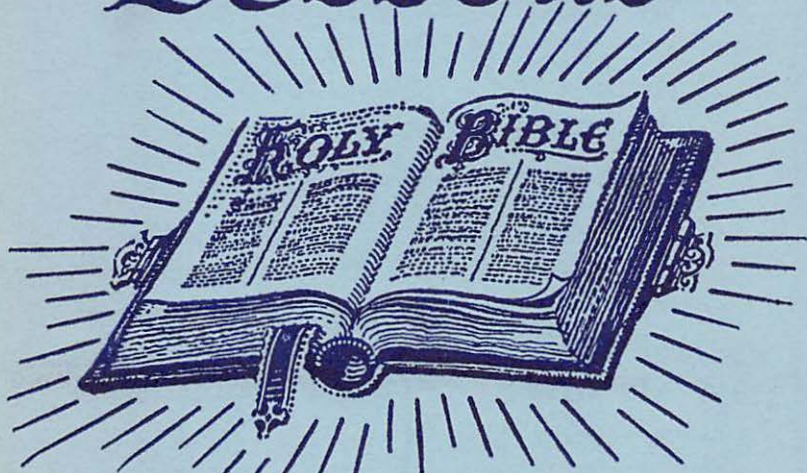


# Bible Lessons



**"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
we are CHANGED . . . ." II Cor. 3:18**

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Vol. 1, No. 2  
April, May, June,  
1969**

**Faith Pub. House  
Guthrie, Okla.  
73044**

# **Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**

---

**Volume 1**

**April, May, June, 1969**

**Number 2**

---

## ***Table of Contents***

	Page
April 6—He Has Risen! .....	1
April 13—The Bible—Written Record of Salvation .....	6
April 20—The Divine-Human Book .....	9
April 27—The Authority of the Bible .....	13
May 4—The Formation and Preservation of the Bible 19	
May 11—The Bible in the Language of the People .....	24
May 18—Keys to Understanding the Bible .....	30
May 25—Bible Background .....	35
June 1—Literary Forms in the Bible .....	39
June 8—Rightly Divide the Scriptures .....	44
June 15—The Bible in the Life of the Church .....	50
June 22—God's Encounter With Men .....	54
June 29—God's Call to Mankind .....	59

---

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of  
Jesus Christ and His Church.**

**Edited by Mrs. Marie Miles, and other co-workers.**

---

**Subscription Price — 35¢ a copy for quarter of year, or  
\$1.40 per year, issued quarterly.**

**Application to mail at second class postage rates is pending  
at Guthrie, Oklahoma.**

---

**Published Quarterly By  
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE  
920 W. Mansur Ave.  
GUTHRIE, OKLAHOMA 73044**

**April 6, 1969**

**HE HAS RISEN!**

**Printed Portion ..... Mark 15:42-47; 16:1-7**

**Mark 15:42** And now when the even was come, because it was the preparation, that is, the day before the sabbath,

**43** Joseph of Arimathaea, an honourable counsellor, which also waited for the kingdom of God, came, and went in boldly unto Pilate, and craved the body of Jesus.

**44** And Pilate marvelled if he were already dead: and calling unto him the centurion, he asked him whether he had been any while dead.

**45** And when he knew it of the centurion, he gave the body to Joseph.

**46** And he bought fine linen, and took him down, and wrapped him in the linen, and laid him in a sepulchre which was hewn out of a rock, and rolled a stone unto the door of the sepulchre.

**47** And Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses beheld where he was laid.

**Mark 16:1** And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him.

**2** And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

**3** And they said among themselves, Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?

**4** And when they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away: for it was very great.

**5** And entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted.

**6** And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

**7** But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

**Memory Verse:** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. 1 Peter 1:3.

**Central Thought:** Christ arose from the dead. He is a Living Person. This is the most important fact in the whole world.

**QUESTIONS:**

1. How did Herod find out that Jesus had already died on the cross? 2. What were the names of the three women who went to put spices on Jesus' body? 3. What great words did He say to the women that has brought joy to people down through the ages and to us today? 4. Why did Jesus mention Peter's name? 5. Will we arise from the graves in the last day, the Judgment Day?

**LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our Lord was put to death on Friday afternoon, before sunset, April 7, A. D. 30. Jesus arose on the first day of the week, on what we call Easter Sunday. The disciples began to meet together on Sunday, the first day of the week from that time. They no longer met on the Sabbath, which is Saturday. Today we meet together on the first day of the week to worship our Lord and Saviour who arose on that day and is alive forevermore.

**Lesson References:** Acts 1:1-11.

**ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES'  
COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

As Jesus looked down upon the crowd that came and went around His cross, I am sure that the little group of faithful followers were a great comfort to Him. I am sure that today Jesus receives comfort from the faithful few who are devoted to Him.

Joseph of Arimathaea no doubt was one of the Sanhedrin, which consisted of 70 members who governed the people. Josephus tells us that there were many gardens and groves around Jerusalem. Joseph had made a new tomb for himself. Nicodemus helped him and they brought fine linen and wrapped the body of Jesus and laid Him in the tomb. A stone was then rolled over the door of the sepulchre. A band of soldiers was dispatched to watch the grave so that none would break the seal and steal His body. (Matt. 27:63-28:1-6) But thank God there is One greater than the authority of men. The power of God shook that grave and Jesus came forth. He arose with victory over death, hell, and the grave. He arose in a glorified body and "become the firstfruits of them that slept." 1 Cor. 15:20. Because He arose, we will arise from the grave in that

last day when Jesus comes bursting through the clouds with power and great glory.

Notice that the angel gave the women a wonderful message to deliver—one of the greatest messages that has ever been given to this world. The plan of salvation would not have been complete if Jesus had not risen. The angel told them to go and tell the disciples that He had risen and that He would see them in Galilee. Peter's name was mentioned because Jesus wanted him to know that he had been forgiven and He expected him to be there. Peter had repented and Jesus had forgiven him. He now was ready to "strengthen the brethren." (Luke 22:31, 32.) Today we rejoice because we are serving a risen Christ. He is alive forevermore and is sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus had been trying all along in His ministry to tell the people that He would be put to death and would arise again the third day but they were not able to receive it. He told them of the temple of His body and how that if they destroyed it He would build it again in three days. They thought He was out of His mind. He told them how Jonah was three days in the whale's belly and pointed out that so He, Christ, must be three days in the heart of the earth. They could not understand what He was talking about. He told Lazarus' sisters that He was the resurrection and the life. They thought He spoke of the last day at the end of time. People just could not believe that He could taste death for every man and yet come forth Himself alive and risen.

It is hard for us yet today to comprehend the meaning of everlasting life. All around us on every hand the ultimate conclusion of life is death. Someone has said that from the moment we are born we begin to die. Every moment we live brings us one step nearer to the inevitable death. But keep this in mind: Sin is the only destroyer of spiritual life that we know of! Sin originally produced physical death, too. Now, Jesus did not commit sin, therefore there was nothing to take His spiritual life. His mortal body He gave as a sacrifice for our sins that we might be saved. His spiritual being He brought forth alive, thus proving to us that we, too, by following in His footsteps may be partakers of that everlasting spiritual life. He taught us when He was here that He had power to forgive sins. Matthew 9:4-6. He also taught us that we were to continue free from sin after we were forgiven. Saint John 5:14; 8:11. Then He gave promise before He left of the sending of the Holy Spirit who would abide in our hearts and

would give us power over sin and would lead us into all truth. The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost and the plan of our salvation was complete. By repenting of our sins and obtaining forgiveness, then yielding to Him and receiving His Holy Spirit, we are preserved blameless and kept free from sin. Only sin destroys. No sin, no destruction, therefore we have eternal life. —C. Wilson

---

## EXCERPTS FROM A LETTER WRITTEN BY PONTIUS PILATE TO TIBERIUS CAESAR, EMPEROR OF ROME

"Father," said I to him, after gaining control of my feelings, "who are you, and what is your request?"

"I am Joseph of Arimathaea," he replied, "and am come to beg of you upon my knees the permission to bury Jesus of Nazareth."

"Your prayer is granted," said I to him; and at the same time ordered Manlius to take some soldiers with him to superintend the interment lest it should be profaned.

\* \* \*

When the great excitement arose about the sepulchre being found empty, I felt a deeper solicitude than ever. I sent for Malcus, who told me he had placed his lieutenant, Ben Isham, with one hundred soldiers around the sepulchre. He told me that Isham and the soldiers were very alarmed at what had occurred there that morning. I sent for this man Isham, who related to me as near as I can remember the following circumstances: He said at about the beginning of the fourth watch, they saw a soft and beautiful light over the sepulchre. He at first thought that the women had come to embalm the body of Jesus, as was their custom, but he could not see how they had got through the guards. Whilst these reflections were passing through his mind, behold, the whole place was lighted up, and there seemed to be crowds of the dead in their grave clothes. All seemed to be shouting and filled with ecstasy, while all around and above was the most beautiful music he had ever heard; and the whole air seemed to be full of voices praising God. At this time there seemed to be a reeling and swimming of the earth, so that he turned so sick and faint that he could not stand on his feet. He said the earth seemed to swim from under him, and his senses left him, so that he knew not what did occur. I asked him in what condition he was when he came to himself? He said he was lying on the ground with his face down. I asked him if he could not have been mistaken as to the light? Was it not day that was coming in the east? He said at first he thought of that, but at a stone's

cast it was exceedingly dark; and then he remembered it was too early for day. I asked him if his dizziness might not have come from being wakened up and getting up too suddenly, as it sometimes had that effect? He said he was not, and had not been asleep all night, as the penalty was death for him to sleep on duty. He said he had let some of the soldiers sleep at a time. Some were asleep then. I asked him how long the scene lasted? He said he did not know but he thought nearly one hour. He said it was hid by the light of day. I asked him if he went to the sepulchre after he had come to himself? He said not, because he was afraid; that just as soon as relief came they all went to their quarters. I asked him if he had been interrogated by the priests? He said he had. They wanted him to say it was an earthquake, and to say they were asleep and offered him money to tell that the disciples came and stole him; but he saw no disciples; he did not know that the body was gone until he was told so. I asked him what was the private opinion of those priests he had conversed with. He said some of them thought that Jesus was no man; that he was not a human being; that he was not the son of Mary; that he was not the same that was said to be born of the virgin in Bethlehem; that the same person had been on the earth before with Abraham and Lot, and at many times and places.

It seems to me if the Jewish theory be true, these conclusions would be correct, for, to sum up his life, it would be in accord with this man's life, as is known and testified by both friends and foes; for the elements were no more in his hands than the clay in the hands of the potter. He could convert water into wine; he could change death into life, diseases into health; he could calm the seas, still the storms, call up the fish with a silver coin in its mouth. Now, I say if he could do all these things—which he did—and many more as the Jews testify; and it was doing these things that created this enmity against him; he was not charged with criminal offenses, nor was he charged with violating any law, nor of wronging any individual person; all these facts are known to thousands, as well by his foes as by his friends; so I am almost ready to say, as did Manulas at the cross, "Truly this was the Son of God." (Order "How We Got Our Bible" from this office for more complete account.)

**April 13, 1969**

**THE BIBLE—WRITTEN RECORD OF REVELATION**

**Printed Portion Heb. 1:1-4; 1 John 1:1-4; John 20:30, 31**

Heb. 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

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

4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.

John 20:30 And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book:

31 But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

**Memory Verse:** But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name. John 20:31.

**Central Thought:** The Bible is the inspired Word of God and we will be judged by its contents.



## **QUESTIONS:—**

1. Who are some of the prophets that God spoke through in the Old Testament? 2. How has God spoken to us through His Son in these last days? 3. When we are told that Jesus is the express image of God, does it mean physically or spiritually? (Luke 24:39) 4. Is Jesus just like the angels? 5. To whom was John referring when he said, "That which was from the beginning"? 6. What kind of "life" does John mean?

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Last Sunday we finished our study in the book of Mark. I am sure that you have a deeper love for our blessed Lord than you had before if you studied with an open heart.

Today we start a series of lessons on the Bible—how it has been preserved for us, its revelation, and authority. We thank God for the precious Bible. The poet has told us, "Get acquainted with the author and you will know the book is true." We trust that you are acquainted with the author of this precious Book.

**Lesson References: Deuteronomy 6:20-25**

## **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Christ is the Center and Heart of the whole Bible. The promise of a Saviour was given in the first book of the Bible. All through the Old Testament the purpose in all of God's plan for His people was to get them ready for the coming of Jesus Christ. The Prophets, through the inspiration of the Spirit, spoke and wrote of His coming. Moses also wrote of Him and Abraham was chosen to be the Father of the nation through which He was to be born.

