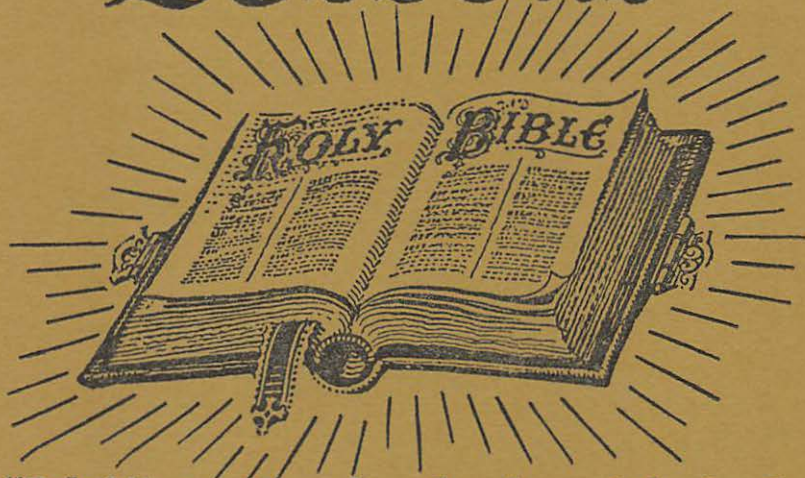


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

Vol. 1, No. 3
July, August, Sept.,
1969

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Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

Volume 1

July, August, September

Number 3

Table of Contents

	Page
July 6—God's World of Law and Order	1
July 13—God's Highest Creation	5
July 20—Soul-Rest and Worship Day	9
July 27—Marriage Instituted	15
August 3—Satan, Our Adversary	21
August 10—Sin Brings Spiritual Death	26
August 17—Redemption Through Christ	31
August 24—The Results of Sin	36
August 31—God Clothed Them	40
September 7—The More Excellent Sacrifice	45
September 14—Native Depravity	49
September 21—Sanctified by the Holy Ghost	53
September 28—The Bride of Christ	57
Experiences of Sarah Smith	61

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THEME FOR THIS THIRD QUARTER, 1969

In the past we have partially followed other prepared lesson outlines which was done by permission given years ago, but we are going to start with this quarter and make our own outline as the Lord directs. All the Bible is good, but we have some definite Bible truths that we are burdened to set forth under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. We will try to cover most of the Bible over a period of years, as we feel that we need to study all parts of God's Word.

For this quarter we have felt the Lord leading us to bring our minds to the fact that in the beginning God ordained a plan for mankind. We are going to point out the many New Testament doctrines that are taught in the first few chapters of Genesis. So let us keep this in mind as we study the lessons for this quarter of three months.

—Sister Marie Miles

July 6, 1969

GOD'S WORLD OF LAW AND ORDER

Genesis 1:1-6, 8, 10, 11, 14, 16, 20, 24; John 5:46, 47

Gen. 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

10 And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

14 And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:

16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

20 And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

24 And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

John 5:46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me.

47 But if ye believe not his writings how shall ye believe my words?

Memory Verse: O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. Psalm 104:24.

Central Thought: There is one God who is the Master Creator, Designer, and Life-giver, and He lives.

LESSON BACKGROUND

For more than 3000 years it has been an accepted fact that Moses wrote the first five books of the Bible. Before the days of writing, records were kept by passing them on by word of mouth. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old (Gen. 5:27), and he knew both Adam and Noah. Through Noah's sons, Abraham learned the facts and his sons told it to their sons and Moses wrote it down in a book, having been educated in the king's court. He also communed with God on Mt. Sinai.

Lesson References: John 1:1, 2, 14; John 17:24; Job 42:2-6.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In our schools are books with teachings by scientists who are attempting to explain the beginning of the solar system in which our earth was created. They admit a beginning. They

admit certain laws existed, such as gravitation, heat, motion, light, energy, etc. But who or what law is behind the beginning of all that they admit? We know, for the Bible tells us. It is God. Many scientists do not want to look into the Bible, or admit that God, in the beginning, created all things. To create means "to cause existence where previously to this moment there was no being." God created the sun and its nine planets, which include the earth, in the beginning. Even the atoms are in themselves tiny solar systems which man has found, when exploded, give great power. We stand in awe when we study about the great universe God created.

God created by divine command, but the theory of evolution, which is godless, claims that by a long-drawn-out process by degrees, in some unexplainable way, things evolved to what they are now. They claim that all living things bear relationship to each other, man included. The Christian does not accept the theory of evolution. He believes the Bible.

A science teacher said, "There are many 'missing links' in the theory of evolution. We might well expect to find that if one kind of plant or animal had ever changed into another, the evidence of this change would be found in the fossil record. This evidence is completely lacking."

God made the life in the sea, air, and on earth. All are commanded to reproduce (which is a miracle) after its kind. All vegetation is to bring forth seeds to reproduce after its kind. The elm tree will produce one thousand five hundred eighty-four million seeds. Every leaf pattern of every tree is different. Every grain of sand pattern is different. Oh, how wonderful our great God is! We live in a world of law, order, and beauty. A college professor said, "The living plants, the life cycles, food chains in the sea and in the soil, also the living creatures that are so amazingly complex, yet so perfectly fitted, all follow definite patterns, fulfill definite needs and follow the laws that God stated in the beginning."

Notice God said, "and the Spirit of God moved." In the beginning we have God, the Holy Spirit, and the Word, who is Jesus as expressed in John 1:1, 2, 14. Here we have the Trinity. Each had a dispensation. Today we are living in the Holy Spirit dispensation, the last days.

God is a Being who, in His infinite wisdom, cannot err or be deceived and who from His infinite goodness can do nothing but what is eternally just, right, and kind. He is a self-existent Being with all power. He is invisible, yet everywhere present. He is to be praised and adored, yet feared because of His greatness.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The great God of all the universe is the One who master-minded the forming of the earth and all its wonders. "And darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light." We read just recently that light only penetrates about 1000 feet into water, beyond that is total darkness. Notice the text says the Spirit of God moved on the face of the waters. God sent light on the face of the waters and left the rest of the water in darkness. It is still that way today. Thank God, He divided the light from the darkness in the beginning, and through that separation we are able to see clearly today! He separated the dry land from the waters and put bounds upon the waters to hold them where He put them. He planted the earth with crops that were to reproduce themselves, and they are still doing that today. He populated the waters with creatures adapted to water, and they, too, replenish themselves. The birds and the beasts of the field obey His law and follow His command for them—not one rebelling or contending with Him in any way! No other theory or idea ever presented to the mind of man as to the cosmos satisfies my mind like that of creation. The entire structure speaks continually of supreme wisdom, intelligence, and knowledge beyond our comprehension.

When Jesus came, He made it all the more positive that we and everything about us, are the handiwork of God and that we are the special objects of His great and infinite love. Oh! How thankful we are for believing hearts that we might be a partaker of Him and His wonderful promises to us as His trusting, believing children. —C. W. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of being is God? 2. What does the word "create" mean? 3. Do we believe that animals evolved from one form to another? 4. What will happen to this world that God made in the end of time? 5. Which of God's creation has not followed His law and order?

CREATION

The sun, the moon, the stars that shine
In ceaseless orbit out in space,
In this vast creation owned by God,
So far surpass the rocket's pace!
All move without the help of man;
All move within the Master's plan.

God needs no man to hang a star,
To keep the earth upon its course,
To tell the birds to travel south,
Or give the horse-sense to the horse.
All move without the help of man;
All move within the Master's plan.

July 13, 1969

GOD'S HIGHEST CREATION

Gen. 1:26, 27; 2:7; Zech. 12:1; 2 Cor. 4:16; 1 Pet. 3:4a
Genesis 2:9, 16-18, 20

Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Gen. 2:7 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

Zech. 12:1 The burden of the word of the Lord for Israel, saith the Lord, which stretcheth forth the heavens, and layeth the foundation of the earth, and formeth the spirit of man within him.

2 Cor. 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

1 Pet. 3:4a But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible.

Gen. 2:9 And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

16 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

20 And Adam gave names to all cattle, and to the fowl of the air, and to every beast of the field; but for Adam there was not found an help meet for him.

Memory Verse: And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness. Ephesians 4:24.

Central Thought: Man was created from the dust of the earth and was given an eternal soul which will never die.

LESSON BACKGROUND

It is supposed that the Garden of Eden is located somewhere in Mesopotamia near the junction of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers.

Lesson References: Job 14:14; Isa. 44:24; 45:9-12; 1 John 1:1, 2, 14.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

God is the giver of life. The animals have life, but they do not have a soul. The Bible says, "Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?" Job 3:21. The body of man was made out of the dust of the earth and stands as the highest order of God's creation. God breathed into him the "breath of life and man became a living soul." Man is composed of soul and body—inward man and outward man. Our lesson refers to it as the "hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible." The soul is not corruptible. It will never die nor, as the body does, go back to dust. Many false teachers today try to teach that when death comes, that is the end of man, but, be assured that is entirely false. The Apostle Paul says in Phil. 1:21-24 that it was "far better" for him to "depart," and "be with Christ." And in 2 Cor. 5:8, he says that he would "rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." There is a conscious existence between death and the resurrection from the grave. The righteous who are alive when Jesus comes, and the righteous dead whose bodies will come forth from the graves, will be "caught up together . . . in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." 1 Thess. 4:16, 17. What a glorious day that will be for the righteous! Those who lived in sin will be resurrected to damnation. (John 5:28, 29)

There is an anti-God teaching in many schools that man evolved, or there was a "gradual unfolding and branching out into the various forms of beings which constitute the animal kingdoms." (Organic Evolution—Lull) They state that this came to pass "from the beginning of organic life on the habitable planet." Where did the first life come from? God made a law that life should come from life. He gave the first life. He is Life and imparted life to the first man and set within man, animals, and all plants, life which enables them to reproduce according to certain laws, which are God's laws. They teach that embryos of fish, polliwogs, and humans look very much alike. This is true according to those who study those facts, but this is stronger proof that God exists and is the Giver of life. Scientists can't make an embryo of a fish turn out to be a polliwog, or man, or anything else but a fish. It will be the same kind of fish as the one that laid the egg. The same question is asked again, which evolutionists can't answer, Which came first, the chicken or the egg? We believe God created all things in the beginning and they did not evolve.

A science teacher tells us, "We find very old fossils, some of which lie very deep in undisturbed rock, but they are still human fossils. There is no graded series from beast-like creatures to man. There is not even one link in such a supposed series. We can arrive at no other conclusion than that man appeared suddenly on the earth in a form not too different from what we find today." We do not believe in evolution. We do not believe that all life in an unbroken chain can be traced back millions of years from man through ape-man and tree-shrews to worms, amoebae, and nothing at all, which came by chance, unguided and uncontrolled.

The entire human race has sprung from the original pair—Adam and Eve. Eve is declared to be "the mother of all living." (Gen. 3:2) Man was made "in the image of God." This is not a physical image, but he was endowed with special characteristics from God not found in other earthly creatures. Man is a moral being. His actions are not governed by instinct, but by a nature that knows right and wrong. He possesses a freedom of will. He can choose to do right or wrong. Man is an intellectual being. Today we are astonished at the inventions that man has made and at his mental capacity. Man was made, in the beginning, holy and pure in heart and was created for God's glory and companionship. The Bible says, "I have created him for my glory I have formed him: yea I have made him." Isa. 43:7. "Woe unto him that striveth with his Maker." Isa. 45:9.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him. All of God's other creation was new, nothing ever like it before that we know of, and He commanded it all to reproduce after its own kind or likeness. All of that entire kingdom He placed under the law of instinct, which requires no higher intelligence and provides for no volition. The beasts of the field, the fowls of the air, the creatures of the sea, and all creeping things follow the law they are under from generation to generation without rebellion or protest of any kind for they know no choice. They simply obey—instinct.

It is not so with man who was created after God's own image. God is a creature of intelligence, able to think and to reason, to plan and to build, to choose and select. God's own life is governed by a moral law which He obeys implicitly. Here is just a glimpse: God is all-wise, so He cannot be deceived. His wisdom told Him that by pursuing a course of absolute purity, holiness, uprightness in every way there would be nothing to cause corrosion or rust or decay, therefore He would be eternal. His being all-powerful made Him able to pursue that course, and possessing volition He chose to follow that very pattern, and so He is eternal. The qualities He possesses make Him able to handle every circumstance and condition He meets.

