and lead me to sin.
- d. If my action would cause my brother to stumble, then I must not do it (1 Cor. 8:13).
- e. I must separate from anything that harms my body—physically, mentally or emotionally.
- f. Is it pleasing to Jesus Christ? If He would not do it, then I must not (1 Pet. 2:21).
- g. Will it strengthen my testimony? Weaken it? (2 Cor. 6:17).

**Discussion** - Have you had any struggles in separating from sinful practices? Are there still areas of conflict? How can you resolve them?

## Lesson 7 - THE SHEPHERD'S PERSONAL LIFE

The personal life of the shepherd is of prime importance, for people listen to the sermons of Sunday and watch to see how they are fulfilled through the week.

Again and again in his letters to the young preacher Timothy, the aged Apostle Paul insists on purity and piety of life. If the preacher is not living up to his preaching, the people will soon find it out.

1. The shepherd must be a **man of piety**—a pious, holy man who radiates the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. He must be **exemplary in his relationship with his wife and his family**. He must be an example in this to the flock.
3. He must be a **man of prayer**. His people expect him to spend much time in prayer daily—even hours. He needs

this for maintaining his own holiness. Satan will send many temptations to the man of God.

4. He must remain before the Lord until all dross is removed (Isaiah 52:11).
5. He must pray for the flock (1 Sam.12:33; Col. 1:9). His prayers for his people should be by name, person by person, if at all possible.
6. He must be a man with a **passion for the lost and dying** (Acts 20:31).

“Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord.”

**Discussion** - Name some Christian leaders who have been examples to you. What were their outstanding qualities?

## Lesson 8 - INNER MOTIVES

The Lord’s servant must work with a correct motive—to glorify the name of the Lord. Paul’s motive was not money or fame, but men—their salvation and grounding in the faith.

His urgency and passion forced him to press on (1 Cor.1:15-18).

He was willing to forego eating and drinking if men would only believe (1 Cor. 9:4).

He refused a salary at Corinth to avoid suspicion and win more souls. He adapted himself to various classes of men (1 Cor. 9:19-23). He was willing to forbear marriage, home and children if more people would be saved.

The wonderful message, the shortness of time, the nearness of death and the coming of Christ were his motives to do all for His glory (Col. 3:17; 1 Cor. 10:31).

**Discussion** - What were the personal sacrifices Paul made for the sake of the ministry? Do you feel they were important?

Comment on Paul’s four motives listed in this lesson.

## **Lesson 9 - QUALIFICATIONS OF A SPIRITUAL LEADER**

1. He must be blameless, a man of honest reputation, good character and standing (Titus 1:6).
2. He must be the husband of one wife, of a single marriage (Titus 1:6).
3. He must be the father of faithful children, obedient and under control (Titus 1:6). This is the test. If one rules his household well, then he can govern the church.
4. He must not be self-willed; he is not a dictator (Titus 1:7).
5. He is not soon angry (Titus 1:7). Temper and anger have no place here.
6. He is not given to wine (Titus 1:7).
7. He is not violent (Titus 1:7).
8. He is not greedy for money (Titus 1:7). This is important, lest church funds be a snare to him.
9. He is a lover of hospitality (Titus 1:8). He shows love to fellow believers and strangers.
10. He is a lover of all that is good, clean and wholesome (Titus 1:8).

**Discussion** - Consider each of these qualities and show why it is important in a church leader. Are there other traits that you would add to the list?

## **Lesson 10 - ADULTERY**

The devil will do all within his power to bring about the defeat of a servant of God, and nothing pleases him more than to cause a man who is at the height of his ministry to fall—he falls farther and harder, and more often than not, he brings with him others who have been his followers in their walk with the Lord. The sad truth is that many a spiritual leader has fallen from a mountain peak of spiritual victory and privilege to a black valley of defeat because he has been careless in his relationship with

women. His own ministry has been ruined, his character has been irreparably blotted, and the church of Jesus Christ has been subjected to ridicule.

The servant of God must be constantly on guard against temptation. He must nip every temptation in the bud. He should be accompanied by his wife or an elder of the church when he counsels or prays with a woman. He must avoid all appearance of moral misconduct.

You must pray much that God will protect you against Satan's darts, but you must also be alert to every danger signal. We must watch as well as pray.

**Discussion** - Consider Samson and David, and show how their improper relationship with women brought great sorrow.

## **Lesson 11 - LEADERSHIP IN THE HOME**

Piety in the pulpit must be accompanied by piety in the home. Eli was punished because he couldn't control his wicked sons, while God first recognized Abraham's success in the home, and then granted him greater responsibilities.

- 1. The Christian leader must be a model husband.** His devotion to his wife will discourage women from putting temptation in his path. His treatment of her as a partner will demonstrate the respect for women that is the standard of the Church.
- 2. His children should show that they are the product of a loving and orderly home** (1 Tim. 3:12). They should be obedient and under control. It is difficult for strangers to respect a man whose children do not show him respect.
- 3. The leader's home should be open to fellow believers and to strangers** (Titus 1:8). It should have the aura of godliness so that visitors will easily recognize that Christ is the head of that home.

