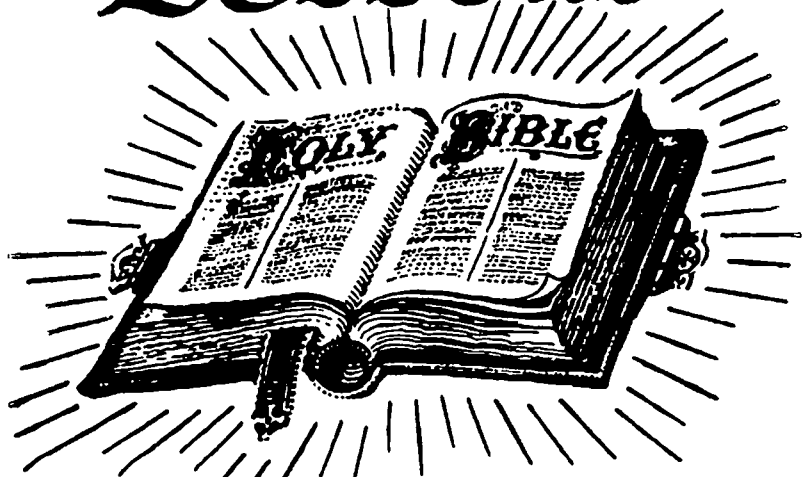


# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Vol. 5, No. 3  
July, Aug., Sept.  
1973**

**Faith Pub. House  
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# **Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**

**Vol. 5**

**July, August, Sept., 1973**

**No. 8**

## ***Table of Contents***

	<b>Page</b>
<b>July 1—Love in the Heart for God and Man.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>July 8—Fear and Love Our Great God .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>July 15—Set Your Affections on God .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>July 22—Profanity and Idle Words .....</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>July 29—The Sabbath Rest of the Lord God .....</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Aug. 5—Honor For Parents .....</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Aug. 12—The Sin of Hatred and Murder .....</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Aug. 19—The Holiness of Marriage .....</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Aug. 26—Dishonesty Never Pays .....</b>	<b>43</b>
<b>Sept. 2—The Power of An Evil Tongue .....</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Sept. 9—Godliness With Contentment: Great Gain....</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>Sept. 16—The Purpose of the Law .....</b>	<b>57</b>
<b>Sept. 23—The Word Transferred from Stone to Heart</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>Sept. 30—The Mediator Between God and Man .....</b>	<b>65</b>

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## **THEME FOR THIRD QUARTER, 1973**

From the quaking Mount Horeb came the thundering voice of God issuing forth His Law. Our theme for this quarter will be the purpose, contents, and fulfilling of this Law. We want to examine closely each precept contained therein, realizing that through the Law is the knowledge of sin. Without the law, sin was dormant in a man's life. But we also seek to present in these lessons that to perform these statutes and live up to the standard they uphold, one must be inspired and moved by the love of God abiding within the heart. Also, we must come to know and understand that righteousness is not gained in a strict obedience to these Laws, but rather through the faith of Jesus Christ and the power of His risen life. By virtue and strength of His indwelling Spirit, the Christian is enabled to keep these commandments to the fullest pleasure and satisfaction of God Himself, thus bringing great happiness and joy.

—Leslie Busbee



**July 1, 1973**

### **LOVE IN THE HEART FOR GOD AND MAN**

**Mark 12:28-31; Matt. 22:40; Luke 10:28b; Romans 13:10; Matt. 5:27, 28; 1 John 3:14; 1 John 4:19, 20; 1 John 5:2, 3**

Mark 12:28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?

29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:

30 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 is the first commandment.

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

Matthew 22:40 On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Luke 10:28b [Jesus said] This do and thou shalt live.  
Romans 13:10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbor:  
therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Matthew 5:27 Ye have heard that it was said by them  
of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

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.

1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death  
unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth  
not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 4:19 We love him [God] because he first loved  
us.

20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother,  
he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he  
hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children  
of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his com-  
mandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

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

**Central Thought:** True and pure love for man and su-  
preme love for God within the heart and affections of  
man are the only means by which God's commandments  
can be satisfactorily obeyed.