Man was created in that image and placed in an environment where he was well able to handle himself in every circumstance he would encounter. Nothing but a conscious act of his own volition would eject him from that environment and place him in a circumstance he was not equipped to handle. Man possesses higher intelligence of such a nature that he is able to evaluate and choose, therefore he also possesses volition or choice. None other of all creation is on that level, which makes man "God's highest creation." —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom does the "us" refer where it says, "Let us make man"? 2. How is it true that Adam was here by formation and we are here by commandment? 3. How is man God's highest creation? 4. What verse in our lesson teaches that the soul will never die? 5. What two important trees were planted in the garden of Eden? (Gen. 2:9) 6. How can we refute the theory of evolution?

HOW DO EVOLUTION AND CREATION DIFFER?

In two main ways—Creation is by Divine Fiat (or command); Evolution is godless and unbiblical (despite the theis-

(8)

tic evolutionists who claim to accept it as God's method of creating). Evolution is the Creator-substitute.

Creation is instantaneous, perfect, complete: Evolution is long-drawn, by imperceptible degrees, fumbling and stumbling its uncertain way from crudity and imperfection. Creation begins with God, Who externalized and materialized a part of His infinite energy: Evolution begins with Nothing— and ends in Nothing. It is a philosophy of godless chance, human pride and despair. The Bible alone records Creation; Evolution is Bible-free speculation. In fact, Evolution is "in", because the Bible is "out," it being made, or made out, to contradict Evolution declared to be scientifically proved. The fact is, mistakes have not been found in the Bible! —L. V. Cleveland

HOW OLD IS THE IDEA OF EVOLUTION?

Many people imagine that this idea originated in England with Charles Darwin and Alfred Russell Wallace a little over a century ago. Actually, however, the idea is as old as the ancient Greeks who were far less scientists than philosophical speculators. Darwin revived and popularized the idea. Until a few years back there were eminent scientists and zoologists of note who did not accept the chance development of life and from non-living matter, nor the gradual transformation of one kind of creature into another kind. —Professor L. V. Cleveland

July 20, 1969

SOUL-REST AND WORSHIP DAY

**Gen. 2:1-3; Heb. 4:3-10; Col. 2:14, 16, 17; Mark 16:2, 6b;
Acts 20:7a**

Gen. 2:1 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.

2 And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made.

3 And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.

Heb. 4:3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

4 For he spake in a certain place of the seventh day on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works.

5 And in this place again, If they shall enter into my rest.

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Col. 2:14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way nailing it to his cross;

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ.

Mark 16:2 And very early in the morning the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun.

6b He is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

Acts 20:7a Upon the first day of the week, When the disciples came together to break bread.

Memory Verse: Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28.

Central Thought: The true sabbath of the gospel dispensation is not the observance of any literal day. We have a perpetual sabbath, a rest to the soul when our sins are gone.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We must remember that our theme for this quarter is finding New Testament doctrines in Genesis. The ceremonial laws given to Moses were abolished. The Sabbath day was not kept until several hundred years after God rested on the seventh day. If simply resting on that day made it holy, then every day since would be holy because God's creative work on our universe was finished at that time and never resumed. It is a type of the perpetual soul rest we have when we have full Bible salvation.

Lesson References: Jer. 17:21, 22; John 5:16-18; Isa. 11:10; Acts 2:1; Rev. 1:10.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

God had finished His creation, and He saw that it was good. On the seventh day, He rested, and since it is a type of the soul-rest we find in this gospel day through Christ, He blessed it and sanctified it, which means He set it apart. God was not just thinking of the day, because He did not resume work the next day, but of the perpetual soul-rest we can have in Christ. When we are born again and have this rest, it will last on through eternity if we will hold fast to it in this life. Thank God for the rest to the soul! We, too, cease from our own works as God ceased from His.

Today many hold to the keeping of the Sabbath on Saturday. Some of the Scriptures in our lesson today plainly tell us that the Sabbath was a ceremonial law, along with the feast days, Pentecost, and other holy days which were abolished and nailed to the cross. We no longer keep them today. It was a type and "a shadow of things to come." Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath, and has said, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." It is spiritual rest for the soul, and not body rest. In Hebrews 4:4-10 (found in our lesson) we want to notice the following thoughts. The Israelites did not obtain true rest on the seventh day (Sabbath) in Canaan. Therefore, David prophesied of "another day," which is the gospel day. By faith we enter today into that soul-rest. The words, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God" is a direct type of the soul-rest we have through the gospel.

The Sabbath was given directly to the Israelites. In Deut. 5:15 we read, "And remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt, and that the Lord thy God brought thee out thence through a mighty hand and by a stretched out arm: therefore the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the sab-

bath day." Also in Exodus 31:17 we read that the sabbath was "a sign between me and the children of Israel." It was given as a memorial of their deliverance from Egypt and also commemorated the rest of God at the close of the creative period; while it was also a "shadow of things to come," which was fulfilled in the gospel of Christ. It is like the Passover which commemorated the deliverance of the first-born of the Hebrews and also pointed to "Christ our passover, who is sacrificed for us." (1 Cor. 5:7)

What day could be better to meet together to worship the Lord than Sunday, the first day of the week? That is the day Jesus arose from the grave triumphant over death, hell, and the grave. Later He met with the disciples on the "first day of the week." John 20:19, 20, 26. The Holy Spirit made His advent into the world to live in the hearts of those who have been justified on the first day of the week. Our lesson points out that Paul and the church, in later years, met together on the first day of the week. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Rest—A state of quiet or repose; cessation of motion, labour, or action of any kind; freedom from everything that disquiets; peace, tranquility; sleep.—Webster.

Now, let us apply this to God and His experience of creating. At the end of six days, He suspended motion and labour and action of any kind, for He stopped creating. That took care of that portion of the definition, for if He did no work, He must have rested. Psalm 121:3, 4, rules out God's need for slumber or sleep, so that was not why creation ceased. That leaves for consideration the portion that says, "freedom from everything that disquiets, peace, tranquility," and that is where we would like to direct our attention. Had there been any part of creation that was not just exactly what God wanted and intended for it to be, He would not have enjoyed peace of mind. It would have disquieted Him and disturbed His peace until He could not have rested. The job would not have been complete, His work not finished, and it would have been a trouble to Him. Such was not the case for our lesson teaches that "the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them." That He was completely satisfied with His work there is no doubt for in Gen. 1:31 it says, "And God saw every thing that He had made, and, behold it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." With His mind completely satisfied, pleased and contented with His efforts and their results, He entered the seventh day able to rest.

Now since we have been created in His very own image, we, too, would be capable of enjoying rest. In the garden man partook of that blessing right along with his Creator, but when sin came, that changed the entire picture. It troubled God's mind and heart, for His creation was involved, and it certainly disturbed the peace and tranquility of humanity. Even to this day humanity is restless and dissatisfied, never content nor at rest for any duration, simply because the heart is troubled with sin—sin that knows no satisfaction, therefore, it cannot rest. But thanks be to God, "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." When salvation, full and complete, enters the heart of man, washes away his sins and makes him clean, fills his heart and soul with divine love like it was intended to be, joy and gladness replace the turmoil and discontent and we are able to rest in Him. The fact that God has provided a perfect plan of complete salvation for mankind whereby man can be saved if he will, puts God's mind at ease for He has done His part, so the choice is up to us. Men who refuse His mercy and languish in a lake of fire will not disturb His rest, for He provided for their escape but they refused and chose the other instead. They alone are responsible. —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain why the seventh day that God rested from His creative work was sanctified and set apart. 2. How does it become a type of the soul rest we have in Christ through salvation? 3. Where do people today get their Scriptures for keeping Saturday as the Sabbath? 4. What memorial was observed by the Israelites in keeping the Sabbath? 5. Does the Apostle Paul tell us why the Sabbath was abolished as a ceremonial law? 6. How did we come to start meeting together to worship the Lord on Sunday?

SOUL-REST

God used the testimony of a former confederate in sin to bring to Jerry's (Jeremiah McAuley) mind the glorious news of a deliverance from the life of sin which had ended behind prison bars. This man had not been out of prison very long himself, but a great transformation—not reformation—had taken place in his life. In a simple but forceful way in the prison chapel, he told how Christ had forgiven his sins and made it possible for him to live a decent, honest life and deserve the respect of those with whom he came into contact, instead of feeling that every man's hand was against him. Convincing indeed must have been the words which fell from the lips of this man to produce the effect which Jerry describes:

I devoured every word that fell from his lips, though I could not understand half I heard. One sentence, however, impressed

me deeply, which he said was a verse from the Bible. The Bible! I knew there was such a book, that people pretended it was a message from God; but I had never cared for it nor read a word in it. But now God's time had come, and He was going to show me the treasures that were hidden in that precious Book.

The light did not break upon Jerry immediately. There were many months of seeking, many days of despondency and discouragement, before the final day arrived when God met him in his lonely cell and made Himself known to him.

All at once it seemed as if something supernatural was in my room. I was afraid to open my eyes. I was in an agony, and the sweat rolled off my face in great drops. Oh, how I longed for God's mercy! Just then, in the very height of my distress, it seemed as if a hand was laid upon my head, and these words came to me: "My son, thy sins which are many, are forgiven." I do not know if I heard a voice, yet the words were distinctly spoken to my soul. Oh, the precious Christ! How plainly I saw Him, lifted on the cross for my sins! What a thrill went through me! I jumped from my knees; I paced up and down my cell. A heavenly light seemed to fill it; a softness and a perfume like the fragrance of sweetest flowers. I did not know if I was living or not. I clapped my hands and shouted, "Praise God! Praise God!" One of the guards was passing along the corridor, and called out, "What's the matter?" "I've found Christ," I answered; "my sins are all forgiven! Glory to God!" He took out a paper from his pocket and wrote the number of my cell, and threatened to report me in the morning. But I didn't care for that. My soul was all taken up with my great joy. But the next morning nothing happened to me, and I think the Lord made him forget it. What a night that was! I shall surely never forget the time when the Lord appeared as my gracious Deliverer from sin.

Immediately there sprang up within him the desire to let his companions know of the joy he had found, and there began an experience which found its ultimate expression in the Water Smith Mission in New York City. To this great cause he gave the rest of his life and led many to Christ.

July 27, 1969

MARRIAGE INSTITUTED

Gen. 2:21-24; Matt. 19:3-9; 1 Cor. 7:10, 11, 39. Eph. 5:22, 28

Gen. 2:21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead there of;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Matt. 19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They said unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

1 Cor. 7:10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband.

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

Eph. 5:22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

Memory Verse: What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. Mark 10:9.

Central Thought: To disregard God's plan for mankind will bring frustration and emotional problems which will eventually lead to the soul's destruction and bring heart-ache to others.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Notice our lesson shows that Jesus brings man back to the marriage instituted in the beginning. The Apostle Paul substantiates Jesus' teachings.

Lesson References: Matt. 5:32; Mark 10:11, 12; Rom. 7:2, 3; 1 Cor. 7:10-16; 1 Peter 3:7.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Our lesson is plain on what the Bible teaches about marriage. Jesus verifies God's purpose in the beginning that there be just one woman for one man as long as they live after they are married. Marriage is serious business. It should be given more thought and consideration than any business venture which would involve thousands of dollars. It should not be based on mere emotions, but should have solid foundations. Therefore, I contend, and not I only, but those who for years have studied these facts, that one should not marry before at least the age of twenty, and better later than that. Statistics prove that 50 per cent of teen-age marriages end in divorce within a five-year period. Marriage is for adults. (Notice that the Bible speaks of only numbering those over twenty years. 1 Chron. 23:27.) Those who are married need maturity of mind, emotions, and spiritual depths as well as a well developed physical body. The body develops faster than the mind, and physically, might be able to bring offspring into the world years before that person is qualified to assume the responsibilities of being a parent or emotionally able to face the strains and stresses of establishing a home for offspring. Many times early mar-

riage is based on false love rather than real love for the person as he is. As long as she pleases him, he feels he loves her because that self-centeredness is being satisfied, but when she asserts herself and he is not having his vanity pleased, there is trouble. His SELF wells up against her. This is a wrong basis for getting along. There must be a love that will be considerate and not possessive. This will take a mature mind with some experiences in dealing with and solving the problems of life behind it to grasp this fact so there can be a working solution to maintaining a stable home for the children.