The New Testament tells us the full story of how Christ came, lived, and died on the cross. Thank God, He arose again. He is not just a person of past history who lived and died, but He lived, died, and came to life again. Today He is ready to help all of those who will come to Him with godly sorrow.

Our lesson tells us that all things are held up "by the word of his power." Surely our Saviour is a great and mighty God. The same word that spoke the world into existence will some day speak it out.

The Apostle John tells us that they knew for sure that Jesus came. They saw Him with their eyes, they touched Him with their hands, and they witnessed the miracles He performed. They declared all of these things to us so we could have fellowship with God, the Father, and with Jesus Christ, His Son.

Knowing Jesus brought joy to their hearts and lives and they wanted our joy to be full by knowing Him, also.

They wrote about Him in the New Testament that we might believe in Him so He could give us eternal life through the purging of our sins. The word "purge" means "to free from guilt; to purify; to become free of impurities; to remove in cleansing." (Webster) Just as soapy water cleans and washes away dried food from dishes, just so the cleansing blood of Jesus purifies, cleans, and washes away our sins from our souls.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"And the express image of his person." Philip one time said to Christ, "Show us the Father," and Jesus said, "Have I been with you all this time and you haven't seen the Father? He that has known me has known the Father also." Do you want to be better acquainted with God? Get to know Jesus a little better. Want to know how God would act under given circumstances and in specific conditions? Study the life of Christ. Want to understand the personality of God and how He would manifest Himself? Watch Jesus closely and study His reactions among the people. These qualities are vitally important to us when we consider that He admonished us to follow in His footsteps who did no sin neither was guile found in His mouth. Just as Jesus was in His express image, so must we be transformed into His express image if we expect to meet Him in peace and dwell with Him in the hereafter.

In the early history of man God spoke to the people by dreams and visions, and then later He gave the law and the prophets. Each step was bringing man into closer contact with God until finally He sent to all the world the person of His own dear Son to teach us of all things concerning Himself. That is the reason we say again it is vitally important that you and I, if we would hope to make a success of our Christian experience, must study Christ. The life He lived is the life we must live. The rules He observed must govern our lives. The Spirit He partook of must feed us if we expect to live. He is the way, the truth, and the life. We must possess Him or we forfeit life.

—C. Wilson

### WHY THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION IS EVIL

Claiming that man evolved by chance from the lowest forms of life would separate man from his Creator. It would cut him off from responsibility to God. If God were not our Maker, He would not be our Master and would have no right of authority over us. This theory contradicts the Bible account. This

theory would leave the human race orphans with no one to answer to but themselves, a picture as repugnant as it is blasphemous and evil. This evil theory is responsible for much of the lawlessness among adults and young people today. This teaching is sending souls to hell by the millions. This theory brings depression and misery to the soul of those who believe it. Only through Christ can we have peace and hope. Believe and accept the teachings of the Son of God who came in the flesh to show us the way to heaven and through Him we can have authority over the devil to live without sin and be ready to meet our God in peace at death.

Jesus told those around Him, "For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?" John 5:45, 47. This proves to us that Jesus believed the Old Testament and read Moses' words. Jesus believed in the creation truths because He was there to help create all things. How precious it is to us to know that the Bible is true and what a comfort it is to know that we can find peace to our souls through obeying it! —M. Miles

---

April 20, 1969

## THE DIVINE-HUMAN BOOK

**Printed Portion — Luke 1:1-4; 1 Cor. 2:12, 13; 2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Tim. 3:14-16; 2 Peter 1:20, 21**

Luke 1:1 Forasmuch as many have taken in hand to set forth in order a declaration of those things which are most surely believed among us,

2 Even as they delivered them unto us, which from the beginning were eyewitnesses, and ministers of the word;

3 It seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write unto thee in order, most excellent Theophilus,

4 That thou mightest know the certainty of those things, wherein thou hast been instructed.

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

13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

2 Cor. 4:7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

2 Tim. 3:14 But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them;

15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

2 Pet. 1:20 Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.

21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

**Memory Verse:** But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us. 2 Corinthians 4:7.

**Central Thought:** We must recognize the fact that God, by His Spirit, prompted the writings that man wrote in the Bible, which makes it God's Word.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We notice that a number of Scriptures have been taken from various parts of the New Testament. All seven books mentioned were written between A. D. 50 and A. D. 95. This is to give us proof that the Bible was written by men, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, thus the title given to us as the Bible being Divine—human.

**Lesson Reference—Isaiah 55:6-11.**

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The Bible is being put in the background today by many, but that does not change the fact that it is the most important book in the world. The reading of the Bible has mostly been taken out of the schools and the primary purpose of this is to try to make our young people and children feel that it is not very important. A question was asked on an exam paper as to which book was read most. One pupil answered the Bible.

The teacher became angry and gave that pupil an "F" because the answer was supposed to be a science book with a certain theory in it. This was done not only to embarrass the pupil, but also to use that one as an example and afford an opportunity for the teacher to discredit the Bible before the other classmates. The teacher wanted to instill a dislike in the minds of the students and cause a shame to be placed upon the Bible. We are living in perilous times and it will take God to help you to stand up for God's Word. Adults and young people alike feel the pressure from the world against God's Holy Word.

Let us not miss the point of our lesson. We want to think of those who wrote the books of the Bible as men like those of today who lived in the time when Jesus walked among men. They had their own ideas and opinions before they met Christ and had to be convinced of His deity. The life of kindness, tenderness, and divinity that He lived, the miracles He wrought, and the gospel He preached convinced them that Jesus was truly from heaven—the Son of God and also the son of man. Luke wrote to his friend Theophilus that the things they had seen and heard were "most surely believed among us." He gives us a firm foundation on which to build our faith in Jesus because Luke said, "having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first." Let these facts settle down into your hearts and minds and believe the Bible. We need to continue in the things which were written to us and that we have heard. The Bible is a treasure to us and we should store it up in our hearts. If we believe and receive its precepts into our hearts it will make us "wise unto salvation." We cannot put our private interpretation upon the Bible and know what God requires of us. We need to pray that God will reveal His will to us through the Spirit of God speaking to us by His Word.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus came and brought forgiveness for our sins, but that is only the beginning of the plan of salvation. The blood of bulls and goats brought atonement for sins committed. Christ's sacrifice went further, yea, it penetrated into the spiritual realm, got right to the root of the matter and provided a way whereby mankind could be freed from the condition of heart that caused him to go astray. (Matt. 3:10) If the cause be removed, then there is no longer any need of nor excuse for our going astray from God. The method He used was to offer the perfect sacrifice (1 Pet. 2:22) and submit it to God as an offering for our need on the premise that we must believe in Him and accept Him as our Saviour. Then He went on and

taught us to offer ourselves fully and completely upon the altar of His love, (Rom. 12:1) surrendering our all into His hands and in exchange He would send His Holy Spirit into our hearts to guide us into all truth. (John 16:12-14) This is the treasure we have in earthen vessels, the pearl of great price, the treasure hid in a field. It is Christ in us the hope of glory. (Col. 1:26, 27.)

Here is the important feature of the entire program: The Holy Ghost does not come into and abide in hearts unless and until they are completely surrendered into His control. God does not occupy and use an unclean or unholy vessel. Any vessel contaminated with self or the things of the flesh or that is walking contrary to the word of God need not fool themselves into thinking the Holy Spirit is abiding in their hearts or ruling their lives. That which is holy will not mix with that which is unholy. (Matt. 6:22-24; James 3:8-12.)

Down through the ages when God found a man who would yield to Him with all his heart to all he knew and understood, God would send the Holy Spirit to that one and inspire him to write His Word. The Word is God's dictated by His Holy Spirit, and humanity that had met the conditions was merely the instrument used to record it for us. The requirements then were the same as it is today, namely we must yield ourselves to God.

—C. Wilson

#### QUESTIONS:—

1. What purpose did Luke have in writing the true accounts told to him by those who were eye-witnesses of Jesus and His works? 2. By whose wisdom did Paul speak? 3. Why could the Apostle Paul instruct Timothy to live by the teachings that he had been taught? 4. What profit are the Scriptures to us? 5. Were the Scriptures of private interpretation?

#### WHY DOES MAN NEED A BIBLE?

The answer is found in one of those unusual stories, told by one who was there, Clarence W. Hall.

It was in the spring of 1945. The U. S. Military forces were hammering away at stubborn lines of defense on the bloody island of Okinawa. Casualties were heavy. While forcing their way across the island, advance patrols rolled into a little village called Shimabuku. They were stunned by what they saw. At the village entrances they were greeted by two old men who bowed very low and greeted them as fellow Christians.

They had seen other villages on Okinawa; uniformly drab, unkept, dirty and depressing. Shimabuku, in contrast, "shone like a diamond in a dung heap." Its people were happy; the homes were spotless; the fields were terraced, fertile and neat.

Unexpectedly they had dropped into an oasis. Storehouses were well filled. Here was a model community in every respect.

What had caused it? In answer to their probing questions, a thrilling story unfolded. Thirty years before, an American missionary had stopped at the village enroute to Japan. During his brief stay he made two converts—the two men who greeted the GIs at the village entrance. They had learned two hymns and were given a copy of the Bible written in Japanese. That was all. For thirty years their only source of instruction had been the Bible. But they had taken the Bible seriously. The Ten Commandments were adopted as the legal code. The Sermon on the Mount became their guide in social relationships and ethics. The Bible became their major book of literature. It was studied daily by all students. It was read extensively, and major portions were memorized.

The effects were most amazing. Being nurtured daily on the Bible, taking its precepts at face value and applying them closely to life, in thirty years a whole generation and an entire village was totally transformed. A new culture emerged. The sole source of such a transformation was one book—the Bible—God's Word which does change those who will read it and obey the truths found therein.

Intrigued by their amazing discovery, after the tide of battle had swept on, two GIs returned to bask in Shimabuku's oasis of serenity. Escorted through the village by gracious hosts, their closing comment sums up that which the world needs to know: "So this is what comes out of only one Bible and a couple of old men who wanted to live like Jesus!" Then looking at a shell hole near by the other responded, "Maybe we're using the wrong kind of weapons to make the world over."

---

April 27, 1969

## **THE AUTHORITY OF THE BIBLE**

**Printed Portion Deut. 6:4-7; Rom. 16:25-27; 2 Pet. 1:16-19**

Deut. 6:4 Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God is one Lord:

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

6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:

7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine

house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.

Rom. 16:25 Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began,

26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:

27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.

2 Pet. 1:16 For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.

17 For he received from God the Father honour and glory, when there came such a voice to him from the excellent glory, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

18 And this voice which came from heaven we heard, when we were with him in the holy mount.

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

**Memory Verse:** All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. 2 Tim. 3:16.

**Central Thought:** Men of the Old Bible wrote with divine authority about things they did not clearly understand, but it came to pass and was revealed to the followers of Jesus.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

The words of Moses were spoken toward the end of his life between 1250 and 1400 B. C. The Book of Romans was possibly written in A. D. 55. II Peter was probably written twenty years later.

**Lesson Reference:** Mark 12:28-34.



## ADULT COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God spoke in our lesson to parents, instructing them to love God. It is very important to be the right kind of example to children. God commanded parents to teach the commandments of God diligently to their children. He told them just when they should do it so it would be the most impressive. The teaching of our children is a very important work. How quickly a little child will respond to the love of Jesus! When a mother picks up her little one and hugs him tightly and says, "Oh, how I do love Jesus!" that child will smile sweetly and say, "I love Him, too." She has been able to get over to that little heart the love of Jesus in such a way that the child feels secure and safe when told of how great and big Jesus is. When that child needs punishing, he needs to know that he has displeased Jesus, also. But don't leave him with just those words. Please show him how to fix things up with Jesus, too. Tell him that he can ask Jesus to forgive him and it will be made all right again. Tell him how he needs to pray and watch that he does right so he can always make Jesus happy. As a child grows older, teach him how to be "born again" and how to live a life of victory. Help him keep his heart tender toward God. Keep the fear of God upon him. Parents will need to pray much themselves and love the Lord sincerely to be an example to their children.

When children are young they can memorize scriptures easily and will not forget them. They need to be encouraged to do this. Help them to store up the Word of God in their memory.

Our lesson points out how we have not followed fables, for what the Bible teaches is true. There is power in obedience to the Bible. It will bring salvation and many other blessings.

Peter tells about being with the Lord on the mount of transfiguration and hearing God speak out of heaven. We can safely obey Jesus' words because it has come to us from God. The Bible is not a fable, but is truth and a mystery that has been revealed to those whose hearts are right and honest before God.

—M. Miles

## YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The first part of our lesson is a commandment to parents but there is also a part in it for you. God is so interested in you that He wants you to know from a little child the Scriptures and commandments of God. Always keep your heart open to the Word of God. Let a love for Him grow and grow until you can be able to let it flow out in your life and it will be a blessing to your parents and other young people.