**Discussion** - What will influence the children of a Christian leader to be examples to the other young people of the church? When should their training begin?

## **Lesson 12 - ONLY THE TRUTH!**

“Let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’, and your ‘No,’ ‘No’” (Matt. 5:37).

There are no “little white lies” for the Christian worker. He must be a man who can be trusted. The Lord has strong statements about deceit (see Psalm 101:7).

- 1. Exaggeration** - Evangelists often commit the sin of exaggeration. They often report great crowds in attendance and many, many decisions when the work is actually small. This is done to bring glory to the evangelist, not to God.
- 2. Unkept promises** - If a promise is made, it must be kept. Otherwise the promise becomes a lie, and God has no blessings for liars.

**Discussion** - Read these verses and comment on them: Psalm 101:7; Prov. 12:22; 19:5; Col. 3:9; Rev. 21:8.

## **Lesson 13 - FINANCES**

You would expect that, of all the people in the world, the Christian worker would be the most honest and the most faithful in repaying debts. Sadly, that is not the case. Many businessmen refuse to extend credit or lend money to the Lord’s servants, because they have been cheated by them. How tragic it is for the Christian leader to bring dishonor on the name of the Lord.

Paul’s instruction was very clear: Owe no man anything but love (Rom. 13:8). In personal finances and in handling church monies, the leader must be completely honest. A promise to pay must be fulfilled. If not, his ministry will end in failure, and the Lord’s name will be dishonored.

**Discussion** - Read Romans 12:17. In your opinion, what is its meaning? Have you known Christian workers who have been careless, or dishonest, in their financial affairs? What effect has that had on the cause of Christ?

## **Lesson 14 - DISCIPLINED STUDY**

The Apostle Paul admonished Timothy the young minister to “give attention to reading” (1 Tim. 4:13). Anyone who preaches the Word must get deep into the Word using all the study aids available. Remember this important suggestion: People should learn at least a few new things every time they hear you.

Commentaries and study Bibles should be used freely, as well as the writings of men of God of all ages and of all time. “Much reading maketh a full man.”

**Discussion** - What have you read recently that has strengthened you in the Word? Recount some of the topics.

## **Lesson 15 - KEEP YOUR BODY FIT**

The body is the temple of God and it must be properly cared for (1 Cor. 3:16). Eat balanced food and avoid overeating. Go to bed early and get up early. Get some exercise every day.

Good health habits will give you extra years of service for the Lord. Simple living and high thinking—this should be your watchword.

**Discussion** - Demonstrate some physical exercises that will benefit physical fitness. Discuss other factors that influence health.

## **Lesson 16 - LAZINESS**

Paul had his reason for writing, “We do not want you to become lazy” (Hebrews 6:12). The Christian worker has no supervisor to check the hours he spends on honest labor. He goes

into the pulpit and repeats the same messages he has given many times before. There is often no power behind his preaching because he has spent little time in prayer. His people feel they have no shepherd, for he spends little time in visitation and counseling.

Harvest time is short, and “he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son” (Prov. 10:5). The “hour has come to wake up from your slumber” (Rom. 13:11). You are Christ’s servant, part of a noble calling and responsible for a glorious task. Rise up early in the morning, follow a schedule of worship and service so that every hour is profitably filled. “Wake up, O sleeper!” (Eph. 5:14).

**Discussion** - What are the conditions that make it easy for a preacher to become lazy? Have you known lazy preachers? Did their people respect them?

## Lesson 17 - PRAISE

Are you going through a time of spiritual darkness? Are you weary of a wilderness experience? Are you hanging your head over a burden?

The key to unlock the tunnel of gloom and spiritual defeat is praise. Praise is your medicine; it will work wonders in your body, soul and spirit (Prov. 15:13; 17:22). Praise! Do not waste your time and energy blaming God and others for your circumstances. Divert your eyes from all circumstances and situations and focus them on the Lord. Forget your wounds and aches. Here is your chance to turn your problems into praise, to tell the world that there is One worthy of praise, even in the dark hours.

Sometimes it is not easy to praise—that is the reason we are instructed to offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually.

When you kneel to pray, forget your petitions and read Psalm 103 or another of David's praise songs and concentrate on giving praise to Him in worship.

Again I say, Rejoice.

**Discussion** - Read 2 Chronicles 20:22 and notice the effect that praise had. Then scan the book of Psalms and notice the many injunctions to offer praise to God.