Eph. five, part of which is in our printed lesson, gives us the place for the husband and wife in the home. The Bible says the husband is the "head of the wife." Not heady, but the head. When he loves her as his own body, he will think of her from that angle. The wife is to be subject to her husband and submit herself to him in all the ways that are possible, yet pleasing to the Lord. Both working together on this basis will bring harmony in the home.

"Till death do we part" is according to God's Word. The couple is to leave "father and mother and shall cleave to each other." They become "one flesh"—no longer two.

We do reap what we sow, and if a mistake is made in marriage, God has grace for each to bear and forbear with the other. Couples should think of their children and their vows made before God and man. Those vows are binding. Divorce is not the solution to the problem. Divorce should never be mentioned between a married couple, or even given a second thought. Some have tried that route, but they can't get away from their own conscience and God's Word. A recent poll was taken on divorces, and the fact established that 50 per cent, even after five years, regretted the action. (J. D. Schubert.) Possibly the others did not speak from their hearts.

Jesus said, "Whosoever shall marry her when she is put away committeth adultery." There are more than 400,000 divorces granted in this country every year that affect millions of children. This does not include about 300,000 separations each year. (Family Ser. Assn.) We need a great move back to the Bible teachings, or our nation is doomed for complete ruin. Our families are disappearing. Children are left without the security which is essential for normal emotional growth. Juvenile delinquency is on the increase. Mothers who go out to work without a solid reason and leave their children are shirking their duty. Paul urged the older women to instruct the younger women to "love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed." Titus 2:4, 5.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The first year or two of married life could well be, and quite often is, the footing upon which the union stands or falls. Two people from different backgrounds, different families, different habits, different patterns of thinking, in fact, two almost strangers suddenly take up residence together and begin to share their twain lives as one. No matter how well folks may feel they know each other before marriage, they will soon discover that they actually were pretty much strangers when they begin the business of living together. How thoughtful of the Lord to arrange it so this would be the time when all the healing balm of love would be so prominent. More adjustments will need to be made more quickly than perhaps at any other one time in all the adventure of life. This is the time to learn a great deal about your lifetime companion—likes and dislikes, habits, traits, dispositions, and a multitude of things. These are definitely times when the newly-weds need to be alone together. Learn to make decisions together, to counsel together, to work together and play together, to learn to be at ease and comfortable together. This is where, from two entirely different backgrounds and cultures, there begins to emerge from the blending of the two the setting that will surround a succeeding generation. Newly married folks need and must learn how to work all these out for themselves, between themselves. Failure to do that could very well lead to trouble.

Folks who come seeking a Saviour's love are invited to enter into a covenant with Him. The marriage vow of the soul to its Creator, bequeathing itself to Him to love and serve, honor and cherish, etc. is exchanged between the Lord and His seeking child at the altar. Then begins the identical process experienced in literal marriage. Pure, holy, heavenly love is flowing freely to cover the wounds and bruises of misunderstanding and mistakes. Long-standing habits by sheer force of momentum might cause a misstep or thoughtless word, but such fervent love soon has the matter righted and all smooth again. To the newly born again soul there can be little doubt of the Saviour's love for him. Use this time well. This is the time to learn the sound of His voice when He speaks to your soul. Learn to distinguish between a reproof and a blessing. Learn to know when you have pleased Him and when He was not so well satisfied with your conduct. Learn to trust Him implicitly and see to it that you do not tolerate any inclination to doubt. Perfect love casts out fear and fear has torment. One of the greatest torments known to Christians is to entertain a little doubt as to the Saviour's love for them! If He doesn't love me quite as much as He does someone else, He will

betray me under certain circumstances, the doubter thinks. Crucify all such thinking and put it to death. Such thoughts produce fear. Have no fear to abandon yourself completely, heart, soul, mind and spirit into His great love for you and rest assured that He will care for you for time and eternity for He is the lover of your soul. Charity never faileth. —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. What part of the man was taken to form the woman?
2. Describe Adam's feelings when he looked at Eve, his wife.
3. Did Jesus give permission for man to put asunder a married couple?
4. Why did God permit Moses to give a divorce?
5. Does Jesus bring us back to the beginning of God's plan for marriage? How?
6. What does Jesus say about one marrying a woman who has been put away?
7. If a man leave his wife what is he to do?
8. What are the Bible teachings on the relationship between a married couple?

It is said that one man said to the bride at the wedding reception, "Yours should be unusually happy—one of those fifty-fifty marriages. You seem to have the knack of meeting each other halfway." The bride replied, "You are very kind to say that, but the truth is that Tom and I have vowed to make ours a hundred-hundred marriage. By that we mean that each of us will not go halfway, but all the way, to make our marriage successful."

BROKEN HOMES BRING HARDSHIPS

In 1839 in Ireland, a baby boy named Jeremiah McAuley brought gladness to the heart of a mother whose life was far from happy, but it also brought added anxiety and responsibility, for there was a shadow over that home. The father was a counterfeiter, and before this tiny lad was old enough to know him, the home was broken up and he was compelled to go away to escape the heavy hand of the law.

The lad was allowed to grow up much as he pleased, without the guidance of either parent, in the home of his grandmother. Education was deemed unnecessary, and in his own words, he was "left to have my own way; to roam about in idleness, doing mischief continually, and suffering from the cruel and harsh treatment of those who had the care of me."

When he was only thirteen years of age, this boy from a broken home was sent to this country to make his home with his sister in the city of New York. For a brief time he assisted his brother-in-law in his business, but he soon became well used to dishonesty. Tiring of the restriction of the home, he

decided to live by his own wits. With two other young fellows, he went out in a boat at night stealing whatever could be obtained from the boats in the river. During the daytime they sold their ill-gotten goods, and with the proceeds dressed up and had a good time as long as the money lasted. They frequented the vile dens in Water Street, practicing all sorts of wickedness, until this lad became a nuisance and a terror in the Fourth Ward. His acquired knowledge of prize-fighting helped him in his life of vice and crime, and yet through all this he bore the name of Jeremiah, "exalted of God."

When nineteen years of age he was arrested for highway robbery. Although a child in years, he was a man in sin, and yet he was innocent of the crime for which he was arrested. Hated by the inhabitants of the Fourth Ward, they took this means to get rid of him.

He had no friends, no advocate at court; he was declared guilty and sentenced to serve fifteen years in State Prison. Of the journey to Sing-Sing Jerry had this to say:

"That ride was the saddest hour of my life. I looked back on my whole past course, on all my hardships, my misery and sins, and gladly would I have thrown myself out before the advancing train and ended my life. It was not sorrow for sin that possessed me, but a heavy weight seemed to press me down when I thought of the punishment I had gotten to suffer for all my wrong-doings, and an indignant, revengeful feeling for the injustice of this sentence. How my heart swelled with rage, and then sank like lead, as I thought of my helplessness in the hands of the law, without a friend in the world.

"When I arrived at the prison—I shall never forget it—the first thing that attracted my attention was the sentence over the door: "The way of the transgressor is hard." Though I could not read very well, I managed to spell that out. It was a familiar sentence, which I had heard a great many times. All thieves and wicked people know it well, and they know, too, that it is out of the Bible. It is a well-worn proverb in all the haunts of vice, and one confirmed by daily experience. And how strange it is that, knowing so well that the way is hard, the transgressor will still go in it."

Space will not permit a full recital of the five or six years Jerry McAuley spent in prison before God graciously opened the doors to freedom to body and soul. Although he at times was intractable, severe punishment soon taught him the folly of disobedience.

August 3, 1969

SATAN, OUR ADVERSARY

**Gen. 3:1-5; John 8:44; 1 John 3:8; 2 Cor. 11:3; Eph. 6:12;
2 Cor. 11:13, 14; Rev. 16:14; Matt. 25:41**

Gen. 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

John 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

2 Cor. 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

Eph. 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

2 Cor. 11:13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Rev. 16:14 For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Matt. 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Memory Verse: For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.
1 John 3:8b.

Central Thought: All forms of deceit, crookedness, superstition, falsehoods, defilement, and guilt can be traced to Satan who is seeking to destroy your soul.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our Scriptures were written, through the inspiration of the Spirit, by Moses, John, and Paul, and our blessed Lord spoke the last Scripture which tells the fate of Satan and all who follow his deceitful ways.

Adam was well acquainted with the beasts and he had not found one among them resembling himself. None had been endued with reason and speech. Satan used the serpent as a tool and his evil spirit took possession of it to speak to Eve. It was a real serpent, perverted by Satan to be the instrument of his temptation.

Lesson References: Acts 5:3; Matt. 13:19; Acts 16:16-18.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

It is well to become acquainted with our adversary, or opposer. Satan hates to see anyone happy. He wanted to spoil the souls of Adam and Eve who were created in holiness and righteousness. He knew if he could seduce them he would plunge the whole human race into sin. He worked cunningly and subtly. He chose a beast to speak through, something far inferior to man. Satan is the author of the first lie. Jesus said that he was a "liar and the father of lies." Satan told Eve, "Ye shall not surely die." This was a direct and absolute contradiction of God's own Word. He is doing that same thing today. It is his method to draw souls on from doubting God's Word to denying it. Satan never uses God's Word except for mischief. He works to corrupt minds from the "simplicity that is in Christ."

We do not see our enemy. We do not wrestle against "flesh and blood." But Satan works through corrupted men and women who hold various places in the world and around us. He comes as an "angel of light" to deceive. There is much "spiritual wickedness in high places" (sectism or false religious bodies). They take part of the Word so they can deceive souls. Wicked spirits take possession of rulers, etc., who try to force God's people to sin or turn against righteous living.

Satan works miracles in these false religious groups to deceive. Jesus said Satan would deceive the very elect if possible. It is not wise for a young person to try to talk to those who are deceived by a false religion. If you are not well-grounded in the Scriptures, or established, you might become confused in your mind, which makes good soil for the devil to plant evil seeds of disbelief. It is a dangerous thing to debate evident and well-known truths. We must accept them.

Jesus tells us the fate of all those who follow Satan. But, thank God, our lesson also tells us that the purpose of Jesus, the Son of God, is to destroy the works of the devil out of our souls. We can have power over Satan through Jesus. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When the devil began talking to Eve in the garden the first thing he told her was a lie. Jesus said that from the very beginning the devil was a murderer and abode not in the truth, and not only that, but that the devil is the father of lies. No where do we have any record that the devil has become converted, but rather, all about us we have abundant evidence that he is still at the shady business of lying. On every hand his untruth is abounding and folks are still being beguiled by it just as was Eve in the garden. He has folks believing that the blood of Christ will not cleanse from sin here in this present world, but that they must go on sinning more or less every day in word, thought, and deed. He has other folks believing that unless they fall under some power and babble in an unintelligible tangle of sound they are not filled with the Holy Ghost. He has other multitudes believing that when they talk through a curtain to a prelate on the other side and confess their sins to him that he will mete out their penalty and let them pay for their own sin by deeds of the flesh and be clean before the Lord. Other folks he tells that since they are living no worse without religion than many do who profess it, then they must be all right if the others are!

Oh, how our hearts go out to these poor benighted souls who by believing the untruth of the devil have failed to discover the wonderful fountain of cleansing that flows from Calvary's mount. What a sad day it will be when we all meet before

the Judgment Bar and see multitudes turned away because they have believed Satan's lies and sought refuge for their soul in something else besides the all-atoning blood of Jesus. He that climbeth up some other way is a thief and a robber. —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Did Satan choose a method of temptation that surpassed Adam and Eve's comprehension? 2. Compare the meaning of the word "beginning" as used in Gen. 1:1 and John 8:44 where Jesus tells of Satan. 3. How does Satan want to corrupt our minds? 4. How does he approach us according to one verse in our lesson? 5. Why does he work miracles? 6. What is his doom?