There is nothing more beautiful than a sweet young life devoted to God. You have a great influence. Many think that young people cannot be an example or live a devoted life for God. When one does it has a great influence on the lives of others.

You don't know how it thrills older people for a young person to show a little interest in them.

The Apostle Peter tells us that they did not believe nor follow "cunningly devised fables." The Bible is not a fable. When it says that God prepared a great fish to swallow Jonah, we know that it is true. When the Bible tells us that Jesus is the Son of God, we know that is true. Peter goes on to tell us that he was there and heard God speak out of heaven on the mount of transfiguration. He tells us that we "do well that take heed" to these things. You need to take heed to the words of the Bible. You need to read the Bible and memorize the Scriptures. Store it up in your minds. Believe it and know that when you are in need God will help you. The Bible truths will be a comfort to you and something to make you feel secure in a world of trouble. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The definition of authority is (1) power or right to command or act; dominion; control; (2) the power derived from opinion, respect or esteem; (3) influence conferred by character, station, mental superiority; (4) that to which or one to whom reference may be made in support of any fact, opinion, action, etc.—Webster. The world about us today in a great degree has decided to discredit the authority of God and the authenticity of His Word. As a result they go about to prove their point. (1) By the very conduct of their lives, full of sin and wickedness, they convince themselves that God has no right nor power to command. They may sin if they choose, therefore He has no dominion or control over them. They do as they please. (2) Back in the late 1800's and early 1900's, popular opinion was a deep and profound respect for religion in general and the things of God in particular. Even the wicked who lived degraded lives would respect and encourage the one who would walk uprightly and be honest. Nominal religious systems about us worked effectively to break this down by allowing unrighteous lives to be accepted as good Christian lives and even teaching that man could not live sinless anyway. As a result, esteem for God and His Word has deteriorated rapidly for they say, "These don't live any better than I and I am just a sinner." (3) Christ designed His church so that we all could be changed from our sinful nature into the likeness of

Himself, pure and holy in this life, thus demonstrating Him to the world about us, creating an influence that would attract men unto Himself. (John 12:32.) Man's failure to meet the standard of the Word in his profession of Christianity sacrificed the character and station of the Saviour in the eyes of men. They are now willing to confirm that Christianity does not do for mankind what it proclaims in its written form, therefore it is not superior to any other system about us, such as lodges or even governmental theories. (4) In the early years of this nation God was a prominent source of authority and His Word was appealed to often and regularly as a final authority. He was recognized in legal proceedings and men everywhere respected His Word. Men today have set about to prove the Word untrue, refusing the creation, ridiculing the miracles of the Word, rejecting even the virgin birth of our Saviour, etc. (See Romans 8:5-8.)

Where then, is the authority of the Word and to whom does it apply? 1 Peter 2:6-8 gives the answer: "Unto you therefore which believe." Here is the secret. If we believe Him, He becomes all things to us. That gives Him power to command our lives; gives Him dominion over us and full control; our respect and esteem for Him causes us to fear to transgress His written law; the influence of His pure holy character overwhelms us and we recognize His superior wisdom and station above us. He becomes our final authority in every phase of our lives. We must believe. —C. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:—

1. Read Mark 12:28-34. Jesus also teaches this truth.
2. How often were parents to teach their children about God?
3. What was the mystery that was kept secret from the beginning of the world, but is now revealed? 3. Who were eyewitnesses of Jesus and His works while He was here on earth?
4. What is the light that our lesson refers to that shineth in a dark place?

### POLYCARP—FRIEND OF THE APOSTLES

Irenaeus wrote, "I can tell the very place in which Polycarp used to sit. I used to listen as he told about his discussions with John and the rest of those who had seen the Lord."

The death of the Apostle John about A. D. 100 marked the passing of the last known eyewitness of Jesus' life on earth.

Not much is known about Polycarp's early life. But his later writings, and evidence from other's writings, show that he was a disciple of the Apostle John and that he must have known Andrew and Philip.

Persecution and hate from the pagan were flaring against the Christians, and Polycarp's response was, "Pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you."

Polycarp said, "I have testimony personally from the disciples of the Lord. Christ was really born in the flesh. And the apostles believed the Old Testament to be inspired."

In February, 155 or 156, A. D., Polycarp's city reverberated with a noisy crowd gathered to attend heathen sports spectacles. Many Christians had been thrown to the arena's wild beasts.

When the last martyr of a group of eleven Christians was gobbled up, the bloodthirsty crowd shouted, "More, More!" Then another cry, "Make search for Polycarp!" The bishop had long been despised by the pagans.

"Bishop Polycarp, the mob at the arena is calling for you," a messenger told him excitedly. "Quick, we must get you out of Smyrna!" (Rev. 2:8, 10.)

The man of God solemnly shook his head. "Let me stay here. I am ready to die for my Lord."

His friends persuaded him and he consented to be taken to a farm outside the city. One day after prayer he told his friends, "I have seen a vision of a pillow blazing with fire. I must be burned alive." He was moved to a second farm, but searchers soon arrived there. They seized two young slaves who, they felt, knew where the bishop was hiding. After torture, one of the slaves disclosed Polycarp's location. The police discovered Polycarp in bed in the upper room of a small cottage. The 86-year-old man arose calmly and said, "You must be hungry." Waving to his friends he commanded, "Bring as much food and drink as they wish."

"Let me pray undisturbed," he asked, and he stood and prayed for two hours. "I'm ready to go now," he told the men.

They took the aged bishop into the city. There Herod, the chief of police, pleaded with Polycarp to recant. "What harm is there to say, 'Lord Caesar'?"

"I will not do it," the aged saint spoke resolutely.

The police chief led Polycarp into the arena that rocked with shrieking laughter, curses, and drunken shouts.

"Are you Polycarp?" the proconsul asked above the noise.

"I am," was the reply.

"You are an old man. It is not necessary that you die. You have but to swear by Caesar and say to the Christians, 'Away with the atheists,' and I will gladly release you."

"Take the oath, and I shall release you. Curse Christ," continued the proconsul.

"Eighty-six years have I served Him, and He never did me wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

"I have wild beasts. I shall throw you to them if you do not change your mind," the proconsul warned.

"Call them," Polycarp replied firmly.

"I shall have you consumed with fire if you despise the wild beasts."

Polycarp answered, "The fire you threaten burns but an hour and is quenched; you do not know the fire of the coming judgment and everlasting punishment laid up for the impious. But why do you delay? Come, do what you will."

At this the proconsul sent his herald into the arena to proclaim three times: "Polycarp has confessed himself to be a Christian!" Hearing this the crowd loosed a torrent of abuse. Some charged: "This is the teacher of Asia, the destroyer of our gods. Loose a lion on him!"

"The wild beast sports have been brought to a close," an official answered.

"Then burn him alive!" screamed the pagans.

Quickly a fire was prepared. Polycarp was brought to the scene of execution as spectators craned and jostled for a good view. The executioner approached Polycarp to nail him to the stake but the victim said calmly, "Leave me as I am. He who grants me to endure the fire will enable me to remain on the pyre unmoved, without the security you wish from the nails."

Then the gentle, fearless bishop lifted his voice in prayer, praising God that he was "deemed worthy to die." The fire was lighted and a sheet of flame flashed upward about his body. When his body did not immediately crumble in the flames, an executioner stabbed him with a dagger. So ended the earthly life of the beloved bishop of Smyrna and student of Apostle John.

—o—

May 4, 1969

## THE FORMATION AND PRESERVATION OF THE BIBLE

Jer. 36:27, 28, 32; John 21:24, 25; 2 Pet. 3:15b-18

Jer. 36:27 Then the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, after that the king had burned the roll, and the words which Baruch wrote at the mouth of Jeremiah, saying,

28 Take thee again another roll, and write in it all the former words that were in the first roll, which Jehoiakim the king of Judah hath burned.

32 Then took Jeremiah another roll, and gave it to Baruch the scribe, the son of Neriah; who wrote therein from the mouth of Jeremiah all the words of the book which

Jehoakim king of Judah had burned in the fire: and there were added besides unto them many like words.

John 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written.

2 Pet. 3:15b Even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;

16 As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction.

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

**Memory Verse:** Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. Mark 13:31.

**Central Thought:** God has preserved His Word against all opposition to destroy it. Now in this age people are trying to discredit its authenticity.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

God commanded Jeremiah to write in one roll all the predictions he had uttered against Israel and Judah and other nations. When they were read to King Jehoiaquim, he had them burned. This was about 650 B. C.

The gospel of John was supposed by some to have been written 68 or 70 A. D. Second Peter was supposed to have been written about 75 A. D.

**Lesson Reference—Psalm 119:129-136.**

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The very first Bibles were written on papyrus. Later the Bible was written on parchment that looked like paper, but it

was goatskins which were treated so they could be written on with ink. It was real strong. This was made into rolls called scrolls. The oldest known Bible is the Jonan manuscript of the complete New Testament in Syriac-Aramic of about 350 A. D. now in the Library of Congress.

Our lesson speaks of the words of Jeremiah being written on scrolls, or a roll. We notice how God caused Jeremiah to be sure that His words were recorded again even if the king burned the first roll. We do thank God for preserving the Bible down through the ages. Just to think that God has taken care of His Word since the beginning of time makes us know that only God could have done it. In reading history we find that there were times when only a very few seemed to have any fear of God upon them or worshipped Him, yet God preserved His Word. He knew we would have need of it. Today there is no need for anyone to be without a copy of the Bible as they are plentiful and inexpensive in our land.

How sad that people today are doing the same thing that the Apostle Peter said they did about the Apostle Paul's writings in his day. They are twisting the Scriptures to their own destruction. Many false teachers today are teaching that no one can live without sinning. They do not live without sin themselves so they cannot teach that others do. Yet the very purpose of Jesus' coming was to save people from their sins. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus for he shall save his people from their sins." Matt. 1:21. The Bible plainly says, "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." 1 John 3:9. "Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him." 1 John 3:6. There are many other Scriptures to prove that God does have a salvation for us that saves us from our sins and He has grace for us to live daily without sinning. We can be pure and holy in His sight and be ready to meet him in the hour of death without sin. The Apostle Peter tells us to "beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked. . ."

God wants us to study His Word so we can grow in the knowledge of Him.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus, in His prayer, uttered these words, "Thy word is truth." John 17:17. It is upon this foundation stone that the entire Bible is laid. Except the Word be true, all true without any wavering or variance of any kind, we live our lives in vain. If Satan can convince a man that one point, just one single point of Scripture is false, immediately the entire structure of Scripture collapses so far as that man is concerned. If one

point is wrong, how does he know others are not wrong, also? How can he tell what to believe? Many an honest soul has fallen victim to this very snare. Paul had a firm conviction about God and His Word. (Rom. 3:3, 4.) He also had a believing heart.

Let us recognize in God the personification of all the virtues of character and moral stature that elevate and upgrade the soul. Those qualities that beckon us upward to a finer, nobler, purer life reach their ultimate attainment in the person of God. If we are willing to accept that, then it becomes unthinkable for us to believe that He would speak to us a lie. That would make Him a liar when He is actually altogether honest in every way. To lie would mar His perfect character and degrade Him to the level of our adversary, the devil, for he is pointed out as the source of lies. (John 8:44.)

It is not possible that God would deliver unto us an untruth. This is why we refer to the Bible as "the truth." When it is "rightly divided" and understood by a pure heart, there is no flaw nor contradiction in it. Truth, then, becomes a fortress, a bulwark, a strong high tower, a munition against which there is no power able to prevail. Truth is enduring. It does not change nor alter its requirements. Men may change, movements may change, in fact, all mankind might reject the truth and count it as error, but know this, the truth will still remain the same. (Mal. 3:6.) All men will face it in the Judgment, it being then just exactly like it is now and always has been. We sometimes speak of "defending the truth" with the impression that unless we "hold it up" it will "go down." Be assured that the truth does not rest on men's shoulders nor does it depend on humanity for its strength and steadfastness. Truth will never "go down," even if all men turn their backs on it and forsake it, it will remain unchanged. It is its own defense. At the final Judgment Bar where all will appear, truth will plead its own case without any support from the subjects being tried.

Failure to stand by the truth and acknowledge its truthfulness will result in great damage to our own souls and will mean our separation from God, but our failure will leave the truth just like it was—unchanged. Truth preserves itself. Our failure to adhere to all the truth might well do damage to other souls about us, our influence leading them astray and causing them to err, but truth is still available to them if they will seek and find it. (Heb. 2:1-3.)

—C. Wilson

#### QUESTIONS:—

1. How did God preserve the words of Jeremiah for us today?
2. What did John say about the spoken words of



Jesus? 3. What did Peter say about the Apostle Paul's writings which he had read? 4. Are people today "wresting" the Scriptures? 5. How can we "grow in the knowledge of our Lord"? 6. Will God's Word be here when the heavens and earth pass away?