**Word Definition:** Commandment from the Hebrew means  
an order from the mouth. This particular definition is associ-  
ated with the thought of blowing which to us involves the  
breath of God accompanying His Word. This, of course, is  
His Spirit. The word command carries great force and re-  
sponsibility. The Greek word for commandment means a  
charge or injunction. Love is defined as ardent affection,  
benevolence, fondness, friendship and personal attachment,  
strong liking, and good will. To fulfill means to make replete,  
complete, to cram (full), to level up (a low place), to fur-  
nish, satisfy, execute, finish, or verify. Hate is defined as the  
opposite of love, to detest, an emotion of intense aversion  
(repulsion or turning away) usually springing from anger,  
fear, or a sense of injury.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Before we can rightly enter the knowledge of God's commandments, there must be a basis laid to our thoughts and understanding. This foundation is the principle of love. Without it no law or commandment can be satisfactorily kept or obeyed. Before God ever brought forth His righteous judgments for the people to hear and obey, we see Him graciously manifesting the riches of His great love. His great affection and favor for this people reached down to them in the dark land of Egypt where they groaned beneath sorrows untold. And even before then, we see His love preserving their fathers during the terrible world wide famine in the days of Joseph. Going back a little farther behold His call to Abraham and His promise of love to him and his posterity. As the people stood before the flaming mount of Horeb, they had all reason to feel and remember the great love of their God who had led them safely thus far. He loved the people with an everlasting love. And so He loves us today, after manifesting a greater force of love in offering up His only Son in our behalf. Remember, that back of all the commandments of God to us, there lives, moves, and abides fervently His everlasting love and good will. With this in mind, no commandment or law He might reveal to us will offend us.

**Lesson References:** Love for God: Deut. 6:4-6. God's love for His people: Deut. 33:3, Isaiah 63:7-9, Jeremiah 31:3. Love your enemies: Matt. 5:44, 45. Love for God as well as good will to man as stated to the rich young ruler: Matt. 19:16-21. Being patient and merciful to others as God has been to us: Titus 3:1-7.

### QUESTIONS:

1. How many commandments of the Ten have to do with our relationship with God? 2. How many have to do with our relationship with man? 3. What is the indispensable element one must have in the heart to be able to really live up to the law? 4. Which comes first: love for God or obedience to God's commandments? 5. Which requires greater use of man's vital powers: love for God or love for man?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The Ten Commandments are comprehended into two great Commandments by our Lord. The first has to do with our relationship with God. We are to love Him supremely above all things with all our mental, physical, emotional, and worshipful powers. This love for God covers the first four

commandments. Love for God is truly necessary if we are to keep them faithfully. If we truly love the Father in heaven, we will not allow any thing to be between our souls and His fellowship. We will worship Him alone, and give Him the first place in our hearts. His wondrous image as revealed in His gracious dealings and Word will shine so brightly in our hearts that we will not erect any other fashion for praise or worship. We will honor, respect, and revere His name so sacredly, and we will realize the seriousness of being called by His name, that we will take good heed to our lives lest we bring reproach and dishonor upon it. And then it will be the joy and pleasure of our hearts to enter with Him into His sabbath of rest, praying with the Psalmist: "Let thy work appear . . . and establish thou the work of our hands." Psalms 90:16, 17.

The second great commandment, Love thy neighbour as thyself, has to do with our relationship with our fellow man. This love for man covers the last six of the Ten Commandments. The rich young ruler asked what he might do to have eternal life. Did you notice that the commandments Jesus quoted to him first were those concerning these last six? He had a reason for doing this, and the young man was able to say he was blameless in these. But the final requirement Jesus gave this young seeker involved a higher love than what he had for man. This man worshipped something. And he was unwilling to give it up for the worship of God. These last six commandments are very necessary, but do not forget that it takes real love in the heart to fulfill them. Note the first and I would say the most important. Can you see why God put it at the head of the list? One who honors and loves his parents is in very little danger of breaking the others. Loving one's neighbor as himself will not allow him to kill, steal, commit adultery, bear false witness, or covet any thing that belongs to his neighbor. He will look upon his neighbor as equal with him, being just as precious in the sight of God as himself. Love grown cold for God or man will result in a let-down of respect and honor and will eventually lead to gross transgression of these sacred laws. It is not only the act of adultery that Jesus condemned, but also the lust in the heart of the man for the woman. It is not only murder that is condemned, but also the hatred in the heart that prompts it.