ORIGIN OF EVIL

Question—Will you please explain more fully . . . the origin of the devil? —F. S.

Answer—A Correct explanation of this has something to do with our hope of eternal salvation. Let us notice a few Scriptures used by those who teach that the devil was once a holy angel in heaven. Isa. 14:12. If you will read the remainder of this chapter you will see that it was the king of Babylon who had exalted himself to heaven, not the devil. Luke 10:18. This has reference to Christ's defeat and overthrow of the devil in the temptation in the wilderness. Satan was cast down from his exalted position. Rev. 12:7. This refers to a war in the ecclesiastical heaven or in the religious world. Dragon here has reference to a spiritual power and not the devil. 2 Peter 3:4, 5, and Jude 6:7. This has reference to Adam and Eve. They were cast out of Eden, their first estate. . . . Notice that in the last two texts the writers are speaking of great wickedness or sin. Why should Peter start with sin in the eternal heaven and then go next to the wickedness in the days of Noah? Why should he overlook the sin in Eden which plunged the world into sin? We understand that Peter and Jude are talking about wickedness on the earth, and therefore start with the sin in the garden and not sin among holy angels in heaven. The Bible is not a record of what is done in heaven, but what is done on earth. It is said in John 8:44 that the devil was a murderer from the beginning. In John 1:1 we are told that God was in the beginning. The word "beginning" is used here of both God and the devil, and is so used because of our finite minds being unable to grasp the fullness of eternity, but this beginning reaches back into eternity beyond beginning.

Sin is a principle. Righteousness is a principle. We hold that no holy being could create or generate a sin principle any

more than an unholy being could create a righteous principle. For holy angels to sin, a sin principle must have existed and they received it in their nature by faith or in some manner. The devil and angels did not create sin for God created all that has been created. God did not create sin. He did not create goodness. Goodness is an uncreated and eternal principle. We hold that sin is an uncreated and an eternal principle. If it be a created principle, then God created it, for He alone is Creator. A holy being could not create sin and retain his holiness; therefore God did not create sin. Devils could not create it; therefore sin is uncreated. God saw that His creation was good, but we do not understand that sin was His creation.

Jesus taught His disciples to say when praying, "Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Now if angels in heaven sinned, then God's will was not done in heaven and Christ's words would not mean much to us. If holy angels in heaven sinned one time, how can we know that they have not sinned many times? Why could they not sin some future time, and if they can sin, why could not we after we got to heaven? To our mind the only logical conclusion is that sin never entered heaven and never will. No holy being in heaven ever sinned or ever will. Why would God redeem sinning man at such a great cost, and not redeem sinning angels?

Holy angels in heaven became lifted up with pride, so we are told. From whence came the pride?

—C. E. Orr, in "Path of Life," May, 1932.

August 10, 1969

SIN BRINGS SPIRITUAL DEATH

**Gen. 3:6, 9-12; 1 John 2:15, 16; James 1:12-15; 4:17;
1 Timothy 5:6; James 4:7**

Gen. 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

9 And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

1 John 2:15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world, If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive a crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

1 Tim. 5:6 But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.

James 4:7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Memory Verse: Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. James 4:8a.

Central Thought: When man yields to sin, he is dead spiritually and is poor, blind, and naked. The man who holds conversations with Satan cannot long hold communion with God.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The writers of our lesson were Moses, John, James, and Paul. Remember our theme for this quarter, which is the New Testament teachings traced back to Genesis, or the beginning. In this gospel dispensation we are privileged to be brought back through the infilling of the Holy Spirit to the communion with God which was lost in the Garden of Eden.

Lesson References: Eph. 2:1-3; 1 Peter 5:6-11.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

In Eden we trace our origin, our primitive greatness and also our ruin. But we have a promise there of redeeming love from God which we will talk about in our lesson next Sunday.

Let us take note of how we are tempted. Eve looked, and then desired to be wise, and then she took of the fruit of the forbidden tree. The Bible tells us that fleshly lusts "war against the soul." This is a doctrine often overlooked. The Apostle Paul speaks of bringing his body under subjection lest after he preached to others he himself should be a castaway. Read 1 Cor. 9:27. We notice that the Apostle John also tells us about the lust of the flesh and eyes, also "the pride of life." We notice that Eve was tempted to sin through all three of these ways. Also Jesus was tempted, after fasting forty days, through these three ways. Today Satan is working the same way. Through the sight of the eyes in sensual plays, songs, books, and the elements of the world, he is ruling the hearts and minds of people. Young people, take warning. Do not yield to the lusts of the flesh. Have Jesus in your heart and let Him be the Master of your mind, soul, and body. Never let yourself be found in any place where you cannot let God be the Master. He can't be your master unless you let Him by being obedient to His Word. You are no stronger than your weakest point. Work on that one point and seek God for power to overcome. He will not fail you.

Notice the definition of these words in James. Tempted means to "test, allure, persuade." Entice means "offering hope

of reward or pleasure. Lust means "an overpowering desire." Conceive means "to form in the mind." Finished means "completed or accomplished." All of these bring spiritual death to the soul and a loss of the spiritual image of God. Adam and Eve were stripped of their purity. A whole forest of trees could not hide their sin from God. A sinner is exposed without any garment to hide his guilt before God. They are "dead in trespasses and sins." They are dead people walking about. Only through Christ can they become alive and be clothed with the garments of righteousness.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Suppose we were to sit down and attempt to list all the ways we could think of that would destroy our physical life. There would, no doubt, be quite a list accumulated. Anything that would stop circulation, anything that would stop respiration, anything that would stop digestion, and so on and on the list would go. But when it comes to the spiritual part of our being, the soul, the only thing we know of that will destroy it is sin. Oh! but you say, I could be saved and just become neglectful and lose out without having really done anything wrong. But what is wrong? Why, it is doing what God's Word forbids to do, or else failing to do what the Word commands to do. The Word instructs us to be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, so then when we allow negligence to creep in, that being forbidden by the Word, it is our failure to obey that costs us our spiritual life. View it from any angle you choose, listen to all the excuses and reasons that folks offer for their failure, but when you really get down to the bottom of the matter you will find that somewhere the Word was transgressed. Sometimes the only thing overlooked was to believe. The life may have been clean, the motive pure, the desire strong, and the grace sufficient, but if one does not believe, he still cannot obtain the blessing. "He that cometh to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him."

Another interesting line of thought about sin is the fact that it is only the sin that the individual himself is guilty of that will destroy him. We may live in a house full of sin, a community where sin abounds, a world that is headed for destruction because of sin, but if we keep our own hearts pure and free from sin, we will most surely be saved! Someone else cannot sin me out of heaven, nor can I sin anyone else out, either. Sometimes we get to looking around at other folks who are doing things we feel is not right, and the devil whispers, "If that is the way things are going, you might

as well give up." Surprisingly enough, every once in a while someone is tripped up that very way! But this need not be, for the other fellow's transgression does not defile your soul. If you have done no wrong, then why give the enemy your soul because someone else did wrong? The enemy gains two souls from only one wrong-doing, when actually he was only entitled to one. Another trick he loves to play is to accuse one of God's little ones for someone else's wrong-doing. It makes us feel bad for anyone to do wrong, but we need not become crushed down and oppressed over it in our own experience, for we are not guilty, therefore we could not even repent of it. It is impossible to repent for someone else's sin. Occasionally we see folks come to the altar attempting to repent for someone else's wrong, not aware that the enemy is imposing upon them.

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the sad effects of yielding to temptation? 2. In Rev. 3:17 it tells us that those who sinned were wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked. How does this compare with Adam and Eve? 3. Explain how the senses are used by Satan to entice us to sin. 4. How was Jesus tempted through His senses? 5. Tell how James explains that lusts of the flesh bring forth spiritual death. 6. How are we to face the devil?

A TRUE STORY

"At the age of eleven I was converted and it was my delight to be at all the religious services. This continued three years, when a new preacher came, quite stylish in dress, wearing a moustache and smoking cigars.

"There were five of us boys when we went together. Our fathers were merchants and held honorable positions in the church and we had been taught not to use tobacco, as it led to still greater evils.

"But our pastor walked the streets puffing so gracefully the smoke from his cigar that we concluded that there could be no wrong in it or he would not do it. We decided he must be a good man and surely knew what was wrong, so we concluded that our folks were 'old fogies,' and endeavoring to follow our pastor's example, we decided to learn to smoke. Smoking went very much against us at first, but after a few sick feelings and headaches, we managed to do it, all unknown to our parents.

After a while we heard that a certain hotel kept the best cigars. This was the first time we ever entered a barroom, for we were brought up to avoid such places. Hot weather came on and we felt quite at home in the barroom. We started

drinking and soon became very sporty and often drank whiskey and got quite hilarious.

"Inside of three years after our smoking preacher came, one of our number at the age of twenty-one was in a drunkard's grave—died of delirium tremens. He was one of the most brilliant and promising of young men, the idol of his Christian parents. His mother's heart broke and soon she followed him to the grave. It makes me weep whenever I think of him, so fine in physique and intellect.

"Another of our number, a very bright young man, died of consumption, brought on by a short life of dissipation, only nineteen years of age.

"The third ruined his wealthy parents, financially and physically, by his wild life. The fourth became a bloated sot, and the last I heard of the preacher he was begging five cent jobs—carrying satchels, etc.—at Jersey City wharves to get rum with. 'Be not deceived, God is not mocked, for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.' Gal. 6:7.

"I was the youngest of all, but did not fall so low before the Holy Spirit brought me to a halt and helped me to see, and flee from the ruinous way we were led. But it was a long time before I found peace with God; still I was determined to seek till eternity if necessary to get deliverance from my sins and to realize what I once enjoyed. One night after seeking earnestly, I heard Jesus' sweet voice saying: 'Son, thy sins are all forgiven thee.' His praise filled my heart and lips. I had stopped the excessive use of tobacco, as it injured my throat, and only took an after dinner smoke. But the Holy Spirit forced upon me the conviction that I must give up smoking. I was determined that nothing should separate me from Christ again, so I threw away cigars forever and immediately realized a still sweeter fellowship with Christ, and I could sing:

" 'He breaks the power of habitual sin,
He sets the prisoner free;
His blood can make the foulest clean,
His blood avails for me.' "

—Selected

August 17, 1969

REDEMPTION THROUGH CHRIST

Genesis 3:14, 15; Luke 1:35; Matt. 1:21b; 1 Tim. 3:16

1 John 3:8, 9; John 17:14, 15; Romans 8:17.

Gen. 3:14 And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Matt. 1:21b Thou shalt call his name Jesus; for he shall save his people from their sins.

1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

1 John 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil: for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

John 17:14 I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.

15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil.

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

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

Central Thought: Satan brought sin in, but it caused the door to fly open for the Gospel. Through Christ, Satan is conquered and God's children are given power to live a victorious life amidst the suffering for Christ in this life.

Word Definition: Enmity means hostility. Hostility means active opposition or warfare. Bruise means to inflict; break, wound, (Gr.) tread.

LESSON BACKGROUND

God spoke to Satan in verse 15. The enmity is between the Spirit of Christ and the spirit of Satan and their followers. The seed of woman is Christ and all "born again" children of God. The seed of Satan are those who are his servants and choose to obey him instead of Christ.

We have chosen verses in the New Testament to verify that the promise of redemption to Adam and Eve came to pass over 4000 years later. Our verses in John 17:14, 15, and Romans 8:17 are verses to prove that God's children are being "bruised" by Satan. But thank God for victory over Satan. He cannot touch the heart as long as we keep ourselves in God.