### KING JAMES VERSION

For any translator of any language there are many problems, we admit. For instance, there might be several words in the English language that would have the same meaning and be used, when only one word is used in the language from which it is being translated, and vice versa. The Scripture in John 15:4 says, "Abide in me, and I in you." The word "abide" in the Greek is *Meno*, but in the English it can mean "to remain, continue, tarry, endure, to stand, be present."

Translations of the Bible and when they appeared:

Wycliffe Bible appeared in 1380 (English).

Purvey Bible appeared in 1388.

Tyndale translated in English all of the New Testament and part of the Old by 1526.

Cloverdale's Bible 1535.

Matthews 1537.

Great Bible and Traverners Bible 1539.

Geneva Bible 1560.

Bishop's Bible 1569.

The King James Version of the Bible is the result of more than eighty years' labor for English translators before its publication in 1611.

In the year of 1604 King James appointed 54 men to translate the Bible. They in turn searched the land for men skilled in the Hebrew and Greek tongue. They sent suggestions to these men. These men relied heavily on the other recent translations of that day.

The reason for this translation was the move of "back to the Bible" emphasis and also the reformers were seeking to break away from Roman Catholicism and establish Reformation principles. King James was asked for a new translation by the Puritans.

The King James Version has come up through the centuries, surviving many criticisms. It has won its way into the hearts of the people. It still stands today as the best loved book in the world. It has been lived by and people have died victoriously by its teachings for over 350 years. The minor differences in views of different translators of words has not taken away the power of the written Word.

The most important thing is that we each one translate the Bible into our individual lives. Through its pages God speaks concerning His will and way for the human family. We must live according to God's will to make it into heaven and have peace in our souls here in this life.

The American Standard Version was printed in 1901. There are many more translations.

We have been convinced that if we live by the King James Version that the power of God will work in our lives and that God honors that version. In these last days it has been proved by the experiences of thousands that God works through the King James Translation. —M. Miles

---

May 11, 1969

## **THE BIBLE IN THE LANGUAGE OF THE PEOPLE**

**Printed Portion ..... Acts 2:1-12**

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galileans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers of Mesopotamia, and in Judea and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia.

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

**11** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

**12** And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?

**Memory Verse:** Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. Acts 2:11

**Central Thought:** The Bible truths are for all the people of all the world.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The events on the day of Pentecost occurred in May, A.D. 30, in Jerusalem.

**Lesson Reference—Romans 8:28-39.**

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The disciples (as recorded in the 14th chapter of John) grieved because Jesus was going away, but if He had not gone away we would not have the Comforter which is the Holy Spirit, to dwell in our hearts today. Jesus said that the Spirit of truth would "be in you." (verses 17, 23, 26) The time came as planned by God on the day of Pentecost which was the feast fifty days after the Passover when Jesus was crucified. Pentecost came just ten days after Jesus ascended up into the heavens. This also was a time of the year when greater numbers than at any other time flocked to Jerusalem to be at the feast of Pentecost since it was early spring. It was a time of celebrating the giving of the law on Mt. Sinai to the Israelites. God wanted the whole world to know about the coming of the Holy Spirit to live in the hearts of those who were justified.

When all the disciples were together in one place and in one heart and mind, God performed a miracle and sent the Holy Spirit upon them. The Bible plainly tells us that there were "devout men, out of every nation under heaven" there at this time. Fifteen different classes were mentioned. Some may have lived there, others may have come to the feast and would be there only for a short time. Now they were amazed and "confounded because that every man heard them speak in his own language." Let this truth settle down into your heart and mind so you can be fortified against many false teachings in the world today about a jabber being the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit. This was a language. It was a miracle from God. The listeners were not deceived, they knew they were listening to the gospel in their mother tongue. None of

the speakers were foreigners but mostly Galileans who certainly had not been abroad nor to school to acquire such a command of foreign tongues. We do not believe that the tongues at Pentecost were unintelligible gibberish nor frenzied utterances, but distinct, articulate, and reasonable speech. It had its effect upon all. Some were confounded. They either would accept it or reject it. Others made fun of them. Yet we believe a large number thanked God for the manifestations of the Spirit of God to them. They heard the gospel in their own language.

Today the Bible can be read by nearly all the peoples of the world. There are a few tribes in some countries who do not have the Bible translated into their language. Those who know tell us that nine-tenths of the whole world's population may read or hear read the Bible in their own languages.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Oh, how we thank God that the gospel is not withheld from anyone, but has been made available to all by the blood of Jesus Christ. But we notice the work of the enemy of souls at the very outset for when the wondrous power of God caused the gospel to be preached in all the languages, verse 12 says that some were in doubt! There are those about us today who even though they are eye-witnesses to the mighty hand of God at work refuse to believe it and offer some other explanation for the result. May God help us to recognize His activity around and among us and let us be willing to own and accept it as the manifestation of His mighty power.

Another thought regarding the lesson is the fact that no words were lost. Everything spoken was understood by someone so that the gospel and the wonders of its message was soon transported all over the vast regions of the then known world. Had the message gone forth in an unintelligible babble of sound possessing no meaning to anyone and imparting no understanding to any mind, the gospel could not have been disbursed throughout the world.

Paul tells us in Romans 10:13-15 that folks are not able to believe in someone of whom they have never heard. He also points out that preaching came into play for the express purpose of expounding the gospel to the hearts and minds of men, thus making men aware of a plan of salvation that is open unto them. He also qualifies the message bearer, stressing that he must have been sent forth by the Author of the message. What a tragedy that some go forth purporting to expound the gospel, but it turns out to be such a tangle of

confusion that no intelligent mind could very well be convinced of Christ and His plan to save them. The gospel, to be effective, must be preached and taught and practiced clearly, plainly, and simply, and even then the enemy will snatch away the good seed from many an honest soul. God help us to live our lives as an open book, known and read of all men.

—C. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:—

1. What feast was being kept at the time of Pentecost?
2. What did the words, "one accord" mean?
3. Were the languages or tongues spoken on that day understood?
4. What gift did the Holy Spirit give to those speaking on that day?
5. Name some of the countries whose people were there and heard the gospel in their own language.

### TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE

I wonder how many times your heart has been stirred—as mine has—by those touching lines:

"Tell Mother I'll be there in answer to her prayer,

This message, blessed Saviour, to her bear. . . ."

Well, here's the story behind the song. It was written by Charles M. Fillmore, who was born in Paris, Ill., in 1860. He was a minister. He wrote his famous song when he was thirty-six years of age, in the year of 1896. The newspapers carried the human interest story of how President McKinley had left by special train to visit his dying mother. But before he left, he sent a telegram to the physician, which read, "TELL MOTHER I'LL BE THERE."

When Mr. Fillmore read this telegram in the newspaper, he was struck by the idea that it would make a good theme for a gospel song. So he began writing: "When I was but a little boy how well I recollect how I would grieve my mother with my folly and neglect. . . ." These words were published in a small magazine, a copy of which fell into the hands of Charles M. Alexander. Soon he was singing it all over the world, and hard-hearted men broke down and came to the revival altars for salvation.

### MODERN PENTECOSTALISM

That this is an age of many counterfeit religions, we must admit, and of which the New Testament writers have given us definite warning. 1 Tim. 4:1.

In this writing we do not mean to unkindly criticize anyone, but the love for precious souls constrains us to expose this particular error in the light of Bible truth so that honest

truth-seekers may make their escape from the realms of deception. Souls who are thus in bondage are to be pitied and persuaded by Divine love and wisdom—not crushed nor driven. Strictly speaking, the devil is solely responsible for the error itself, so let us place the blame on the author and rescue the subjects from the error's influence. There is deliverance, praise God!

**Error 1.** Speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance (Acts 2:4) is different from the gift of tongues of 1 Cor. 12:14.

There is no distinction in the two expressions, for both refer to the same thing. True speaking in tongues of Acts 2:4 is a manifestation of the Spirit as implied by the words, "as the Spirit gave them utterance." The fact that the true tongues are given of the Spirit necessarily means they are a "gift" of the Spirit. In the 12th chapter of 1 Cor. both expressions are used interchangeably and speaking of the same spiritual gift. We read, "To one is given by the Spirit . . . divers kinds of tongues," (verses 8, 10) referring to the gift of tongues. Then in verse 30 we read, "Do all speak with tongues?" which also refers to the same gift, just as the "gift of miracles" and "workers of miracles" are equivalent expressions. We understand that this distinguishing theory was introduced in the year of 1900 by C. F. Parham. The early church never taught it, for it is a strained interpretation trying to uphold the tongues-evidence theory.

**Error 2.** The baptism of the Holy Ghost is in every instance attended by the initial physical sign of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. The Scriptures nowhere teach that speaking in tongues is required as evidence that the Holy Ghost is received. If you can, quote us one direct Scriptural requirement on this point. In 1 Cor. 12:30 Paul asks, "Do all speak with tongues?" No, is the implied answer, for in the preceding verses he had explained that there were "differences of administration" in the manifestation of the Spirit, meaning that the Spirit does not manifest Himself through the same particular gift in every person, "but the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal." 1 Cor. 12:7. You know that all are not apostles, all are not workers of miracles (verse 29), neither do all speak with true tongues. Speaking in tongues, which could only be "as the Spirit gives utterance," is only a manifestation or gift of the Spirit in common with other special gifts. According to this error, the Holy Spirit is denied unless He chooses to manifest Himself in a certain manner. The Holy Ghost Himself is the satisfactory evidence. "Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness." (Heb. 10:15). "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit," Rom. 8:16. If the reception of the Spirit must be evidenced

by an outward physical sign, surely one's conversion should be determined by a special sign in all cases. Since such is not true, then there is no necessity of that particular witness for the baptism, or for any other special work or favor from God.

**Error 3.** "We receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost just like they did on the day of Pentecost" (Acts 2). Do the modern tongues people manifest the same signs as then? Let us notice more closely the Pentecostal scene. The first outward sign was the coming of "a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting;" the second outward sign was, "There appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them;" the third outward sign, "began to speak with other tongues [languages] as the Spirit gave them utterance." The modern movement does not reproduce these signs as claimed in the above error. They discard the first two, and emphasize the last. However, the first sign is just as important as the last in this particular scene, being only a literal fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy at the ushering in of the Holy Spirit dispensation. The last manifestation or tongues which people generally receive today are not languages as spoken on the day of Pentecost, but only a false gibber through Satanic power or nervous derangement. Therefore, in no sense do they reproduce the Pentecostal outpouring. No hint is made at this Pentecostal scene that the disciples spoke in unknown tongues, nor to God alone, neither did they need an interpreter, but these languages were spoken directly to the people of different nations and were given specifically for the purpose of spreading the gospel to various nations through prophecy or preaching, a special gift which they also received at this time. The Bible gift of tongues is a language, and is given as an aid to prophecy when needed.

Evidently the disciples on this occasion did not talk in different languages a few minutes only, for the incident was noised abroad and the multitude representing different nationalities came together, and each "heard them speak in his own language," (Acts 2:6) which no doubt continued the greater part of the day, each disciple talking in order, Peter's sermon being recorded in this chapter. If speaking these various languages was the only evidence that they had the Holy Ghost, then when they ceased to speak, the apostles could have rightly concluded that they had lost the Holy Ghost. How inconsistent! Our Pentecostal friends would endeavor to satisfy us with a momentary evidence, but thank God, the infilling of the Spirit is not dependent upon transitory evidences, for the Holy Spirit in the heart is the abiding evidence Himself.

—L. D. Pruitt

**May 18, 1969**

**KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLE**

**John 16:12-15, Acts 17:10-12; James 1:22-25**

John 16:12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

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

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Acts 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

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

12 Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

James 1:22 But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.

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

**Central Thought:** As the Holy Spirit teaches us and we obey, we are then able to help others.



## LESSON BACKGROUND

The lesson recorded in John took place in the city of Jerusalem. The five chapters, 13 through 17 in John, record the events and words of Jesus within four or five hours on Thursday afternoon and evening. On that Thursday afternoon Jesus told us more about the Person and work of the Holy Spirit than during all of His other ministry.

Our printed portion in Acts took place in Berea, a city located in Northern Greece, then called Macedonia. Today Berea is known by the name of Verrie.

Lesson References—Ephesians 6:10-20.

## ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

A person may feel a sense of having done his duty after hastily reading a chapter or two in the Bible. But, dear ones, there is more to studying the Word than just reading the Bible. We must read it, of course, and it is good to read a chapter or two, but the main thing is to get it down into the heart. We should not be content with just understanding the story part of the reading, but we should get the deeper truths that are contained therein. This will take a little study and prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to "guide you into all truth." Ask Him to help you to receive some spiritual food that will cause your soul to grow. Get something to think about and live out in your life. For instance, a person would do well to meditate on the phrase, "guide you into all truth." What does guide mean? To pilot, direct, conduct, order, govern, and instruct. How does one treat a guide? You listen to Him or you might get lost or make a serious mistake. Then of course a person must know and trust his guide. Jesus compared blind guides to false prophets who are motivated by false spirits (Matt. 23:15, 16; 15:14) We do not want to end up in the ditch of destruction. We can safely follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit and put our confidence in Him.

Remember that the Spirit and the Word agree. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit "shall glorify me." We should be easily guided by the Holy Spirit. The Psalmist said He would "guide thee with mine eye." Just one look from God makes us know His will and we are glad to obey. Now where is our Guide, the Holy Spirit, going to lead us? Into "all truth." What is truth? Oh, the deep riches we can get from God's Word as we "search the scriptures daily" and meditate upon them. Then as our lesson tells us, we are to be "doers of the word, and not hearers only."

Sometimes it is better to read a few verses and meditate upon them so you can get something to take with you than to read several chapters. Think about it through the day. Let your soul feed upon it and you will be blessed. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The idea that man in his own ability and with his own intellect can understand the Word and plan of God is sheer folly. People who walk without the assistance of the Word and the Spirit of God walk in darkness. Notice the need of the Word and the Spirit. This is important to each one of us. To attempt to understand the Word without the illumination of the Spirit leads only to confusion and frustration. The Jews under the old law had the Word but were so void of the Spirit that they did not even recognize the very Son of God when He came and attempted to teach them the truth! If they had been in contact with God and able to understand His Word they would immediately have recognized Christ. (John 5:46, 47.) It is because of this very need that the Holy Spirit was given. The express purpose of His coming was to lead us into all truth. (verse 13.) Had we been able to fathom it by ourselves, there would have been no need for Him to guide us. This points out so vividly the absolute necessity for each one of us to pursue right on after we are justified, yield our all to Him, make the complete sacrifice of ourselves to Him and receive the Holy Spirit. No experience, after a knowledge of the need of the Holy Ghost has come, can prosper long without Him. A realization of His purpose will automatically reveal the need for we cannot walk in the truth except we know what the truth is. His purpose is to guide us into all truth. Let us beseech you with all the earnestness we know how to muster, do not hesitate in your Christian experience until you have the blessed Holy Spirit abiding in your very soul to lead you into the truth.

Regarding the Holy Spirit, let us keep this truth before us always—the Holy Spirit does not take up its abode in anything but a pure heart—never! The Holy Spirit will never lead anyone, preacher or anyone else, contrary to the written word. The Word of God and the Spirit of God will always agree. Beware of any teaching, regardless of how much spirit may seem to be manifested, that contradicts any part of the Word. The Word is the truth. Remember that the Holy Spirit was not given to override the truth, but to lead us into all truth. A house divided is doomed to fall, so beware when the word and spirit begin to disagree. There are many spirits gone out into the world, but only one Holy Spirit. —C. Wilson

## QUESTIONS:

1. Will the Holy Spirit ever lead contrary to the words of Jesus? 2. Did the Holy Spirit reveal deeper truths to the apostles after Jesus left them? (John 16:12.) 3. How did the Bereans receive the word from Paul and Silas and check to find out if it was true or not? (Acts 17:11) 4. Why would a person be deceived if he only heard the word and did not obey it? 5. What kind of man is blessed, spoken about in James 1:25?

## THE HOLY SPIRIT AS A GUIDE

My father, Bro. Fred Pruitt, started going to the county farm and having meetings in about 1919. The following is an account of the results of the direct leadings of the Holy Spirit.

"I was very anxious to please the Lord and to get into personal gospel work for Him. We were having cottage prayer meetings and gospel meetings, but I had a deep desire and burden to be in more active service for the Lord, telling Him that I would be a "minute man" for Him—would go anywhere, any place, any day, and hour or moment He would lead by His Spirit, just so He would make plain to me when and where.

"One Friday night the Lord had me awake some time after midnight and He spoke, telling me to go to the county farm and give them literature and preach the gospel to them. At the time I did not know that there was a county poor farm in Logan County and I was somewhat puzzled, but could not be mistaken about the Lord directing, as He made it very plain to me. The next morning I began to inquire whether there was a county farm and its location. Some did not know that there was any. Finally, I found a man who said the county farm was near Seward, a town ten miles southwest of Guthrie. I went to the county commissioner's office and asked them about it, and they told me just where it was, how to get there, and said I was welcome to give literature and preach to the residents.

"It was misting rain that day. The road down there was dirt and not very well graded in portions. Also, it was Saturday, so I was making it up in my mind that I would wait and go down there the next day. The Lord quickly said, 'I thought you were going to be a "minute man" for me.'

"I said, 'Yes, Lord.' So I got into the car and started alone to the county farm to fill a direct call from the Lord. I was happy indeed on the way there and found the farm without any trouble. When I told the mistress of the place what I wanted to do, she said, 'All right, just go into the dining room and we will call the residents in.'

"She stayed to hear what we had to say. We prayed for them and gave out a short message that the Lord had laid upon our heart, and also gave them literature. There were twenty or more of the old people, and they were a sad, forlorn-looking group. It touched my heart very deeply. Some were very feeble with age; some blind; and many others crippled in many different ways. They were glad for me to come, and a few of them listened to the gospel with intense interest. Several seemed really saved.

"I was preparing to go and had promised them to come back again, when the mistress came to me and said, 'Will you please preach that over again to us? My husband and the hired man have just come in from the field, and I want him to hear it. If you will preach it over again, I'll run and bring him and the hired man right in.'

"That sounded good, but yet rather strange to me, but I had promised to be a 'minute man' for the Lord; so I told her that I would look to the Lord, and we would have another service. The Lord anointed more than ever for the last message, and I went home very happy indeed that I had obeyed the voice of the Lord. It seemed that they had been praying for something like this, as Paul was when God sent Ananias to him. He told Ananias, 'Behold, he prayeth.'

"The obeying of the voice of the Lord at this time was the beginning of four years' work with the aged residents. Also in the county prison we would often preach the gospel to seventy-five or a hundred federal and county prisoners who were behind the bars. Other workers went with us. We would go to the county farm every two weeks and to the jails when not at the county farm. The Lord greatly blessed our labors among these seemingly unfortunate people. The Lord gave us meetings as good as any that I have ever witnessed, at the jails and also at the county poor farm. Many got saved and a number of them were baptized. One old man, more than eighty years old, who had been preaching and baptizing for forty years got light (understanding) on water baptism and had us baptize him. When the Word went forth on the wrong of using tobacco, he quit tobacco and the Lord cleaned him up and got him ready for heaven. I expect to see him there. It was remarkable how that many of those old people would get saved and in just a short time the Lord would take them Home."

—Sister M. Miles

... **May 25, 1969**

**BIBLE BACKGROUND**

**Printed Portion ..... John 4:3-10, 14, 19-26**

John 4:3 He left Judea, and departed again into Galilee.

4 And he must needs go through Samaria.

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now Jacob's well was there. Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria, for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet in Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

26 Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.

**Memory Verse:** And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Isaiah 49:6.

**Central Thought:** Jesus used the opportunities He had to spread the gospel.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

It is well to understand the people and also the place where Jesus lived and labored to teach the people. It would be helpful to have a map to follow.

Jerusalem was the holy city. It is situated on a ridge about 2700 feet above the Mediterranean Sea and about 4000 feet above the Dead Sea. The city itself is spread over four hills, or heights, called Zion, Moriah, Acra, and Bezetha. The chief of these hills is Zion. It rises abruptly about 300 feet above the surrounding valley. It was a secure place, hard for enemies to attack. When David became king of Israel he determined to capture Jerusalem, which was not in the hands of the Hebrews at that time. He captured the city and one of his first acts was to bring the Ark of the Covenant and install it in a secure place atop Mt. Zion. Zion thus became a symbol of the presence of God. They gradually came to think of God as dwelling on Mt. Zion.

In our lesson Jesus was returning to Galilee through Samaria instead of the more direct route up the Jordan valley. Samaria was outside Herod's jurisdiction, who had just imprisoned John the Baptist. The Samaritans of an alien race had been brought there by the Assyrians about 700 years before. (2 Kings 17:6, 24-29; Ezra 4:2, 9, 10.)

They had combined parts of the teachings of Moses' law with their idol worship. They were expecting the Messiah to make Samaria, not Jerusalem, His seat of government. They claimed that Mt. Gerizim, located in Samaria, was the holy mountain of God. This was a long-disputed controversy. The rival religious factions at Gerizim and Jerusalem brought about bitterness between the Jews and the Samaritans.

Today Jacob's well is still there. It is one of the few places where an exact spot can be connected with the story of Jesus. The well is 105 feet deep, 9 feet in diameter. Mt. Gerizim can be seen, rising from the plateau, close at hand. Sychar is less than two miles northeast of Shechem.

**Lesson Reference—Psalm 97**

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Were you ever real thirsty? Not many of us have had this experience with water being so plentiful in this great land of ours. But the person who is thirsty will do everything possible to satisfy that thirst. I have read of those on the desert being misled by mirages. If you have ever been on the desert you would understand. Sometimes it will look like a big lake of water in the distance, but when you arrive at the place, or close to it, you do not see the water. But the living water, or that well of water that Jesus is speaking about in our lesson, is real. This water of everlasting life that the soul of the sinner longs for when he has been awakened by the Spirit of God to his lost and undone condition will fully satisfy the soul. It is truly wonderful. There is nothing in this world like it. I can recommend it to everyone. It will last. My soul is rejoicing as I feel that well springing up within. Praises and thanksgiving with a deep reverence and adoration rises up from the depths of my being unto our precious Saviour who has given me this wonderful water of life. Have you drunk of this water of life? If not, let me entreat you today to do so. It will fully satisfy your soul.

The woman was astonished to find a Jew who admitted that Jerusalem was not any better place than Mt. Gerizim in which to worship God. God is not confined to a place, but those who worship Him in the spirit can find Him anywhere. Hope sprang up in her heart and she spoke of the expected Christ that was close at hand. Jesus plainly told her, "I that speak unto thee am he." (verse 26.)

No doubt the radiance on the woman's face as she gave the message and the change she had in her heart convinced those in the town of Sychar that truly she had met the Messiah. They followed her to the well and a revival was brought about.

—M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

That Jesus was the very Christ He boldly proclaims in this text and goes right on to enumerate a few of the benefits that befall those who accept Him as such. But the thing that

stands out to me is the prerequisite that must precede the blessing. To our human minds it would be folly to think that we could offer anything to Jesus, the very Son of God. All the glory of heaven belonged to Him. All the possessions of His Father were His to enjoy and to bestow upon whom He would. What then could mortal man supply to such a Master? And yet, upon this very thing hangs the pendulum upon which the entire process swings. What starts the process in motion? What motivates the notice of the Saviour toward a soul? He does not go about forcing Himself upon anyone nor does He impose on folks against their will. His approach then, even as it is today, is to make Himself available to the hearts of men but only if they respond does He continue on to reveal Himself to them as the Christ, the Saviour of their souls. Christ has everything to give us, even eternal life, but the one thing we fail to notice too often is the fact that He requires us to first give something to Him. Giving is a two-fold process involving several elements. We might purpose to give something away, but unless we can find someone to take what we purpose to give, our mission is foiled. A giver then must have a receiver before he is able to give. A giver and a receiver must possess something to give and to receive. Jesus knows that so long as our hearts are filled up with our own interests and desires, etc. that there is no room for what He has to offer, therefore He bids us make the first approach to Him. By our laying aside a little of what we have on hand to hear what He has to say, room is made so that we can receive a little of what He has to offer. The woman in the lesson, when she had received a little, cleared out a big space so that she might obtain more. Jesus was faithful to supply her desire. Oh, that more would provide space for the Saviour to fill today!

—C. Wilson

#### QUESTIONS:—

1. Explain why the Samaritans and the Jews were enemies.
2. How did Jesus look upon these prejudices?
3. What is living water?
4. What kind of life did this woman live that is recorded in the Scriptures?
5. How did Jesus explain the true worship of God?

#### GOD'S WORK IS MORE IMPORTANT

A veteran missionary to China was approached by an American businessman to accept a position with his corporation.

"You know the language and the culture of China very well," the business executive said, "and for this knowledge we will be happy to pay you well. Let's begin with say—\$10,000?"



"No," replied the missionary quickly.

"What about \$15,000?" asked the executive.

Once more the missionary kindly but firmly refused. Finally the offer reached its ultimate—\$25,000. But still the missionary shook his head negatively.

"Well, just how much would it take to get you?" the executive asked in desperation.

"Oh," replied the missionary, "your first offer was more than enough. The salary is fine, but your job is too small. I have more important work to do."