—L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"God is love and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him." 1 John 4:16. Only love can prompt and per-

form the service of God. Without love in the heart, the smallest menial task becomes unbearable. Jacob worked fourteen years for Rachel, willing to do so for the love that he had for her. You cannot dwell too much on love, true love. There is much false love and impure affection in the world, but there is a true and holy love and affection that we all need now and forever. "Greater love hath no man than this," our Lord said, "that a man lay down his life for his friends." And then Paul said that "God commendeth his love [showed how great it was] toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

These commandments of God were given in love. He wanted the people to be conscious of the gross error of their way. He wanted them to become conscious of their sins, which were barring them from His fellowship and blessings. God does not make the laws for His own selfish thought or pleasure, but rather, every commandment that He gives to man has man's benefit in mind. Man was unconscious of this when he broke the simple test of love in the garden of Eden. Had he taken in stock the results of his disobedience, he would doubtless have turned decidedly the other way.

In this age of no restraint and the breaking down of moral standards, the darkened hearts of men and women are forgetting that to break laws results in disastrous consequences. Break the law of gravity and see what happens. One may say, "Look at this air age, how it defies the law of gravity." No, it does not. All aircraft and space craft are operated and gauged by this undeniable force. The success of any business, invention, or operation depends upon full respect and obedience to certain rules and regulations. And so it is with life and happiness that God wills to bless everyone with. We must love God and have a holy regard for every word that proceedeth out of His mouth.

—Leslie Busbee

### LIFE'S PIECES

God's thoughts are above human knowledge—

He moves in mysterious ways

To work out Eternity's purpose

Through Time's short procession of days.

While some lives seem favored by fortune,

With others misfortune increases;

Yet with every life-plan that is broken,

God knows what to do with the pieces.

Fond hopes often bloom but to wither,  
Ambition may glow and soon fade,  
Joy frequently turns into sorrow,  
And Life makes us doubtful, afraid.  
Then a rainbow appears on the storm cloud  
And our doubting and questioning ceases  
When we know that although Life may break us,  
God knows what to do with the pieces.

God can make the four walls of a sickroom  
Hold sunshine along with the pain,  
And the spirit within broken bodies  
Inspires us again and again.  
While Nature may give compensation  
To make up for lacks and decreases,  
God can take a life—shattered, crushed, broken,  
And make Heaven inhabit the pieces.

It takes faith, vision, and will power  
To determine the cast of a soul.  
In spite of conviction and courage  
One sometimes comes short of the goal.  
But no matter what have been our failures,  
Our faith in the future increases  
When we let God take over our troubles  
For He knows what to do with Life's pieces.

—Mrs. Ruby C. Stiefel

—o—

**July 8, 1973**

## **FEAR AND LOVE OUR GREAT GOD**

**(First Commandment)**

**Exodus 20:2, 3; Deut. 4:33-35; Isaiah 45:18, 21b, 22;  
John 14:6; 1 John 2:22; Deut. 18:9-12a; 1 Tim. 4:1**

Exodus 20:2 [God said] I am the Lord thy God, which  
have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the  
house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Deut. 4:33 [Later Moses said] Did ever people hear  
the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire,  
as thou hast heard, and live?

34 Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

35 Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the Lord he is God; there is none else beside him.

Isaiah 45:18 For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord, and there is none else.

21b A just God and a Saviour; there is none beside me.

22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

1 John 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is anti-Christ, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Deut. 18:9 When thou art come into the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations.

10 [God commands] There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch,

11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer.

12a For all that do these things are an abomination unto the Lord.

1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

Memory Verse: 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 is the first commandment. Mark 12:30.

**Central Thought:** There are two sources of hidden help, information etc. You can seek help from God, through His Word and prayer, or from Satan through occultism. Satan's leadings bring darkness and oppressions in many ways, but through God we have deep inner peace and hope.

**Word Definition:** Divination means fortune telling. Observer of times is a soothsayer. Enchanter is a magician. Charmer is an hypnotist. Consultant with familiar spirits is a medium possessed with a spirit "guide." Necromancer is a medium who consults the dead.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We are taking the first commandment which God spoke from the mountain Sinai. The people trembled when they heard His voice. May we tremble as we realize the seriousness of knowing God's Word and obeying it.