Lesson References: Isa. 53; Matt. 1:18-21; Luke 10:17-21 (through Christ Satan lost his lofty place in men's hearts); 2 Tim. 3:12; Romans 5:1, 2.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

What if mankind had been left in the sad state of sin? But God, in His mercy, immediately promised Adam and Eve that there would be redemption through the seed of the woman. God, the Father of Jesus, by the power of the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, the virgin, and "that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Oh, glorious truth! Jesus, who is the conquering seed of the woman, is "God manifest in the flesh," which is the great mystery of godliness. He preached repentance, died on the cross and arose again so He could "destroy the works of the devil" in our souls. There is great power in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through the Word of Truth and the Holy Spirit, we are regenerated, sanctified, and made ready for the eternal glory that He has prepared for the redeemed. Praise the Lord for His mercy to lost, helpless, deceived humanity. Through Christ we are

quicken and made alive. We no longer are "dead in trespasses and sin. (Eph. 2:1) Sin brought spiritual death but Christ brought spiritual life to the soul. Christ came to destroy the works of the devil out of the heart of the sinner who repents.

There is no place for repentance for the devil, or Satan, who spoke through the serpent. God did not ask him any questions, but declared that the battle had begun. Right would fight against wrong. The Spirit of God would resist evil. The battlefield of man is in the soul. He has a choice of whom he wants to serve. When man turns to God it must come from the heart. Evil had a "head" and it is not just the outward conduct. Through Christ the hate can be removed from the heart which caused the murder. Thank God for a heart religion. Bible salvation gets the "roots" of evil out of the heart.

The verses, John 17:14, 15, and Romans 8:17, let us know that Satan will "bruise" his heel. Because of sin, Jesus had to suffer. "He was bruised for our iniquities." (Read Isa. 53.) When we have Jesus reigning in our souls we, too, will suffer persecutions in this world. Satan will often bruise the "heel" of those who are "born again." But every weapon Satan uses in hell can't rise higher than the heel. Thank God, the promise is if we suffer with Him we will be glorified together. There is the mercy and grace of God mixed with our sufferings. As the poet expressed it, "it will matter but little at last" what we have passed through.

—Sister M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When Adam sinned in the garden, he lost God's image out of his soul. He was no more like God because God cannot sin nor will He have any part of it. Adam's sin separated him from his Creator. Then when offspring began to arrive, they were born in Adam's likeness because that was all Adam possessed to pass on to the succeeding generation. It was impossible for Adam to transmit God's likeness to his children because he didn't have it any longer himself. Since Adam begat children in his likeness, they, too, passed on what they had inherited, and so on down to us yet today. All are born in the likeness of this flesh and possess from birth its qualities and characteristics—selfishness, greed, hatred, envy, jealousy, etc. But Jesus was the product of a different lineage. He was conceived of the Holy Ghost, therefore He came to us in God's likeness, not possessing the qualities of the flesh as above mentioned, but rather possessing the qualities of His Holy Father. He inherited no sinful nature and He committed no sin of His own volition, therefore He was without spot or blemish before His Father, and so it was upon Him the sins of the whole world

were laid because only He could offer a sacrifice that was not marred. God saw the sacrifice He made and was satisfied to the point that He would accept that perfect sacrifice and in turn pardon the transgression of poor lost humanity like you and me. God gave His Son that we might live, Christ gave His life that we might live, but what are we giving that we might live? May God help us each one to be our very best for Him who gave heaven's best for us! —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. The warfare or enmity is between whom when it speaks of "thy seed and her seed"? 2. Is the virgin birth of Christ verified in the Bible? 3. How do Christ and the gospel "bruise thy [Satan's] head"? 4. How did Jesus, in John 17:14, make us know that Satan would "bruise the heel" of Himself, and those who are born again? 5. What is the reward of all those who suffer the "bruising" of Satan in this life?

A TRUE STORY FROM THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR

The most interesting story I ever heard was told me years ago. Here's the story:

"I was down in this country during the Civil War. Measles broke out among the soldiers and many of our brave lads died. I was wardmaster in charge of the tents where the measles patients were located.

"One night while I was on the ward I passed a bunk where there was a very sick soldier lad about seventeen years of age. The boy looked at me and said, 'Wardmaster, I believe I am going to die. I am not a Christian. My mother and father are not Christians. I never had any Christian training. I never did attend religious services. I did go with a boy friend to Sunday-school just once. A woman taught the Sunday-school class. She seemed to be such a good woman. She read us something out of the Bible about a man—I think his name was Nicodemus. Anyway, it was about a man who went to see Jesus one night. Jesus told this man he must be born again. The teacher said all people must be born again in order to go to heaven when they die. I have never been born again, and I don't want to die like this. Won't you please get the chaplain so he can tell me how to be born again?' "

The old man hesitated for a moment. "You know, in those days I was an agnostic—at least, that is what I called myself. As a matter of fact, I wasn't anything but an old sinner. So I told the boy, 'You don't need a chaplain. Just be quiet now. Don't worry, you'll be all right.' I went on around the ward and in about an hour I came back to the boy's bed. He looked

at me out of such sad, staring eyes as he said, 'Wardmaster, if you won't get me the chaplain, please get me the doctor. I am choking to death.' I found the doctor as I knew the boy was going to die.

"In about an hour I came back expecting to find the boy dead, but he was still struggling. He looked up out of his eyes of death and said, 'There is no use, Wardmaster. I have got to die, and I haven't been born again. Whether you believe in it or not, won't you find the chaplain and let him tell me how to be born again?'

"I walked away a few paces and then turned and went back to the boy's bedside. I said, 'My boy, I am not going to get the chaplain. I am going to tell you what to do myself. Now understand, I am an agnostic. I don't know whether there is any God. I don't know whether there is any heaven. I don't know whether there is any hell. I don't know anything. Yes, I do. I know one thing: I know my mother was a good woman. I know if there is a God my mother knew Him. If there is a heaven I know she is there. So I will tell you what my mother told me. You can try it and see if it works. Now, I am going to teach you a verse of Scripture. The verse is John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." My mother said that I cannot save myself, but if I will believe in Jesus He will save me.'

"I asked the boy to say the verse with me. I started and he followed with a weak shaky voice slowly: 'For God so loved the world,' 'For God so loved the world,' 'He gave His only begotten Son,' 'He gave His only begotten Son,' 'that whosoever believeth in Him,' 'that whosoever believeth in Him,' 'should not perish,' 'should not perish,' 'but have everlasting life,' 'but have everlasting life.' Now, my boy, my mother said if a person will repent of his sins and trust Jesus, he will not perish, but have everlasting life.'

"I referred the lad to another verse my mother taught me, but he closed his eyes, stretched his hands across his breast and in a whisper he quoted slowly, repeating some of the words several times, 'For God so loved the world— He gave His only begotten Son— that whosoever— whosoever believeth—believeth in Him, BELIEVETH IN HIM.' Then he stopped and said with a clear voice, 'Praise God, Wardmaster, it works. I believe His blood saves from sin! I shall not perish! I have everlasting life! I have been born again! Wardmaster, your mother was right. Why don't you try it? Do what your mother said. It works, Wardmaster. This thing works! Wardmaster, before I go I want to ask you to do something for me. Tell Mother

what you told me, and tell her that her dying son said, "It works." ' As he drew his last breath, he said, 'It works.' "

The old man, wiping tears out of his eyes and out of the wrinkles of his face, said, "The lad was right. It does work. Whosoever believeth in Him shall not perish but has now everlasting life. It works. I know it works!" —Told to B. Jones

August 24, 1969

THE RESULTS OF SIN

Genesis 3:16-19, 22-24; Gal. 6:7, 8; Revelation 21:8

Gen. 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

22 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

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

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

Rev. 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

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

Central Thought: We can't do wrong and get by.

Word Definition: Sin means the wilful breaking of God's law.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Remember our lessons are about the New Testament teachings which are based on Genesis. The verses in Galatians were written by Apostle Paul. The Apostle John wrote the verses in Revelation.

Lesson References: Rom. 6:16, 23; John 8:21; Matt. 25:30-34.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Sin is a terrible thing. Sin brings sorrow and loss of innocence. Sin caused the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. It separated them from God. Sin always expels men from that which is pure and holy. It has robbed many young people of that pure and noble life which God has intended each one to have. Sin brings shame and robs men of their choicest possessions and sweetest comforts. Sin is deceitful. Adam and Eve did not pay heed to what the results of their sin would be. The devil will not permit those whom he is leading astray to consider with wisdom the end of their road. We should never forget that we reap what we sow.

What a sad state Adam and Eve were in! The devil had deceived Eve by telling her that they would not die. But they did. They died a spiritual death immediately, which meant a separation from God. As Paul describes it, "Sin revived, and I died" (spiritually) Rom. 7:9. Adam and Eve were put out of the garden so they could not eat of the Tree of Life and live forever in that sinful state. Physical death was prolonged so they could have an opportunity for redemption. Certain organic changes were made in Adam and Eve and their bodies became subject to disease and began to die or go toward physical death. "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Then there is a third application of the meaning of death, which is eternal separation from God in hell after physical death takes place.

When reading the Bible we must understand the meaning of the three deaths that are spoken of, which are spiritual death, physical death, and eternal death.

There was also a curse upon nature because of sin. To what extent this was we do not know altogether. We do know that man would now have to labor to live and have food. Woman would bring forth children in sorrow and be dependent upon her husband. When she is not in subjection to her husband she finds much more trouble and sorrow. This is God's command. Of course, God's command to the husband is that he love his wife and be willing to lay down his life for her. Eph. 5:25-31.

The Tree of Life represents eternal life to the soul. When man sinned it was taken away from him. When we pass through the flaming sword of the Word (Heb. 4:12) and the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all sin, we can partake of the Tree of Life here. Through the gospel, light and immortality were brought to light. But remember, if we sin we will reap what we sow. We will be cut off from the Tree of Life. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sin is such a cunning thing that only the Holy Spirit leading us can reveal it to our understanding. If we were every one just exactly what God would have us be, we would all be just like Christ for the Father testified that He was well pleased with His Son. We say we are born again, given a new heart, a heart of flesh to replace a heart of stone, translated from darkness to light, etc., but yet we hardly feel able to put ourselves on a level with Christ. Why? For one reason—He was not born of sinful man but was conceived of the Holy Ghost. You and I were fashioned after the likeness of fallen Adam. Christ was able to discern and understand His Father's will completely for He had never known anything else. You and I acquired at birth the fallen nature, which, to me, is the crowning result of sin upon mankind. Adam, while in the garden before the fall, did God's will completely. He knew how and did it because He wanted to. Jesus said, "I do always those things which please the Father." His Father's will was His will and He laid aside His own that He might do the will of His Father. Fallen humanity is of such a nature that self takes the place that God designed He should fill in the heart of every man. That is why men manifest from birth selfishness, greed, lust, etc. Their continual desire is to please themselves and they will sacrifice God's will in order to cater to their own. See the contrast between fallen humanity and the Son of God? Carnal men may tell about all the good they are doing and point repeatedly to their benevolence, but when you get to the bottom of the matter you will find a selfish motive of some kind

involved, if it is nothing more than desire for recognition from the people. True Christianity does not allow the left hand to know what the right hand is doing, but, in silence and seclusion, performs its alms unto the Lord and receives from Him the reward. Self has so many ways of manifesting itself and has become so deeply rooted in every one of our lives that it will keep us digging to keep it put to death from day to day as the Holy Spirit reveals it to us. It has infiltrated every one of our lives to depths that we are not even conscious of, but as we live for and walk with Him, He uncovers it for us and gives us opportunity to get rid of it under His blood. Some He burns out by His Holy Spirit. Thank God for the all-cleansing fountain of His blood and for the refining, purifying fire of His furnace, for when the cause of sin is removed, there is none left to produce a following result. —C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Who had the greater punishment—Adam or Eve?
2. What happened to the laws of nature in connection to the curse of sin?
3. Explain the words, "Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return."
4. The tree of life has what spiritual significance?
5. Name different ways in which we reap what we sow.
6. Explain what is meant by spiritual death, physical death, and the second death or eternal death.

August 31, 1969

GOD CLOTHED THEM

**Gen. 3:7, 21; 1 Tim. 2:9, 10; 1 Pet. 3:4; James 1:27;
Galatians 1:4; 1 Cor. 6:20; Proverbs 16:18; Matt. 5:28**

Gen. 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the Lord God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

1 Tim. 2:9 In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;

10 But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.

1 Pet. 3:4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.

James 1:27 Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.

Gal. 1:4 Who [Jesus] gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:

1 Cor. 6:20 For ye are bought with a price. Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Prov. 16:18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

Matt. 5:28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

Memory Verse: Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world. James 1:27.