## **Lesson 18 - WHEN TEMPTATIONS COME**

Temptations will come to the servant of God: it is up to him to safeguard himself. When you feel the urge to take one step toward sin, may the Holy Spirit push you back by reminding you of the following:

1. Think of God (Gen. 39:9; 1 Sam. 2:22-25; James 4:4).
2. Think of yourself (1 Cor. 6:18; Prov. 6:32).
3. Think of your spouse (Mal. 2:14-16).
4. Think of your partner in sin (Matt. 18:6).
5. Think of the children (Num. 14:33).
6. Think of the family (Gen. 12:17, 20:18).
7. Think of the shame and remorse (Prov.5:11-14; 6:32-33).
8. Think of the church (1 Cor. 5:1-6; 1 Sam. 2:24).
9. Think of non-Christians (Rom. 2:22,24).
10. Think of the enemies of the gospel (2 Sam.12:13-14).
11. Think of your ministry (Judges 16:19-20; 1 Cor. 9:27).
12. Think of God's judgment (Heb. 13:4; Ezek. 16:38).
13. Think of eternity (Gal. 5:19-21).
14. Finally, think of the future glory if you overcome (Rev. 14:4).

**Discussion** - Which of the above reasons do you consider most important? Why?

## Lesson 19 - IMITATORS

Whether we like it or not, people will imitate the man who stands in the pulpit, both his good points and his bad. Paul said in Ephesians 5:1, “Be imitators of God,” and there is no danger of failure if that advice is followed. But mortal man likes to follow a leader, and the spiritual leader is responsible for the example he sets for his flock.

If he is a man very careful about his walk with God, others will follow on the path of righteousness. But if he finds it easy to flirt with sin and compromise just a little in his Christian standards, they will probably go farther into sin. If he is zealous about seeking the lost and winning souls, he will probably gain some volunteers to begin training for witnessing. But if the leader is slow in reaching out to the lost, his people will likely be Sunday-only Christians, hearers and not doers of the Word. If his is a sacrificial, giving life-style, stingy Christians will soon open their purses and find joy in giving to the Lord.

Paul commended the Thessalonians (1 Thess. 1:6) by saying, “You became imitators of us and of the Lord.” He determined too, to lead a blameless life and said, “I urge you to imitate me” (1 Cor. 4:16).

**Discussion** – What kind of Christian will your example produce?

## Lesson 20 - VICTORY IS SURE!

Read Philippians 3 and 4.

Many of the Lord’s workers suffer an inferiority complex that gnaws from within, rendering them inactive. They are timid about introducing themselves as those serving the Lord. But God counts them “servants of the Most High” (Daniel 3:26). This was the attitude of Paul in serving God (1 Tim. 1:11,12).

God has given us a spirit of power. The Greek word for power in Acts 1:8 is dynamite. No power can stand against this divine power.

Do not underestimate the power God has given you. Attempt the impossible. Reach all possible areas. Never think you cannot reach the rich or the highly educated.

The “little” Paul did great things because he had confidence in God’s power. Realize that power and set to work. Give God a chance to manifest His dynamic power through you.

God needs **YOU**.

**Discussion** - Read these verses and consider some of the weak things God used to demonstrate His power and accomplish great results: Exodus 4:2; Judges 15:15; 1 Sam. 17:40; Zech. 4:10; Matt. 13:32; John 6:9.

A great truth is found in 1 Corinthians 1:27-29. Memorize these verses.

## DENOMINATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS

Each denomination has its own unique characteristics and, since this is a course for all churches, it will be impossible to give a complete description of each one in the printed lessons. The teachers will be able to use the following guidelines, however, to present the history and distinctives of their own group.

At the end of the course the new catechist should feel thoroughly acquainted with his field of service.

### STUDY YOUR DENOMINATION

**Lesson One:** History of the denomination overseas; its roots from other denominations; its founders and early leaders; reasons for its formation.

**Lesson Two:** History of the denomination in your country; the nations in which it works; the size of the church in each nation; the leaders in these other churches.

**Lessons Three, Four and Five:** Doctrinal distinctives: How they differ from other denominations; special emphases and ministries; scriptural bases for these distinctives.

**Lesson Six:** The denomination's national organization; its headquarters and officers; length of terms of officers and method of their election.

**Lesson Seven:** The denomination's schools and hospitals; its department heads; its annual conferences and any other national meetings.

**Lesson Eight:** Its district office and officers; district meetings and calendar.

**Lesson Nine:** Its local educational and medical facilities. The number of villages in the district and the number of villages with pastors or catechists.

**Lesson Ten:** The denomination's training schools for future catechists.

**Lesson Eleven:** The new catechist's responsibilities to his denomination; number of services expected.

**Lesson Twelve:** The preparation of new believers for baptism, using the denomination's liturgical guides.

**Lesson Thirteen:** What the catechist should do when members fall into sin; the denomination's way of handling this problem.

**Lesson Fourteen:** What the catechist should do if he is opposed by sorcerers or tribal leaders.

**Lesson Fifteen:** How weddings are prepared for.

**Lesson Sixteen:** The taking of church offerings and the handling of such money.

**Lesson Seventeen:** The building of church buildings in villages.

**Lesson Eighteen:** The churching of neighboring villages.  
Gospel teams.

**Lesson Nineteen:** Cooperation in districtwide exchanges of catechists for weeks of evangelism, etc.

**Lesson Twenty:** If an overwhelming problem arises in the congregation, to whom should the catechist go for counsel and advice?

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