Bringing a soul to God is the greatest work that can be done.



**June 1, 1969**

## **LITERARY FORMS IN THE BIBLE**

**Ex. 14:30-15:2; Luke 15:3-10; 24:44; Philemon 1-3**

Ex. 14:30 Thus the Lord saved Israel that day out of the hand of the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead upon the sea shore.

31 And Israel saw that great work which the Lord did upon the Egyptians: and the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord, and his servant Moses.

15:1 Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.

2 The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation: he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him.

Luke 15:3 And he spake this parable unto them, saying,

4 What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

5 And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulders, rejoicing.

6 And when he cometh home, he calleth together his friends and neighbours, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.

7 I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance.

8 Either what woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, doth not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently till she find it?

9 And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbours together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.

10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 24:44 And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.

Phil. 1 Paul, a prisoner of Jesus Christ, and Timothy our brother, unto Philemon our dearly beloved, and fellow-labourer,

2 And to our beloved Apphia, and Archippus our fellowsoldier, and to the church in thy house:

3 Grace to you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth. Luke 15:10.

**Central Thought:** God presented His great plan to bring man to Himself through Christ in various forms.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

The Israelites who are descendants of Abraham left Egypt about 1491 B. C. Joseph had been sold into Egypt and later his father and brothers went there to live. According to prophecy they were to stay there about 400 years. (Acts 7:6.) God delivered them in a miraculous way.

The great parables were spoken by Jesus in December, A. D. 29. Paul wrote the letter to Philemon about A. D. 65.

There are 39 books in the Old Testament and 27 in the New Testament. There are 17 historical books in the Old Bible, five poetical books, and 17 books by the prophets. In the New Testament we have four gospels, the book of Acts,

which is a history of the early church, and 21 letters or epistles and the book of Revelation.

**Lesson Reference—Acts 7:1-53**

## **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

The different Scriptures in our lesson have been chosen to show the different forms of literature in the Bible. We notice in Exodus the verses that tell the fulfillment of the promise made to Abraham that some of his future families would be in Egypt over four hundred years and then be brought back to the land of Canaan that God had promised to Abraham and his seed. (Gen. 15:13.) Only Jacob and his family went down into Egypt, but in today's lesson 600,000 Israelite men above twenty years of age, besides women and children (Ex. 12:37) fled and marched through the Red Sea and the waters closed on their enemies. What a victory for them and a manifestation of the power of God! Notice verse 13 in Exodus chapter 14 that Moses asked the Israelites to do only two things. "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." Dear ones, today we need to be still and let God work. Too many times we get in God's way and try to put our hands on the problem. Rest in the Lord and He will deliver. We can then sing a song of victory to "my God."

Jesus was brought to the world through this family of Israelites or Jews. In Luke 15 He speaks to them in parables. Can you not see the shepherd on the cold night looking for the one lost lamb? He forgets personal danger and seeks for the lost one. Jesus forgot about the great suffering on the cross and put the welfare of our souls first. He loved us and sought to save us. Remember there is joy, great joy in heaven and among the saints of God when a sinner repents. What is repentance? Can a sheep fight off the lion (devil)?

The 99 sheep and the 9 pieces of silver represent those who are saved. But God knows the longer a sinner stays away from God the deeper he goes in sin. Give some examples.

Our lesson reference in Luke 24:44 brings out the fact that Christ is the central theme of the whole Bible. The Old Testament writers and prophets prophesied of His coming and the New Testament tells of that fulfillment.

The letter written to Philemon was concerning a slave by the name of Onesimus, who had robbed his master and fled to Rome. Through Paul's instructions he had received salvation, which made a change in his heart. Paul was sending him back to his master with this letter.

We do not want to get more concerned with the literary aspects of the Scriptures than we do the spiritual. We should study it as a way of life and measure to its standard. It will take us to heaven if we keep its teachings. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God gave Moses the law in a written form. Jesus used parables to convey to our minds the essence of His thinking. Isaiah, Jeremiah, St. John, and many more wrote in terms of prophecy for our benefit, telling us before it happened what history would later record as fact. David recorded the outflowing of his heart via psalms and the wise man added notes to his verse to produce a song. Paul used the letter to convey his instruction, counsel, and teaching, one of which points out the use of allegory in the Scripture. There are others and possibly various combinations but the important thing is that whether we look forward to it (in prophecy) or back at it (by history), pour it out in the verse of song (hymns) or write it in poetry, (psalms) scribe it in a letter or shout it from the housetops, the Word of God is still the wonderful, glorious story of full and complete salvation. Let us shout it, sing it, write it, live it, manifest and demonstrate it in every way and by every means at our command that Jesus saves from sin TODAY. Herald the good news through every nation and cease not to sound His praise until all have heard the glorious gospel of the Son of God.

"Hear the tidings loud and clear, Jesus saves from sin today, Wake the slumbering world to hear; Jesus saves from sin today. Bear the message quickly on, till each sinful slave obey, Heaven calls you everyone—Jesus saves from sin today."

—C. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:—

1. Is God's power to save us out of the hand of the devil any less than it was to save the Israelites out of the hand of the Egyptians? 2. What caused the people to fear and believe the Lord and His servant Moses? 3. Explain what the children of Israel meant in their song when they said, "I will prepare him (God) a habitation." (Ans.—heart is the dwelling place of God.) 4. How does Jesus seek for the lost sinner today? 5. Was Onesimus one that had been lost and found? 6. Mention some of the literary forms in the Bible.

### THE BIBLE

Did you know that the Bible said that the earth was round before men would believe it and discovered it to be true? You

read in Isa. 40:22. This was 700 years before Christ. You know, men used to think the world was square.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that the earth turns? Read in Job 38:13, 14.

Did you know that the Bible tells us that there are springs in the ocean? Read in Job 38:16.

The scientists were counting up time. They found almost a day missing nearly 3500 years ago. Do you know where they had to read to find out why that was true? Yes, it was in the Bible. There were five kings and their armies who came to fight against the children of Israel. Joshua called upon the Lord and the Lord promised to help them. They were in a fierce battle and it was beginning to get dark. Joshua asked the Lord to cause the sun to stand still and the moon, and it did for almost one day. The Bible said that had never happened before nor since. You can read about that in Joshua 10:7-16. To be exact, the scientists said it was 23 hours and 20 minutes that were lost.

The scientists found 40 minutes missing. They again had to turn to the Bible. They searched and searched. Finally they found it in Isaiah 38:8. You remember when the prophet told Hezekiah to set his house in order because he was going to die? Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, wept and prayed. He called the Lord to record about how he had lived before him in all truth and with a perfect heart. He told him that he had done that which was good in the Lord's sight. God changed his mind and told the prophet Isaiah to go back and tell him that he had seen his tears and heard his prayer and would add 15 years to his life. He also told him that he would deliver the city out of the hand of his enemies. He said for a sign that it would come true he now would cause the clock or sun dial to turn back ten degrees. In other words, the sun didn't go down until 40 minutes later that day.

Our Bible is a wonderful book. It tells us where we came from, who we are, and where we will go after death. It tells how to live in this life and how to die. It tells how to treat everybody and makes us know that God loves us. There is no book like the Bible. I love it, don't you? —M. Miles

**June 8, 1969**

**RIGHTLY DIVIDE THE SCRIPTURES**

**2 Tim. 2:14-16; Rom. 3:10, 20, 23, 24; 1 Cor. 11:3, 5, 6, 13-16**

2 Tim. 2:14 Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.

15 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

16 But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

1 Cor. 11:3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

**Memory Verse:** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto

him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 1 Cor. 2:14.

**Central Thought:** It takes the Holy Spirit to reveal the Word of God as it was written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our lesson in Timothy is a letter of instructions written by Paul to Timothy who was brought to Christ through Paul's labors.

Our lesson in Romans was written by the Apostle Paul to the Jewish and Gentile Christians in Rome. At this time Paul had not been to Rome himself, but it appears that he had become acquainted with the conditions there through Aquila and Priscilla (see chapter 16:3) and by other Jews who had been expelled from Rome by the decree of Claudius. It was hard for the Jews to accept the Gentiles as heirs to the salvation through Christ.

Our lesson in Corinthians was written to correct some irregularities in the Corinthian church which church was planted by Paul.

Lesson Reference—Galatians 3:28

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Today many are taking the Scriptures out of their context and applying them to mean just what they want to believe. They are "subverting" the hearers (verse 14). There is a chain of truth that goes right through the whole Bible and we must not break any link in it. Man in the beginning was created in purity, but he sinned and lost it. God sought for thousands of years to get man to the place where He could purify him and make him a creature that He could receive and enjoy. We must "rightly divide" the Word of God so we can be in contact with God ourselves and be able to help others find that place of purity.

The Bible was written by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Only through Him can we rightly divide it. We do not want to spend time in giving any "private interpretation" or speculating on the Word of God. We are to shun vain babblings.

Romans 3:10, 20, 23, 24.—Those who are in their natural corrupt state like to quote this Scripture, separating it from others, that "there is none righteous, no, not one." But we are doing injustice to God's Word by doing this. We will notice

that the Apostle Paul was trying to prove to the Jews by using Scriptures from the Old Bible that they were under sin, just as the Gentiles were. Then he points them to Jesus who was crucified and arose again for their salvation and deliverance from the power of sin. Thus the Scripture is "rightly divided." Read Romans 5:12, 17.

1 Cor. 11:3, 5, 6, 13-16—It was the custom in the Bible days for most women to wear a veil. She also had long hair unless she was a woman of loose morals. By wearing her veil she showed honor to her husband and Christ by having her head covered when she prayed or prophesied. (1 Cor. 14:3; Acts 2:17, 18) Keep in mind that the Apostle Paul is discussing the point whether or not it is necessary for the woman to wear a veil. He points out that by nature her long hair, which is important to her, is her covering. She does not need the veil, but she does need to have long hair. Many today have cut their hair and thus have dishonored Christ, their head. They are no longer under subjection to their husband in the Lord, nor Christ. Paul concludes in verse 16 by saying there is no need for contentions because the long hair is the covering, and local customs are not observed in the churches of God.

The Bible tells us that we have false prophets in the world today. "I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied." Jer. 23:21. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Word of God which is given by inspiration of God and then interpreted or divided by the Spirit of God may be depended on to lead our souls aright. The Word has already been given. II Peter 1:21 tells us that "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." This was no private interpretation, but as the Spirit moved upon them. So then we accept the written word as being the Word of God who used instruments of flesh to write it down, the Spirit being the inspiration to guide them aright. We will encounter serious difficulty in attempting to maintain a Christian experience until we are able to accept fully and without question the written word as being the very Word of God. To doubt even one portion is to put the whole in question for if one promise is untrue, then how do we know others are not untrue also? We must believe it all for a house divided will fall. Now, for us to attempt to understand the Word of God with our human reasoning will leave us bewildered. We are not able to think



on a level with God for He is too far above us. (Isa 55:8, 9.) The Lord knew that and that is exactly the reason why He made provision for us to be filled with His Holy Spirit. What is required of us in order for us to be able to receive the Holy Spirit? We must lay down our ways, yield our all to Him, our thoughts, our minds, our ambitions, desires, and all and allow the Spirit to work effectually in us. We will to do of His good pleasure and the Spirit abiding within makes us to know what His pleasure is for us. We will never be able to divide or interpret the Word of God rightly until we possess the Holy Spirit and allow Him to teach us. (John 16:13.) We can never possess Him until we lay down our ways and thoughts in favor of His will and way for us. Any other approach will of necessity terminate in vain babblings and disputings and words of no profit that do nothing to convince the hearer. God is not the author of confusion.

The texts in Rom. 3:10, 20, 23, 24 simply state that there never has been but one man who didn't need to be saved and that man was Christ. That is why He extended the opportunity of salvation to every man for everyone else needs to be saved. He did, however, implement a plan of salvation that is present, (2 Cor. 6:2) perfect, (Heb. 7:25) and able to keep us free from sin until he calls us unto Himself (Jude 24). By yielding ourselves to Him and seeking with a whole heart His pardon and favor we have access to the fullness of the plan.

1 Cor. 11:3-5—A man and his wife are a type of Christ and His church. Being the head of a wife does not give the man authority to take a club and beat her into line or to brow-beat her into subjection, but rather it means the man is to treat his wife exactly as Christ treats His church. One reproof on our souls from the Lord would convince us everyone of His way for the reproof comes with such love and tenderness and gentleness and concern until one could almost feel honored to have been reproved. Love must be the binding influence and not legal right. On the other hand, the wife, and projected further, the church must be so completely yielded to the head until it would be a grief to them to contest His will. Humanity is subject to mistake and failure and shortcomings. That includes husbands as well as wives, but true love for each other will soon find satisfactory solutions to these human frailties so long as the love remains intact. But the Husband of the church, the Bridegroom, the Lover of our souls is perfect and complete and above reproach in every way. Being in subjection to a husband does not mean to have no voice or right or opinion for Christ invites us to call upon Him. (Matt. 11:28) He delights in answering our prayers and supplying our needs, telling us to ask that we might receive. He bids us come boldly

to the throne of grace and receive the provision He has made for us.