Central Thought: We are to adorn the soul, the inward man, with holiness and righteousness and the outward man will reflect these same virtues.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson took place after Adam and Eve had sinned by partaking of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the Garden of Eden. Our other Scriptures were teachings of Peter and Paul. The last verse was spoken by Jesus.

Lesson References: Isa. 3:16-26; John 17:15; Eph. 5:27; 2:2; Deut. 22:5.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

When sin entered into the hearts of Adam and Eve they realized they were naked. They lost the state of purity and holiness that they had been given by God. Sin brought shame to them. Immediately they had the knowledge of good and evil. They knew right away that it was evil to go naked and knew it was good to cover their nakedness. Their bodies became the seat of lust and they were ashamed of it. They sought to cover up. The power of self-control had been lost. This is what sin had done. They lost their innocence, and had fallen into a state of danger. Hurriedly they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves aprons. When God talked to them and they gave as the reason for hiding that they were naked, God asked them the question to make the point clear to them, how they knew they were naked. It was because they had come to some knowledge of good and evil. We notice God did not feel that the aprons were sufficient, so He made them "coats of skin and clothed them." Dear ones, here is the basis for our Bible doctrine of wearing sufficient clothing. The dictionary says the word "clothe" means "to cover; to put garments on; dress." The Bible plainly tells us to dress in "modest apparel." The word modest means, "decent, virtuous." Immodest means to be "indecent, unchaste, shameless, bold." Decent means to be free from "immodesty or obscenity." Virtuous means to be "chaste, pure." Putting all of these together we can clearly see that when God made clothes for our foreparents He wanted to shield them from going deeper in sin and to prevent their posterity from sinning as the last verse in our lesson states.

Our lesson points out that we are to dress in accordance with our profession, since we are "born again" we receive a "meek and quiet spirit." In the beginning they were adorned with purity and holiness. They were without sin. We are to

adorn the outward man with the same adornment; in purity and meekness. God forbid that we should dress in any way that would cause others to sin. We will not be held guiltless. When the heart is changed, it will show on the outside.

The fads and fashions of the day are created by men with sin in their hearts. They plainly tell us that they want to show the body to others. Oh, how ungodly are the fashions! They should not be a pattern for the saints of God. God expects us to cover our bodies. We should wear clothing that is thick enough to do this and loose enough not to draw attention to the body. If there is any attention drawn to us it should be to the God that shines out from within our hearts in our words, actions, and deeds.

In the days when the text in our lesson was written the women would weave strands of gold or other ornaments into their braids and fix their hair as an ornament. This is what is condemned in these texts. Just a simple braid would not be wrong. We have to look at texts that are written to those of the days in which they were meant to get the full meaning, yet we see this in our world today. What is in the heart will come out.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Much discussion and some controversy is encountered in regard to the manner, style, etc., of the clothing we may use as Christians and saints, but we would like to use this space to consider the other side of the story—that is, the soul, the “hidden man of the heart.”

Man in his original state knew no sin, therefore his mind was pure, his thoughts holy, his body undefiled, he was conscious of no wrong, consequently he felt no guilt nor shame even though he was naked. The sin of disobedience which he committed defiled both his body and his soul and he became immediately ashamed of them both. (Would to God more today would be ashamed of their wrong-doing.) His body now knew lust which it had never known before. The command to multiply and replenish the earth came before the fall, but it was not until after the fall that the relationship of the sexes became an overwhelming, driving, compelling force commanded by selfish pleasure. Man was ashamed of his misbehaving body, so in his feeble way he attempted a covering for it, fig leaves, to shield himself from exposure to such temptation for he was ashamed of himself. The Lord, seeing the distress and being full of pity, shed the life-blood of some of His innocent animals and used their covering to hide the shame and nakedness

of fallen man in an effort to help man protect himself from himself and his new sinful nature. Our sin has cost God something, too.

The soul in like manner also made some radical changes. The heart once so pure and clean and completely given to its Creator was now governed by self and its desires and pleasures and so all the virtues of character the man possessed were exploited on selfish purposes. He loved himself first, therefore he became greedy in order to satisfy his own desires even at the expense and misery of others. Men with abundant store have watched their fellowmen die of hunger because they were unable to pay the price asked for food! Men become jealous and fill their hearts with hatred and even murder when others seem to advance a step or two ahead of them along some line or other. They want themselves to be first.

Just as the body was naked and exposed to the ravages of exploitation, so the soul was naked and exposed to all the vile and sinful influences of his immoral nature. His feeble efforts to cover his soul and thus curtail the exposure and reduce the awful reaping fell far short. He did try, but in vain. He would offer sacrifices to supposed gods, even human sacrifices in some cases, in an effort to cover the shame of his naked soul! Virgins would be offered to a supposed god of reproduction in order to cover the shame of lustful conduct. Laws would be enacted by society in general to be imposed upon and enforced by itself to protect itself from sinful exploitation, etc., etc., but not until the great God of heaven Himself made a sacrifice and provided a covering was the need of our soul met. All thanks and praise and honor be to Him for the gift of His own dear Son who shed His blood on Calvary's tree to wash away our sins and provide for us a cloak of righteousness which will hide us from all the defilement and shame of our heart and soul and even elevate us to the plane of His grace where we may abide, protected from all the ravages of the enemy. Only the covering He provided for us will meet the need of our soul, for all who climb up some other way are thieves and robbers.

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. What caused Adam and Eve to know they were naked?
2. What did God do about the clothing they fashioned from leaves?
3. Explain the meaning of the word "clothe."
4. Define modesty and immodesty.
5. How does the "hidden man" affect the "outward man"?
6. Will pride cause us to fall today if we yield to it?

DEATH OF THREE SISTERS
(Your Near Relatives)

The funeral bells are ringing,
And the last farewell is said;
And a requiem they're singing,
For Miss Modesty is dead.

The girl has long been ailing,
And fading day by day;
And as her health was failing,
She cast her clothes away.

With thin transparent dresses
That scarcely reached her knees,
And abbreviated tresses,
She braved the wintry breeze.

With arms all bare and chilling,
And bosom well exposed,
The voice of conscience stilling,
To all restraint opposed.

Where weeds their vigils keeping
O'er worshipers of style,
Sweet Modesty lies sleeping
'Neath fashion's Rubbish pile.

Now Innocence, her sister,
Is fading fast and sure;
And soon the world will miss her
From among the good and pure.

The third one of the trio,
Miss Virtue will be gone;
Miss Brazen Face now takes their place
Amid the reckless throng.

—R. D. B.

September 7, 1969

THE MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE

Genesis 4:2-10; Hebrews 12:24; 11:4; 1 John 3:11-14

Gen. 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the Lord.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the Lord had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the Lord said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him,

9 And the Lord said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

Heb. 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Heb. 11:4 By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that hateth his brother abideth in death.

Memory Verse: But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. Hebrews 10:12.

Central Thought: Abel's sacrifice preached the gospel, and foreshadowed the cross because it was offered in the right spirit.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The background of our lesson is that God was pointing all who had sinned to Christ, who was the perfect sacrifice that was offered for all. The verses in Hebrews were written by Paul over 2000 years later than the verses in Genesis. John wrote the verses in the book of St. John.

Lesson References: Heb. 10:1-10; Prov. 6:34; Song of Sol. 8:6.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The Apostle Paul speaks of "God testifying of his [Abel's] gifts." From this we take it that Abel offered two gifts. Perhaps one of the gifts was the "fruit of the ground," which could be the thanksgiving offering referred to in Lev. 2:1. Abel, of course, also offered the sin offering which represented the Lamb of God, who was Jesus who came to take away the sin of the world. Abel offered the "more excellent sacrifice," which showed that he was righteous and obtained favor with God. He had faith in the coming Saviour who would shed His blood on the cross for the sins of all who confessed to Him, from the beginning even until today. Jesus speaks of Abel being righteous in Matt. 23:35.

Cain did not acknowledge that he was sinful and needed a sin-offering. He offered just the thanksgiving offering. Many today are coming to religious services just to ease their consciences. They are just Cainites. If they did not have sin, God would not have provided them with a sin offering. Cain did not do well, therefore God pointed him to the sin that lay at his heart's door. Sin separates us from God.

The Apostle John brings out the thought that Cain slew Abel because Abel's works were righteous and his own were wicked. (1 John 3:12-15.) Jealousy and envy lead to hatred. Hatred leads to murder. We need to resist any temptation

the devil might bring to let the least bit of ill feeling into our hearts toward anyone. If it is allowed in the heart it will grow. We are told that if we hate our brother we are a murderer already.

The last verse in our lesson points us to Jesus, the Mediator of the new covenant. Jesus' blood speaks better things than that of Abel. Jesus' blood cries unto God for mercy for us. Abel's blood cried for justice. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Sin is a destroyer of life. Every time it is indulged in, some form of life must perish, physical or spiritual, one or the other. Under the old law system unnumbered millions of innocent animals gave their life's blood to atone for the sins fallen man had committed. With this thought in mind, let us consider the sacrifices these two boys brought to the Lord. One brought of the fruit of the ground, the result of his labor and toil, true enough, but it had cost no life nor spilled any blood. Heb. 9:22 says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission." Abel's sacrifice of the firstlings of the flock met that requirement and therefore his offering was acceptable, for life had been given in exchange for the sin committed, which set him free. Cain's offering had cost no life, nor shed any blood, consequently his sin was still lying at his door and his guilt still remained before the Lord. God was faithful to the lad and pointed out clearly that his sacrifice was not acceptable for it left his sin still accountable to him, but instead of humbling his heart and recognizing the error and then offering another sacrifice that would be acceptable, he stiffened up and began to defend his own way, making it appear as though God was wrong by not accepting the sacrifice he wanted to offer. When, oh, when will poor lost humanity finally concede that if he is to be saved he must accept and follow the route God prescribed for him to follow!

Let us apply this same lesson to ourselves today. Gen. 3:19 says, "For dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." This is the ground folks are tilling today and the fruit of that tilling they are attempting to offer before the Lord for the need of their soul! Since this body of dust is able to produce nothing that will make itself or the life it houses holy, folks conclude that God will have to accept them even though they sin more or less every day in word, thought, and deed, completely ignoring the life that has been given and the blood that has been shed for the very purpose of making it possible for us all to bring to Him an acceptable sacrifice in righteousness and true holiness right here in this present world. Folks bring

their wealth, the fruit of their talents and abilities, give their time, do all kinds of good works, but not until they come to a recognition of how futile their own efforts are, humble themselves to the point of casting it all aside as though it were waste, will they be in a position to receive the perfect sacrifice made for them. Jesus shed His own life's blood that we might be saved, which is God's way for us, for He tells us plainly there is none other name given under heaven whereby we must be saved. To expend ourselves and our means attempting to secure our salvation by some other method is foolhardy and a shameful waste of time and talent. Again we say, when, oh, when will poor lost humanity finally concede that if he is to be saved he must accept and follow the route God prescribed for him to follow!

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. What principles does God require of us before He will accept our sacrifices? 2. Do false and true worshipers come together in a religious service? 3. How does God regard them? 4. Is it a fact that the honesty and righteous living of the saints makes them a prey to the jealousy and hatred of others? 5. What led to the killing of Abel by Cain? 6. What lay at Cain's heart's door (as well as that of all sinners)? 7. What does the blood of Abel cry from the ground? 8. What does Jesus' blood speak to us?

September 14, 1969

NATIVE DEPRAVITY

**Gen. 5:3; Psa. 51:5; Psa. 58:3; Gen. 8:21; Rom. 5:12-14
Ephesians 2:3; Rom. 7:9; Col. 3:9, 10**

Gen. 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

Psa. 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psa. 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Gen. 8:21 And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and the Lord said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

13 (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.)

Eph. 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Rom. 7:9 For I was alive without the law once; but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

Col. 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;

10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

Memory Verse: And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. **Col. 3:10.**

Central Thought: The moral depravity is the nature of original sin which gives man a tendency to sin. All children are born with a depraved nature. They are begotten by their kind morally.