We chose, as the last part of our lesson, scriptures which point out the workings of the devil which are just as prominent in this day as they have been down through the ages. The devil works in many ways to deceive. The Apostle John said, "Little children, let no man deceive you." 1 John 3:7. The devil comes as an "angel of light" when necessary and then works through possessed evil men to deceive. Let us beware of such deception and serve the one and only true God. There is none else beside Him.

**Lesson References:** Love thy God: Mark 12:30. Forms of occultism condemned: Galatians 5:19-21. Part in the lake of fire: Rev. 21:8. Simon, the sorcerer: Acts 8:9-24. Damsel had spirit of divination: Acts 16:16-20. Judgment of God fell upon King Saul who sought a medium: 1 Samuel 28; 1 Chronicles 10:13, 14. Deliverance through Christ: Mark 9:20-27.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the background of the first commandment?
2. What did God do for the Israelites that they might know that God was their God, and is ours today?
3. What do verses 18, 21 and 22 tell us?
4. Describe your feelings about God and His power.
5. Discuss occultism and its work in the world today.

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

What a mighty God we serve! He is the high and lofty One who "inhabiteth eternity." (Isaiah 57:15.) God is the fountain of life and has created all things. "God is a Spirit"

and "there is no God" beside him. God said, "I am the Lord, I change not." (Mal. 3:6.) This shows His immutability. He is omnipresent. God is everywhere present. God is omniscient. He is all-knowing. God has unlimited power. He is omnipotent. God has all wisdom. He is pure and holy. God is merciful, but He demands righteousness of all His intelligent creatures. He is a God of judgment, but mercy precedes all of His judgments. He is all love, grace and goodness. God is a faithful God. He is a great God. God never lies, but is all truth. We come to God through His Son Jesus, who is our Mediator. The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity, which also includes God the Father, and Jesus Christ, the Son. The Holy Spirit is divine and is a distinct person. (John 14:26.) Our great God controls all created things, yet He has given man a free-moral agency. Man can choose to serve God or he can choose to serve the enemy of God, which is Satan, who originated in the finite and is an opposer to God and His subjects.

In the world today there are those who openly claim to be witches. They are subjects of Satan. When you seek information from them you are opening a door to the devil, and many times you will become a prey to evil forces. It is a serious thing to tamper with the devil's works. Beware of palm reading, fortunes told by the use of cards, tea leaves, crystal balls, ouija boards, or other means. Some, out of curiosity, will play with the ouija board. These occult games are sold in the stores today. Do not fool with ESP, telepathy, cabala, horoscope, voodooism. Beware of spiritualism, Christian Science, hypnosis, magic, Jehovah's Witnesses, false religious cults, or other occultism. Multitudes are getting under the control of this diabolical web of occultism and the influence of darkness. It will bring depression, gloominess, and a hatred of Christ and God.

—M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Worship is defined by Webster as courtesy or reverence paid to merit or worth. God that created this world and the mighty heavens above us—who fashioned our lives amidst the beauties that He adorned this earth with along with its fullness—He is worthy of supreme love and faith and worship. Our hearts should forever be inclining unto Him. Our confidence should be ever fixed in His faithfulness and truth. We should ever be conscious of His great love and mercy toward us. All doubt and fear should be forever erased from our hearts as we behold the greatness of His kindness and favor. And we ought to worship Him supremely always.

God is a Spirit, an invisible Being. He instructs us that He seeks such to worship and serve Him who will do so in an earnest, honest, and spiritual manner. He does not take pleasure in what we can do or accomplish in our humanity if He has not the first part in the thing: Our worship must be in the Spirit, or the unseen realm of the soul. It is evident that this is where He has had His greatest difficulty with man. Man is prone to want to see or feel something earthly or material. While Moses tarried up on the Mount receiving the lively oracles of the Law, the people down below became very restless. "Up, make us gods," they said to Aaron, "for as for this Moses, we do not know what has become of him." Time after time their courage failed when they looked at the things of outward form instead of the Invisible Hand that had proved its worth to them over and over. Thus they became stubborn and unyielding in their unbelief, unreprouable and impenitent. But Moses endured, as seeing Him who is invisible. Moses' vision was the eye of faith and holding fast to the revelation that God had given to his own heart. It is no wonder then that the first commandment warned them about having other gods before Him. But right while God was communicating these things to Moses, at least the first two commandments were being broken in the Israelite camp.