The woman's covering is a symbol of subjection to her lover—her husband—her hair being a cover and a glory. Christ is the head of the man and verse 4 states if a man cover his head he dishonors his head, which is Christ. So then if it is the good pleasure of our Lord and Saviour for the woman to wear long hair and accept it as her crowning glory and for the man to wear short hair in order that he not dishonor his head, Christ, then we all gladly and willingly accept our appointed portion that we all might honor and glorify Him who loved us and gave Himself for us that we might be espoused to Him in a perpetual covenant "until death do us part" but He brought us eternal life. Hallelujah, we belong to Him forever! Praise His holy name!

The text ended with, "but if any man seem to be contentious." There is no such thing in the church. We do not contend against Christ our head nor refuse or even question His wishes and good pleasure but rather make haste and with gladness of heart do we joyfully and willingly measure up in every detail that we might please the lover of our souls. Amen.

—C. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:—

1. What does it mean to "strive about words to no profit"?
2. Would a person be rightly dividing the word of truth if he took one verse out of the Bible and not connect it with others?
3. How do we explain to others what is meant by "There is none righteous, no, not one"?
4. Is Christ the head of the woman?
5. Does the Bible plainly teach that the woman's long hair is her glory and covering?

### HEAD COVERING

"I put my little white cap in the fire this morning," said Susie to her husband.

"Put it in the fire!" exclaimed Joe. "Why Susie, what do you mean?"

"Come with me and I shall show you," replied Susie as she led him into the other room where he saw the new book lying open beside her Bible. "I want you to read this."

He began to read. "If some of the sisters in America could only make a visit into some of the Eastern countries they could well understand what Paul meant when he addressed the Corinthian church as he did in the eleventh chapter of 1 Cor. Well do I remember when a boy seeing an old aunt of mine wearing her little cap. She called it a covering for her head.

But when I became acquainted with some of the customs of the Eastern countries I found that she did not have her head covered at all and fully understood what Paul meant by saying she dishonored her head (her husband) by praying or prophesying with an uncovered head. . . . The man there is truly her head. He thinks for her, he talks for her and what he says, she does. . . . The women wear the veil as a covering for the entire head which is covered. . . . No man is to look upon her face. . . . I am sure if the women of the East should try to bind their head covering on the women of America there would be some contention about the matter for the women would not have such customs. Among the churches of God now a woman does not dishonor her head (her husband) by not wearing the head covering of the women of ancient Bible times, although she did, judged by social usages in vogue in Paul's day.' "

[Now the fifteenth verse brings out the thought that a woman's long hair is her covering. She does not need a veil. Verse sixteen makes us know that a person need not be contentious in binding the wearing of a veil on others as there is no such custom in the "churches of God."]

"Isn't that plain?" inquired Susie. "I am so glad you bought that book, for everything now is just as clear as can be to me. I have always looked upon that Scripture as dishonoring myself by not having my head covered, but you can plainly see that Paul meant by uncovering the head it was a dishonor to the husband, judged by social usages then. Joe, do you think that I would be dishonoring you if I did not wear that little bonnet and cap?"

"Well, no, Susie, I do not think that you would dishonor me in any way, but you see that you must be careful or you will let pride creep in and you will be just like the world," replied Joe.

"I have thought all that over, too," said Susie, "and as I began to examine myself I thought that I had far more pride in wearing that bonnet than the majority of women that I know manifest in wearing hats, for as I came among them I had a feeling that I was a little better than they were because I was wearing a bonnet while they had hats. Joe I was really proud in my heart that I was wearing that bonnet."

—Taken from the book, "Man of His Counsel." Order a copy from Faith Publishing House, Guthrie, Okla. 73044.

June 15, 1969

## THE BIBLE IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

Printed Portion.....1 Tim. 4:11-16; Eph. 3:7-10; Col. 3:16

1 Tim. 4:11 These things command and teach.

12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

13 Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

14 Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.

15 Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Eph. 3:7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

9 And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:

10 To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.

Col. 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

**Memory Verse:** Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Col. 3:16.

**Central Thought:** The church, those who are saved, are the body of Christ. It is important that the Bible be given special study to keep the spiritual life healthy.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Paul wrote thirteen epistles or letters and our lesson has verses from three of them. II Timothy was the last epistle that he ever wrote. Paul had been taught the Scriptures from early youth and he stressed the fact that all needed to study them, also.

**Lesson Reference—Psalm 78:1-8.**

### **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

#### **Comments for adults on 1 Tim. 4:11-16**

Paul was writing to Timothy, a young man, that he should live so that older people would recognize him as being a worker for God. We need to be careful to encourage our youth. Their battles are different from ours, yet we all have the same tempter. Paul was encouraging Timothy, telling him he could be an example in various ways. Older saints need to be careful to set a good example before the younger ones. The youth might falter or fail, but we need to be steady and they will know what to come to. Are we an example in conversation, word, charity, spirit, faith, and in purity? Paul says in Titus 2:8, "In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works, in doctrine, shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity."

The Apostle Paul stresses the fact that we should "give attendance to reading." We can teach others if we read and pray for the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scriptures to our hearts that we might be able to teach others. "For in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

Meditation is important. It is the highest use of the mind. Take time to think and meditate upon the Scriptures.

#### **Comments for young people on 1 Tim. 4:11-16**

The Apostle Paul exhorts young people to live so that others can see the life of Christ in them. Young people can have real Bible salvation and be taught by the Holy Spirit as well as older ones. There are so many things to take your attention, but the secret given here by the apostle to help you be a spiritual child of God is do not neglect, and meditate by giving yourself wholly or completely to the study of God's word. If you do this "thy profiting may appear to all." Meditation is using the mind. If you feel empty, lacking in faith and trust, failing when pressure comes, it is because you did not meditate. Take a Scripture and think on it. It would be good to think about it word for word. Pray about it. Watch and

live by it. Look up the background of it. You will find that you are growing in spiritual things and will be a blessing to others, while keeping your own soul saved.

### **Adult and Young Peoples' Comments and Application**

In Eph. 3:7-10 Paul brings out the fact that God gave him his calling and it was God who was working in him. I love the thought expressed by the Apostle Paul, "the unsearchable riches of Christ." That makes the Word of God so interesting, precious, and ever new. There are deep precious truths in it, as you study, that make the soul rejoice. New truths unfold and we have a greater understanding of God's way and His great plan.

In Col. 3:16 we notice that the Word of Christ is to dwell or live in our hearts, minds, and lives "richly" which would imply that it is to be the most important part of our lives. We are to sing from our hearts and not just with our lips or mind. Only when God can touch the heart and a song of praise arises will it reach the throne of God. Singing is the joy and praises of God overflowing from our hearts. —M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Paul instructed Timothy to "take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine." The doctrine is the word of God which informs us how we are to live and conduct ourselves in this life in order to obtain eternal life. Notice that Paul specifically pointed out Timothy himself, and the doctrine. The human factor is the material that provides the doctrine with opportunity to spring into life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life," but if no one accepts and follows Him and His way, the provision is fruitless. The signpost at the crossroad may indicate a town is so many miles but the sign itself will never convey the traveler to the town. Following the sign's instructions, however, will bring one to the desired goal. The Word in itself is merely an instruction. Purchase it, place it upon your shelves along with other treasured volumes, keep it in your bedside stand, yea and perhaps read from its pages frequently, but unless you accept its teaching and follow its instruction you will not attain to the final goal to which it directs you. In all God's creation only man possesses the intelligence to understand His Word. When man rejects or refuses the Word, then the Word alone becomes useless to that man.

Likewise, man without the doctrine has no ability to reach the need of a soul. Theology, philosophy, etc., though ever so skillfully presented, cannot possibly meet the need of fallen man-

kind. Jesus said He was the way. To attempt some other approach is only to make ourselves thieves and robbers.

But when the Word—the doctrine—in all its fullness is received, accepted, and put into practice in the heart and life of a man, it has found a climate in which it is able to come to full fruition and produce to the glory of God and the good of man. Without the Bible man is doomed. Without the Bible there is no church. "The words that I speak unto you, they are . . . life." John 6:63.

—C. Wilson

#### QUESTIONS:—

1. Can we rely on our own wisdom and by being very tactful be an example to others? 2. To what did Paul tell Timothy to give attendance? 3. How does one meditate? 4. How does Paul tell us we can save others? 5. How are Christ's words "unsearchable riches"? 6. How can the words of Christ dwell in us richly?

---

#### DON'T FORGET YOUR DADDY

A friend is a precious fortune  
In this world of hearts and love;  
A sister is man's great blessing—  
A guide to the realm above;  
The companionship of a brother  
Helps to keep away life's care,  
But there's one who, when you need him,  
Never fails to do his share.

Playmates, sweethearts, chums, and lovers  
Bring their joys to the heart;  
But they each bring hours of sorrow  
When the time has come to part;  
And when all of them have drifted  
Far away on life's wide sea,  
There is still one who will comfort  
You with love and sympathy.

Mother—oh, sweet, gentle mother!  
As I write these lines, I pray  
That no mind may misconstrue them,  
And that lips may never say  
I would take one single leaflet  
From the love-wreath that she wears;  
For my own heart adds a portion  
To a love the whole world shares.

But there's one who toils unceasing  
For his loved ones and his home,  
While the storms of life oppress him,  
When life's sea is lashed to foam.  
I would offer up a tribute—  
But I'm just a humble lad—  
So I'll end by simply saying,  
Don't forget your dear old dad.

—C. H. Meiers

---

June 22, 1969

### **GOD'S ENCOUNTER WITH MEN**

**Deut. 5:1-6; 30:17-20; Ps. 119:9-16, 33, 34; 2 Tim. 1:13, 14**

Deut. 5:1 And Moses called all Israel, and said unto them, Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day, that ye may learn them, and keep, and do them.

2 The Lord our God made a covenant with us in Horeb.

3 The Lord made not this covenant with our fathers, but with us, even us, who are all of us here alive this day.

4 The Lord talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire.

5 (I stood between the Lord and you at that time, to shew you the word of the Lord: for ye were afraid by reason of the fire, and went not up into the mount;) saying,

6 I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage.

30:17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them;

18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

20 That thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days:



that thou mayest dwell in the land which the Lord sware unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.

**Psa. 119:9** Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.

**10** With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments.

**11** Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.

**12** Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes.

**13** With my lips have I declared all the judgments of thy mouth.

**14** I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as in all riches.

**15** I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways.

**16** I will delight myself in thy statutes: I will not forget thy word.

**33** Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end.

**34** Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart.

**2 Tim. 1:13** Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

**14** That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us.

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

**Central Thought:** Our only source of hope is through the scriptures and we need to realize the need of storing them up in our hearts and minds and living by them.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The words of Moses in Deuteronomy were spoken on Mt. Sinai and written toward the end of his life, about 1400 B. C. Most of the Psalms were written by David about 1000 B. C. The Apostle Paul wrote the letter to Timothy from the prison in Rome.

**Lesson Reference—Psalm 19:7-14.**

## **ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Our lesson today comes from three great men through whom God spoke. Moses was the meekest man that ever lived and was an instrument in God's hands through whom He wrought great miracles and revealed His great laws for mankind. Moses wrote the first five books in the Bible. Adam knew Methuselah who lived to the year of the flood and knew Noah. Noah told his son, Shem, and Shem told Abraham. Abraham told his son Isaac and Isaac told Jacob. He told his twelve sons and Moses was told it by his father Amram. We also note that Jesus verified the truth of these first five books when he said, "But if ye believe not his [Moses] writings, how shall ye believe my words?" John 6:47. Archaeologists (those who dig up old ruins) have proved that writing dates back to five or six hundred years before Moses' time.

In the chapters preceding our lesson Moses tells the Israelites about the dealings of God with their fathers and in our lesson Moses gives them some final warnings and instructions. Today we need the same instructions and must realize that God is requiring much of us. We need to learn the laws of God and keep them and do them. Life and death are set before us today. Eternal life is given to us if we obey God's laws, but eternal death awaits us if we disobey. God is extending mercy to all, but a time is coming when we will face the judgment. Anything we let stand between us and God today is our idol.

The Psalmist David asks a question and then answers it. By taking heed and obeying God's Word one's heart can be cleansed, whether young or old. Real Bible conviction brings a remorse for one's sins and through godly sorrow and remorse one can find God and his ways and be cleansed by repenting of sin and turning away from it. Only in God's Word can you find the way to be cleansed and to keep cleansed.