Word Definition: Genetic law means the fundamental law that all living things propagate after their kind. This also applies to the intellectual and spiritual qualities which are transmitted.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Moses wrote the verse we have in Genesis. David wrote Psalms which verifies that he knew by experience that he had a tendency toward evil in his heart and life. The Apostle Paul wrote the other verses because he knew by experience that God could cleanse and purify his nature of inherited sin through the work of the Holy Spirit.

Lesson References: Psa. 51:1-18; Col. 3:1-17.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

When man was created in the beginning he had a holy and righteous nature. He was created in the image of God. But he had full freedom to choose to continue to be holy, otherwise he would not have been a moral being. As we have already studied, Adam and Eve wilfully disobeyed God. This brought about a change in man's moral nature. A derangement, or a depravity of the conscience, affections, and the will of man took place. All were weakened as a result of the depravity. This causes man to have a tendency to commit sin.

Our first verse brings out the fact that Adam "begat a son in his own likeness and after his image." Since Adam lost his first pure image and he became morally corrupt, his children were like him, that is, in his own likeness and image. This is according to the genetic law of transmission. God commanded in the beginning that each bring forth after its kind. Since Adam's nature was corrupt, his offspring are like him.

The Bible bears out this thought in the third and fourth verses of our lesson. The iniquity, or native depravity, or inherited sin principle is in the child when it is born and it goes astray because of this tendency toward evil. Man is defiled morally because of the moral corruption of his parents. He is "evil from his youth." A baby shows rebellion, stubbornness, selfishness, etc. very young in life. This is because of the depravity of his nature. But we also want to know that since children are not responsible for this nor old enough to under-

stand the laws of God, this inherited sin is not imputed to them. Sin is not imputed when there is no law. The Apostle Paul tells us what happened to him when he came to the years of accountability, or was old enough to understand about sin. He said, "For I was alive once [clear before God] but when the commandment came [I received understanding] sin revived [I was held accountable] and I died [spiritually]."

By Adam's sin we understand that "death passed upon all men for all have sinned." Because of the native depravity within man, he will commit volitional sins. The "old man" is the sin principle within us that causes us to commit his deeds, which are wilful sins. The "new man" is full salvation which includes a forgiveness of our volitional sins and a cleansing of the sin principle, which is wrought by the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Next week we will study the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

That every individual is born with the blight of an inherited sin-nature is clearly taught in the lesson. Arm yourself with the following facts and you will easily detect its presence. Jesus gave as the greatest commandment of all, "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength." This was God's perfect intent for man and until the fall man followed that command. After the fall man loved himself first and all the virtues of moral character that had once flowed freely to God were now exploited on self, and since self possessed no qualities of higher moral standard, the virtues of his character became perverted and given to sin. Always, self is the predominant figure in the depraved life. A purified nature would automatically seek the good of others before gratifying itself, but not so where self rules. Notice that even small children invariably want the best for themselves and are willing to dispute and contend for their wishes. Project these basic manifestations and you have full-blown carnality in all its ugly, forbidding capacities as displayed by depraved adult mankind. Greed for selfish gain has caused such awful practice as one man subjecting a fellowman to slavery in order that he might profit from the unpaid forced labor. A feeling that someone else is interested in or taking what one wants for himself will gender a feeling of jealousy, resulting in hatred that sometimes leads to murder! Self is a wicked, ugly, contemptible thing that has imposed itself upon man in the place where God ought to be.

Now consider this. Since all are born in this condition, without any choice in the matter whatever, there is no feeling of guilt nor remorse of conscience for its being there, in fact, it is not until the Holy Spirit reveals its presence that we are even aware of it. Those who become convicted of sin realize, not a sin nature, but an awareness of sin committed and experience guilt and remorse of conscience for having wronged a merciful and loving Creator. Few, if any, who have not previously been taught are aware that their committed sins are the result of a depraved nature. Once converted or forgiven of the sins committed, justified before God, it is not long until the Lord will lead toward a closer relationship of the soul with Him. To those who yield to this wooing of the Spirit there springs up within them a yearning to be completely given over into His hands for Him to guide and teach and lead and direct in every aspect of life. Love, with all the heart, soul, mind, and strength will leave room for no hold-back or reserve in any area of our lives, but will place us back under His direct control. When we recognize this need and willingly and knowingly yield ourselves to Him, His Holy Spirit will enter in, purge out the old self-dynasty and take up His abode within our hearts and proceed to direct our lives in accordance with God's will for us. We will never become justified until we desire our sins forgiven; likewise, we will never become sanctified until we are willing to put to death the old self regime and allow the Holy Ghost to rule supreme. After He makes His abode with us we must continually yield ourselves into His hands, thus we offer the living sacrifice of dying daily. Our affections are again given without reserve to Him. Our fellowman is again restored to his rightful place in our affection and esteem, the virtues of character are restored to purity and holiness and the presence of His abiding Spirit provides us power to live before Him without spot and blameless. This cannot happen until self has been destroyed, for self is the seat and stronghold of our native depravity.

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain Adam's loss of the image and likeness of God and how Seth inherited the depraved nature that Adam received after he had sinned instead of the holy image he had before his fall.
2. How can you tell that babies and small children have a depraved nature?
3. How did sin pass upon all men,
4. Explain the innocence of children before God when they have a sinful nature in their hearts.
5. What is meant by the old man and his deeds?

NOTICE

On the last pages of this booklet we have a true experience written by Sister Sarah Smith of her experiences in being saved, sanctified, and led by the Spirit into the truth of God's visible church in the world today.

September 21, 1969

SANCTIFIED BY THE HOLY GHOST

**1 Thess. 4:3a; Matt. 3:10, 11; Heb. 12:15; Rom. 5:1, 2;
Eph. 4:22-24; John 17:17; Rom. 15:16b; Acts 15:8, 9
Hebrews 13:12**

1 Thess. 4:3a For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.

Matt. 3:10 And now also the ax is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Heb. 12:15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

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

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

Eph. 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts:

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

24 And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Rom. 15:16b Being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

Acts 15:8 And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he did unto us;

9 And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

Heb. 13:12 Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate.

Memory Verse: Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it. Eph. 5:25b, 26a.

Central Thought: We are restored through the blood of Jesus by the two works of grace to that high plane of "righteousness and true holiness" from which Adam and Eve fell.

Word Definitions: Sanctify— (1) to make sacred or holy; to set apart to a holy or sacred use; to consecrate by appropriate rites; to hallow. (2) To make holy or free from sin; to cleanse from moral corruption and pollution; to make fit for service of God, and the society and employments of heaven.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The Scriptures in 1 Thess., Romans, Hebrews, and Eph. were written by Paul. The Scripture in Matt. was spoken by John the Baptist and the one in John is in the prayer of Jesus to His Father for His disciples and for us.

Lesson References: Heb. 9:1-8. John 15:1, 2; Matt. 27:51; Hebrews 6:1.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Man is two steps away from God and it takes two works of grace in the heart to bring him back to that state of perfect holiness. As mentioned before, there are the volitional sins, of which we repent, and the inherited sin principle or native depravity, of which we do not repent. The nature is purified or cleansed of that sin principle by the Holy Spirit. This is a work of grace so it cannot be passed on to children from their parents.

Jesus laid the ax at the root of the trouble. He told His disciples that after He went away, the Comforter, or the Holy Spirit, would come. (John 14:16, 17.) Notice the definition given as to what sanctification means and the two parts to it. As we set ourselves apart by completely surrendering and consecrating to God's will, then He does His part by sending the fire of the Holy Spirit (as He did on the day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4) and cleansing or "purifying their hearts" by faith from all that sinful nature that passed upon all men through the fall of Adam. We then have standing grace. Jesus told the disciples that they would have power after the Holy Ghost came upon them. (Acts 1:8.) They would not have that root within them that caused them to sin. A person cannot live very long in a justified state without displeasing God. God did not intend for anyone to stop there, but to "go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation for repentance." (See Hebrews 6:1.)

The tabernacle that God told Moses to make had two rooms in it. One was the Holy place, and the other the Most Holy place. At the door of each room was an altar. Blood was put on each altar. This is a type of the two works of grace in our hearts. The veil that was between the two rooms was torn apart when Jesus died on the cross. (Matt. 27:51.) Through the blood of Jesus we are forgiven of our sins and then through His blood, which is put on the second altar, we are sanctified, or purified. Our hearts are purged. Peter affirms that when the house of Cornelius was baptized with the Holy Ghost, that at that time God gave them the Holy Ghost, "purifying their hearts," as God did for the believing Jews. Thank God for the glorious work that He will do for us in our hearts that we might be able to live a life that is acceptable to Him in this present world and be ready to meet Him in holiness. —M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

That there are many agencies involved in our experience of sanctification becomes obvious in our study of the lesson. Rom. 15:16 says, "Being sanctified by the Holy Ghost." John 17:17 says, "Sanctify them through thy truth." Heb. 13:12 says, "Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood." Acts 15:9 says, "Purifying their hearts by faith." Here are at least four factors that play a part, namely the Holy Ghost, the Truth, the Blood, and faith. Since the lesson is directed toward the Holy Ghost we will deal with the others only briefly. Faith is the only one that begins with and must be exercised by man. Unless I, myself, in person, can believe that He died to sanctify me, really and truly me, unworthy that I am, I won't be able to enter into nor receive its benefits. We must recognize the Blood as the all-cleansing purging agent that is able to make and keep us whiter than the snow. It is able to take care of sin committed as well as sin inherited. The Truth, or the Word, is the factor that exposes to us the needs of our lives by revealing to our understanding the areas where we must move up, measure a little closer, die a little more completely, thus purging us as we go along. The Holy Ghost

is a leader, a source of power, a giver of gifts, an anointer and no doubt much more, but there are also some things which He is not. He is not the propitiation for our sins and He was not offered as a sacrifice for us, therefore a sin against Him cannot be forgiven! That there is some consuming which accompanies His presence is indicated in the text, "He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." John baptized into Christ those who brought forth fruits meet for repentance. Christ in turn baptized with the Holy Ghost and with fire. The purging that Christ does in the soul is by virtue and power of the blood, washing away our sins in that all-cleansing fountain, but the Holy Ghost employed another agency, that of fire, consuming the gift, purging and purifying by heat. Thus we find the terms—refiner's fire, furnace of affliction, etc. Since He is the one appointed to be our guide, He works in conjunction with the others to accomplish the need of our souls. It is not God's will that any be lost, so all these agencies work to prepare us for heaven. The Spirit will lead us into a perplexing situation, one where we feel strange and uncomfortable, perhaps miserable or unwanted. The furnace door swings wide open for us to enter and then the heat goes on. We turn to the Word for comfort and find it pointing directly at some flaw we had never detected before in our lives. It took the furnace to expose it so the Word could reveal it. The greater its effect has been on lives, the hotter will be the furnace for the harder it will be to get rid of, but by holding still the work will be done. Suppose it is something that has injured another and will require a restitution. This brings the blood into play for when forgiveness is asked and pardon begged, the blood will cover the wrong and leave us purged again, but the entire process can be part of the furnace, a consuming of pride, a purging and melting of heart, a better understanding of others. All this is brought about by the Holy Spirit leading us into a place where it could be accomplished! Our sanctification becomes more complete, our usefulness fuller, our capacity greater. Oh, the joy when He sees fit to bestow upon us one of His precious gifts for they are only intrusted in a clean vessel, sanctified and meet for the Master's use.

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Explain the two steps that man fell from "righteousness and true holiness."
2. What does the word "sanctify" mean?
3. Explain our part and then the part or work of the Holy Spirit.
4. What does it mean to say we have "standing grace" after we are sanctified?
5. What part does the blood of Jesus have to do with our sanctification?

September 28, 1969

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

**Gen. 2:22, 23; John 19:34; Acts 20:28b; Eph. 1:22, 23;
Eph. 5:25-27, 29, 30, 32; Rev. 21:9b; 19:8**

Gen. 2:22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

John 19:34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his [Jesus] side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.

Acts 20:28b The church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

Eph. 1:22 And hath put all things under his feet [Jesus] and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

23 Which is his body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all.

Eph. 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

30 For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.

32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Rev. 21:9b Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.

Rev. 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

Memory Verse: Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. **Rev. 19:7.**

Central Thought: Christ has purchased from the world a bride, pure in heart, through His blood, and He is coming back some day to take her to be with Him in heaven forever.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Genesis was written by Moses. John wrote the book bearing his name and Revelation. Luke wrote the book of Acts. Paul wrote Ephesians.

Lesson Reference: Matthew 25:1-13.

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION FOR ADULTS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Adam looked at his bride and loved her. She was bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh. When Jesus was on the cross, His side was pierced. Out flowed blood and water. Through his sleep in death and His precious innocent blood He was given a bride that is cleansed and pure from sin. Through this blood we are brought into contact with Jesus. He comes into our hearts and dwells within us. We sup with Him and He sups with us. (Rev. 3:20) We become a part of Him and He becomes a part of us. Our spirits blend. We are, spiritually, flesh of His flesh. He purchased for Himself a bride when He died on the cross. The church which is the bride of Christ is His body here in the world. Thank God for the privilege of being in Christ and having Christ in us.

The Apostle Paul also compares the church to a husband and his wife. But our husband, who is Christ, is in heaven, and His bride is here in the earth, yet we are one in Spirit. We are to submit ourselves to the Spirit of Christ and recognize Him as our head. He loved us and gave Himself for us, therefore He has won our love. Through His precious blood we are justified and sanctified. His bride has on the spotless wedding garment. There are no spots nor wrinkles of the world upon her. She is separate and Christ is jealous over her. He does not want her to flirt with the world, but to keep herself clean with a pure love only for Him. He is coming back for her one of these days to take her to heaven. The bride of Christ keeps herself ready and is watching for her bridegroom to come.

—M. Miles

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Issuing forth from the very bosom of the man, part and parcel of His own flesh and bone, made of the same material as he, and able to walk by his side as an help meet, came woman

into being. It took a part of the man for the woman to be made, thus she became a part of him insomuch that they were to become one flesh together. Notice that verse 24 makes it clear that one man becomes one with only one wife, not with all women in general. "And shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." The man and his wife become one flesh.

This is the pattern that Christ used between Himself and His church. He designates His church as His bride, sets her apart and aloof from all others, accepts her to become His very own, but only after she has become part and parcel of Himself! From the very bosom of His pure, holy, sinless nature comes the material, the virtue of character, the holiness of mind and heart that make us able to flow together with and become part of the lover of our soul. His purity could not associate with our defilement, so He shed His blood that we might be made pure, thus making us fit subjects to take our place by His side and partake of His likeness. Let us not be so careless as to think that we are fit to become one with Him without first having received of His image and likeness. Just as the fleshly man gave part and parcel of himself to produce woman, so we who are born again are fashioned like unto Him in righteousness and true holiness.

Consider for a moment how important this is in the performance of our duty as the bride of Christ. To become one would mean to think alike, walk alike, act alike, enjoy the same things, refuse the same things, yea, to share every aspect of existence together. This goes much further than an individual basis. Zion, the church, is called on by its head and founder to reproduce and bring forth offspring in His likeness. This cannot be done unless the bride, the mother, be also a partaker of His true, pure, holy character and image. To fall short of that is to mother children who are warped and deformed, who do not bear a true image of their father, and thus cannot be claimed by Him as His offspring. He will always reproduce Himself in true form and all else does not belong to Him but is the work of an outside influence seeking to be recognized as the issue of the Holy One. He has no bride but the one that is altogether pure and holy in His sight and He will not recognize nor accept any other, therefore, His offspring is always in true form, fashioned after His own person. It is folly for people with unholy lives which do not conform to His likeness to think they are being accepted as His bride for even though they go to great lengths and perform many works in order to "win" many, their labor is all in vain for He will not own the blighted offspring which they produce. He died to make and keep His church, His bride, pure and holy so His offspring could and would run true to form. He will

not accept any other for He becomes one with only the one true church, the one which bears His likeness. See Rev. 2:18-23.

—C. Wilson

QUESTIONS:

1. Compare the way Christ got His bride with the way Adam got his. 2. Who is the head over the body, the church, here in the world? 3. Discuss the comparison the Apostle Paul made of the church and husband and wife. 4. How can the church keep from being spotted by the world? 5. What kind of bride will Christ come to receive?

EXPERIENCES OF SARAH SMITH

I was catechized and taken into the Lutheran sect at the age of fourteen without the experience of salvation. I had no knowledge of what it was to pray, because the preacher did all the praying himself. When God saved me and I began to let my light shine by praying and testifying to what Jesus had done for me, I became a reproach to the Lutherans, and I could no longer be a member with them. Praise God! He had something better in store for me. On Friday, in March, 1842, the Lord permitted a terrible windstorm to sweep through the country, which caused me for the first time in my life to see myself a sinner in the sight of God. I had never heard a sermon preached on justification. While seeking for my conversion I had a few rings on my fingers, and the first impression upon my mind was that in order to obtain peace to my soul I must take these rings from my fingers, and never put them on again. As I opened the stove-door to throw them into the fire, the devil stayed my hand, supposing to persuade me to put them on again: but the devil always made a fool of himself in my case—they never went on again. I continued to offer myself to the Lord until the following Monday evening, and at nine o'clock the Lord for Christ's sake pardoned all my sins. Oh, what peace and joy filled my soul! It was unspeakable and full of glory. Truly the first verse of the fifth chapter of Romans, and also John 10:9, were fulfilled in my conversion. Christ said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." When I received the Spirit that bore witness with my spirit, I became His child.

I was not conscious then that God had taken me into His church. The church question had always been a mystery to me. I could not understand it; it was hid away under the rubbish of sectism. I had been taught that the denominations were the church. But why God's people should be so divided, I would often wonder. As far as I knew my heart, I never had a party, or sect, spirit; for I was at home with God's people wherever I met them. I lived to all the light I had. But after I had been saved from my sins, and knew that I was a child of God, I discovered an element in me that was warring against the Christ nature: "for when I would do good, evil was present." I was very timid and bashful, had a man-fearing spirit, and the devil tried every possible way, by persecution and by other means, to discourage me, but I prayed much in secret, and oh, how I longed to get rid of that inward foe—such a hungering for a pure heart! But for the lack of proper teaching I was compelled to struggle on for seventeen years, during which time I kept my justification, and walked in all the light that I had,

taking the Bible for my guide. I found in 1 John 4:18 that the apostle said, "Perfect love casteth out fear," which caused me to seek for that perfect love. Indeed God was leading me in a mysterious way; for I had not in all these seventeen years heard a single sermon preached on sanctification. I did not know that I could have the old man crucified and the cause of sin removed from my heart; but I wanted perfected love. In a woods nearby I erected an altar of prayer, where I daily went and besought the Lord for perfect love. For three months I attended this altar daily, pleading and dying before the Lord, until at last I thought I could stand it no longer, and that I could not live without it. Then the devil tempted me and tried to make me believe that I was losing what I had: but I said, "How can this be when I am seeking for perfect love?" And I said, "Lord, I have come for the last time, and I must feel better or die." I had given up all my friends, and all this world, and now I must have it. Praise God! I looked up to heaven and said, "Lord, what more can I do than I have done?" Then the Lord talked with me, and I could say Yes to everything, until the Lord said, "Will you work for me?" Then the devil said, "If you promise to do that, you know your husband will not let you go." Ah, there was a struggle between life and death; between heaven and hell; but when I got victory over the devil I said, "Yes, Lord." Praise God! I said it, and I felt it, and I meant it from the depths of my soul. And then and there in the woods in the month of August, 1859, the Lord did the work for me. The old man was crucified and the works of the devil cast out, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost came upon me, and I was filled with the power of God. I realized then what perfect love meant. All fear and doubts were taken away, and what boldness! I was made fearless of men and devils.

The Holy Spirit led me in a mysterious way. I began to understand that when I was born of the Spirit, I was born into the church of God, of which Christ is the head; and I was satisfied. But the sect preachers were not satisfied. The Evangelical preacher, without my knowledge, put my name on his class-book. They would say, "We must have a home," but it was a poor home for me. It made no difference to me where I labored, but the preachers got jealous. A Methodist Episcopal preacher offered to see that I got a license to preach, and a circuit, if I would join that church. I said I did not want to be bound. I wanted to be free to go where God wanted me. God kept me from joining any conference, and showed me step by step that these denominations were not the church that Christ built. Finally the holiness people of that country joined themselves together into a Holiness Association. They were taken in from different denominations. I thought that was

bringing God's holy people together into one body, and so I also joined the association. No one was allowed to join the association except those that belonged to some denomination. It was not long until God began to show me that it was not God's will for us to belong to a sect. My Bible said, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers"; but there we were yoked up with those who were unbelievers in holiness. About this time God began to show me the ungodliness of secret societies. The Methodist Episcopal sect opened their door wide enough to let in Free Masons and Odd Fellows by the wholesale, and it was not long until the Evangelicals opened their door for them. I heard one of their preachers say, "If we do not take in secret-society men, they will all join the Methodist." The United Brethren stood against this evil the longest, but they finally came to the same conclusion, and opened their door also to secrecy. It was not long then until nine out of ten of their preachers belonged to secret societies.

After joining the Holiness Association we were banded together into bands. We had about thirty members in Jerry City, Ohio, that professed sanctification, and I was acknowledged as their leader. I felt my inability, but I searched the Scriptures and asked God for help. I would read where Christ said, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved"; also the words of Acts 2:47, "And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." But the mists of Babylon had not all cleared away yet, and I could not see clearly; yet God led me in a mysterious way. A brother handed me a paper desiring me to read an article headed "The One Church," and he asked me after I had read it what I thought of it. I said I would not dare to say a word against it; for that was just what I was looking for. I had expressed myself not long before this in a United Brethren meeting that I did not expect to meet a United Brethren, nor a Methodist, nor an Evangelical in heaven. I said all these names would be left out of heaven. So you see how God was leading me in reference to the one church, and showing me the evils of sectism. He also showed me that I could not give of my means to support such unholy institutions. The Word of God taught me, in 2 Cor. 6:14-18, to come out from among them, and be separate, and touch not the unclean thing, and the Lord would be a Father unto me, and I would be His daughter. Then again I read: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers." Here I was yoked up with saints and sinners, and my name in a sect, also banded up with the Holiness Association, bound under rules how I should conduct the meetings. I saw that I had no need for such rules as these, as the Holy Spirit was my leader; and so they were thrown to the flames, and we let God lead us, and He was with

us in mighty power. By His Holy Spirit and His blessed Word He finally brought me out of all sectism, including the Holiness Association. Then I was perfectly free, and I am yet free today, as free as the birds that fly in the air. Whom the Son makes free is free indeed. Praise God for heavenly freedom in Christ Jesus!

Well, I would like to tell something more about our meetings, and how God led us out. We held our meetings four times a week, and God was truly leading in a mysterious way. I saw a light and would tell the people that there was a light coming, but what it was I could not tell, but I knew it was of God, and if we would reject it we would go into darkness. I saw by the Word of God that sectism was spiritual Babylon, and that the ministers who were the shepherds were feeding themselves and not the flock. Ezek. 34; Jer. 51; Rev. 18:2-4. I was always ready and willing, as fast as I could understand, to accept what is Bible. At this time (January, 1882) we had a meeting in Bro. Miller's house at Jerry City, Ohio, which shall never be forgotten. It lasted until three o'clock in the morning; truly God was in our midst in wonderful power. Rev. 19; Jer. 51; and Ezek. 34 were read. That meeting brought me to where I was like Moses when he came to the Red Sea. That morning before I closed the meeting I said, "I can lead you no further." The Lord said to me, "Stand still and see the salvation of the Lord." We commenced praying for God to send someone who would be able to lead us further. In a few weeks the Lord answered our prayers by sending dear Bro. D. S. Warner. He, by the Spirit and Word of God proved to us what Babylon was, and how God's people had been led into this spiritual Babylon, and had been kept until the time came when He would call them out. He proved it by the Word, and the Spirit bore witness to my spirit that he was preaching Bible.

(Later Sister Sarah Smith said, "I was one among the first to accept this light on the one church clear from sectism.")

—Taken from Wickersham's "History of the Church"



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