Young people, the devil paints a rosy picture of a brave daring life if you will follow him, but understand thoroughly that there is poison in all of it. Wayne Turner who is serving time for murder says, "The other side takes in the tears, heartache and grief." He started out on a road of crime by stealing empty pop and milk bottles from the neighbors' yards and selling them, and that led to greater crimes. Seek God with all your heart, acknowledge Him as your teacher.

At the end of the lesson notice the comments on the Scripture, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee," in the article "Hide Away the Word."

Our last Scripture in 2 Tim. 1:13 is good instruction from the Apostle Paul. Hold fast to God's Word. Cling to it and let your mind dwell on it. Hold fast to the plan of salvation which has been taught you with faith and love for Christ.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God is an all-wise God; He knows man's heart completely, therefore it is a ridiculous business to attempt to approach God with anything less than our whole heart. One thing God requires implicitly and that is that we be absolutely honest with ourselves and with Him as God. When we meet these conditions that puts us in a fit position to enter into a covenant which God is willing to make with us today, just as He did with literal Israel of old. Now notice the terms of the covenant. Verse 1, "Hear, O Israel, the statutes and judgments which I speak in your ears this day." God laid down the provisions of the agreement and man's part is to remember and obey the requirements. Some may say, "That is an unfair contract for we had no say as to its provision," but keep this in mind: man had been directing his own way and it led him continually in the path of death. God's plan and purpose was to recover fallen man from the clutches of death and His wisdom told Him what it would take to accomplish that feat. Therefore he laid out the plan, explained it in detail through the mouth of Moses to the people, then left it up to them to make their own choice whether they would accept or forebear. He also made known to them the consequences should they elect to refuse His offer. Literal Israel looked to the written law for its salvation, which law pointed on down to Christ as its fulfilment. You and I today are living under the fullness of the "gospel day" wherein all the wonders of full and complete deliverance from all sin is available to us every one by the forgiveness of sin committed and cleansing of sin inherited through the fountain of His all atoning blood. Our side of the contract is to humble ourselves with our whole heart and cry out to Him to have mercy on us and save us for we are sinners. His part is to accept our repentance and perform the work. Jesus said, "And him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

With these thoughts in mind we can understand the sentiment of the words of the Psalmist for we experience the identical feeling in our own hearts. We have longed for and sought to have our hearts made pure and clean before Him as we accepted His Word with our whole heart. Then we set about to create an atmosphere and climate that would allow

that experience to prosper and grow in our lives. It would be fatal to neglect our experience after we receive it. Oh, how our hearts cry out to Him for grace and courage and help to be able to hold fast to this good thing that has been wrought in our hearts.

—C. Wilson

### QUESTIONS:—

1. Why did God connect judgment with obedience to His statutes? 2. How did God talk to the Israelites on Mt. Sinai? (verse 4.) 3. What has God set before us today? 4. How can a young man cleanse his ways? 5. Why is it very needful to hide the Word in our hearts and minds? 6. What kind of words are to hold fast?

### HIDE AWAY THE WORD

One teen-age girl told me that she wished she had not gone to the Junior-Senior banquet. Her argument was that it was just the same group she went to school with and all they were going to do was to eat together and there would be sponsors there to keep things straight. Later she said some of the young people had been drinking before they came and had brought a bottle. Things went on that made her wish she had not been there.

Dear young people, hide this Scripture away in your heart. "For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead." 1 Peter 4:3, 4.

One high school principal told me that at football games the dope peddlers made their appearance. Many other temptations are presented at these big gatherings. You are called "chicken" if you do not smoke nor drink, which leads many times to the taking of dope. One dope addict plainly declared that all dope addicts were prostitutes and thieves. On and on the chain of sin is drawn tighter around a soul, so do as the Bible says, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." We are held responsible to God if we defile our bodies. Here is the Scripture that we are to hide away in our hearts that will keep us from sinning against God. "If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." 1 Cor.

3:17, 18. We cannot let those of the world use their worldly wisdom to try to get us to turn aside from God's Word. We will be judged by it in that day. Many in the past have argued and held to their worldly wisdom that smoking cigarettes would not hurt a person. Generally, they would point out a person who had lived to be of great age and had smoked since youth. But the child of God took God's wisdom in the matter and held to the fact it was defiling the temple of God, our bodies, and taught against it. Today the medical men have proved it causes cancer. Young people, the Bible is right and it would be wise to follow it. It will not lead to frustrations or emotional upsets when obeyed to the fullest, but will bring sweet peace and contentment to the soul.

Notice some of the following Scriptures that you should hide in your heart that you might not sin against God, and find peace to your soul. One of these you need to know for your future happiness.

"Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men." 2 Cor. 8:21. Resist temptations to be dishonest even in the very smallest things. Be strong in all of these things whether it will be known by others or not.

"And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband: But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife." 1 Cor. 7:10, 11. Remember when you choose a companion that you are to stay with that one "until death do you part." Pray much about your choice and be careful.

Maybe you can add some other Scriptures that you should hide away in your heart so you will not sin against God.

—M. Miles

---

June 29, 1969

### **GOD'S CALL TO MANKIND**

**Luke 4:16-18, 21; Isa. 5:14, 16, 18, 20-23; James 2:2, 3, 9, 10**

Luke 4:16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read.

17 And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written,

18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

21 And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Isa. 5:14 Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure: and their glory, and their multitude, and their pomp, and he that rejoiceth, shall descend into it.

16 But the Lord of hosts shall be exalted in judgment, and God that is holy shall be sanctified in righteousness.

18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope:

20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

21 Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

22 Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:

23 Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!

James 2:2 For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

3 And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

9 But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.

**Memory Verse:** But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream. Amos 5:24.

**Central Thought:** Do not let man's wisdom cause you to call evil good. Black is black, white is white. Good is good and evil is evil. There is no such thing as a grey line. Our Bible is our standard.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The scene in the synagogue at Nazareth took place about 28 A. D. Jesus had just come from the wilderness after He had been tempted of the devil. He had gone up into Galilee "in the power of the Spirit."

The prophecies of Isaiah were made about 760 B. C. The Epistle of James probably was written about 55 or 60 A. D.

Lesson Reference: Galatians 5:19-26.

## ADULT AND YOUNG PEOPLES' COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

We are living in a world that is discarding the Bible. They are doing this right in the face of many facts that have been witnessed and verified. Our lesson brings out the fact that Jesus lived and many witnessed His life, death, and ascension. They have left all of this on record. Jesus called for the scroll or Old Testament which was all there was of the Bible in the days of Jesus. By memory Luke wrote what Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1, 2. Jesus told them who were in the synagogue, or chapel, that day that this was fulfilled and all there were amazed at the "gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth." How can anyone disbelieve in the great love and compassion our Lord and Saviour has for them and for all mankind? Rebuke any thought presented to you by the devil of unbelief.

Today many are bruised under the hand of the enemy. Paul acknowledged that it was hard to live in sin and changed his ways. Peter left all and followed Jesus because he found a greater peace in his soul by living for Jesus. When you look at the poor wrecked body of a person addicted to dope, whose soul is helplessly in the hands of the devil and all those who are bound by sin, you love to point them to Jesus who came to set at "liberty them that are bruised" and "to heal the broken-hearted." This thought makes my heart sing, "Oh what a Savior, O hallelujah, His heart was broken on Calvary; His hands were nail-scarred, His side was riven, He gave His life-blood for even me." Praise God there is deliverance for all who will come to Jesus with godly sorrow, repenting of their sins. They need not go to that place called hell who hath enlarged herself where those who are lifted up in pride and rebellion do not try to break the "cords of vanity" and sin. Many today are calling evil good. It's all right to tell lies at times, some say. (Give other examples.) They say that there is no harm in this or that, but dear ones, if the Word of God condemns it, there is harm in it. We can't go by man's

wisdom, but must humbly accept God's ways to be ready to meet Him in that day. Some might say it is all right to take a little strong drink once in a while. Do you know that is the way the drunkard lying in the gutter started? Be wise and acknowledge that God's ways are best.

God is calling for us to love all men. If we have respect of persons we sin. Again there is no grey line. Right is right and wrong is wrong. We can't sin in one point and be accepted of God. We are guilty before God and one sin will keep us out of heaven.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Jesus used the words of the prophet of old to announce His mission upon earth and he read it publicly to the people there in the synagogue. From then on He became active in a public ministry performing the task laid out for Him from the foundation of the world, namely, the salvation of fallen man. No other event since the fall of Adam has produced such an impact on the human family! This Christ was able to discern the hearts of men. (Matt. 9:4; 12:25; Luke 5:22; 6:8; 9:47; 11:17; 1 Cor. 3:20.) He is just as able yet today. It is sheer folly for any man to proclaim one thing with his mouth and feel something else in his heart, thinking that the Lord won't know the difference. That man is only fooling himself. There is no way to deal with God successfully other than to be absolutely honest with Him and with ourselves. Jer. 17:9 declares, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" We have been sold under sin so long and known nothing else from little on up but the influence of a depraved nature until only the Lord Himself will be able to reveal to us the working of our own heart. That is why we must be completely honest with Him and trust Him completely. When we submit ourselves wholly to Him, His Spirit will dig out things in our hearts that we never dreamed were there and unless we maintain complete trust in Him we will be inclined to question His wisdom. A great many people who come face to face with themselves as they really are refuse to accept it and the grace offered to correct it, and continue on to their own destruction. (Isa. 5:14.) For those who are willing to receive the light and walk in it as He leads, measuring up as they go, the blessing of the Lord is real. (Isa. 5:16) Sometimes folks at first acquaintance seem to be real spiritual and getting along in their experience nicely, but when time passes by there begins to show up things dragging along that ruin the whole thing. Little ideas and opinions that cling to a self-life somewhere, attitudes that restrict the free working of the Spirit in



their lives as it would like to, all these and many more love to get in the cart and have folks take the rope and pull them along! May God help us to be able to recognize and cut loose from every one that we may be free in Him to be used according to His will and purpose. Nothing but a dishonest heart could be guilty of the acts described in verses 20-23! God forbid that any should be guilty of that sin.

I thank the Lord for an opportunity for an experience with Him which has made me able and taught me how to love all men alike. The Lord didn't turn His back on anyone, but suffered and bled and died to save all. He loved everyone, even me who was lost and undone, defiled and full of sin, but He had mercy on me and saved me. Would that all would turn to Him and His wonderful salvation. Rich or poor, wise or simple, small or great—all may come and be saved. —C. Wilson

---

## QUESTIONS:

1. Did they have the book of Isaiah in the days of Jesus?
  2. Can you tell how the words of Isaiah were fulfilled in the days of Jesus?
  3. Why has hell enlarged itself?
  4. How can sin and iniquity be compared to a cart rope and cords?
  5. How can anyone call evil good?
  6. What is pronounced upon those who drink and mingle strong drink?
  7. How can a person "justify the wicked for reward"?
- 

## FALSE COURAGE

False courage is a terrible thing; and the thrill seeker, having the first taste of this courage, finds it easier and easier to let the barrier down each succeeding time to where it tends to grow on him and becomes a living part of the thrill seeker. Then try to break it—try to stop it, and the devil laughs at you for your folly. I wish every youngster in this world today could take a good look at a narcotics user during a withdrawal period as they are coming off dope. The sight is so revolting and sickening, that I'd be safe to say not another ounce of dope would ever be sold illegally in the world. I wish every youngster in this world, before he took his first drink, could see a drunkard with the D. T.'s cowering in a corner for fear of snakes, or rats, or bats that aren't there. To them it's real, because drink has warped their minds and caused them to literally see things that aren't there. Could you see it, you'd never touch a drop of liquor as long as you lived. I wish every youngster, before he stole the first car for a joy ride, or went with someone in a stolen car just for the thrill of a joy ride, could see the acci-

dent and bodies of another group of thrill seekers who crashed their stolen car by going too fast, or running from the police—teenagers killed seeking a thrill, looking for some “kicks.” What a degrading waste it all is! And I wish you could see it all. I have, and let me assure you it’s revolting to the point of sickness within a person. So where does it all end for the smart man, the man with a chip on his shoulder, the lazy man, the man who feels the world owes him a living, the thrill seeker? I’ll tell you where it ends—in prisons, in mental institutions, in graveyards, in heartbreak. But even worse than this, it ends with the devil in hell. So if you are this day seeking that easy living, or feeling too smart, or planning to go out for some “kicks” with the gang, I implore you to stop and come to a realization of where your deeds will take you. False values and false loyalties will lead you to destruction and to hell, believe me!

—Wayne Turner (who is serving time for murder).

---

Additional copies of this second quarter of 1969 may be secured at 35c each, postpaid, by mailing your order to:—

**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**

**P. O. Box 518**

**GUTHRIE, OKLA. 73044**