It is wise as the Psalms tell us in different places to consider the error of Israel and learn from those who perished at the hands of an angry and offended God. The 95th Psalm to me bears urgent appeal to our hearts. Oh, how we need to feel our need of God, the touch of His loving presence, and the fearful dread of departing from Him! How we should recognize His true existence! He is God, but the art and craft of man with all his productions and accomplishments blot the blessed sunlight of His love from our skies and enslave us in dark prisons of despair. —Leslie Busbee

### **DANGERS OF HYPNOTISM**

Hypnotism is extremely dangerous. We are sure that no Christian can have anything to do with hypnotism and retain the grace of God. I am convinced that those who continue far in hypnotism are soon possessed with familiar spirits. He who indulges in it endangers himself in every way, both morally and physically. In spiritualism, the subject surrenders soul, mind, and body to the spirits of devils; and in hypnotism the subject surrenders his will to a hypnotic performer, who is almost invariably a child of the devil. Any man should think too much of himself to give his mind, character, and

reputation into the hands of another person, to be used for anything and everything. Says Prof. Haraden: "While under its influence [hypnotic sleep] his faculties and senses will be under the control of the operator, and he [the subject] will obey any command that may be given him." "Will obey any command." Does not this mean that hypnotism can be used for evil purposes? Many a young lady has been robbed of her virtue through the subtle influence of hypnotism; and by it many a young man has been led to the brothel. And yet all hypnotic advocates deny that it can be used for such purposes.

At first it might be impossible to induce a person to commit a criminal act; but every time a person is hypnotized he becomes more perfectly under the control of the operator. As proof of this, I again quote Prof. Harraden, who says in lesson three of his "Mail Course": "Right here let me say, that if possible when selecting your first subject, get one who has been hypnotized before, as they are much easier influenced."

Ever since the dawn of mesmerism it has been a question of debate as to whether a subject in the somnambulistic state can be induced to shed blood. There once arose a dispute between the rival schools of Nancy and Paris as to whether a subject of good moral character could be induced at the suggestion of the operator to commit a serious crime. This dispute led to many experiments. Nancy maintained that it was possible, while Paris held the negative. Paris said that although a subject could be induced to commit an ostensible murder with a paper dagger, yet if a real dagger were given, the conscience would arouse and forbid the act. Nancy, disbelieving this, prepared a man of straw and placed it on the bed of a well-known professor, which was kept secret from the students. Next, a subject was chosen who was ignorant of the straw man in the professor's bed. He was then hypnotized and given a real dagger and told to go and stab the professor through the heart. The subject at once went to the professor's room and plunged the dagger into the heart of the straw man. As Paris still doubted after this experiment they were invited to take the place of the straw man, but never accepted the invitation.

Hypnotists are taught from the beginning to lie to their subjects and make them believe their lies if possible. After instructing the operator to promise the subject to make him do nothing "ridiculous, or hurtful to his dignity," Professor Harraden says, "Even if you intend otherwise, this little fiction may be deemed pardonable in the interests of science." He further says, "You will certainly find later on that decep-

tions are so often required as not to seriously affect your conscience." Shame, shame, on a man who will teach men to deceive for filthy lucre and popularity!

Hypnotism is dangerous, and every man and woman who loves virtue and right should spurn it and cry it down. It is an agent of the devil to destroy soul and body. Every child of God should be warned against all such tricks of the enemy of souls.

—From "The Holy Spirit and Other Spirits"

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July 15, 1973

## SET YOUR AFFECTIONS ON GOD

(Second Commandment)

Exodus 20:4-6; Isaiah 45:20; Col. 3:2, 5-7; John 4:21, 23, 24; John 5:21

Exodus 20:4 [God spoke from Mt. Sinai] Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquities of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.

6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.

Isaiah 45:20 Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save.

Colossians 3:2 Set your affection on things above, not on things of the earth.

5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

6 For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:

7 In the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them.

John 4:21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

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

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

John 5:21 For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.

**Memory Verse:** And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. 1 John 3:22.

**Central Thought:** Anything that we let come between us and God is an idol. External and mental worship of anything but God is sinful.

**Word Definition:** Idol is "an image or representation of a deity, made or used as an object of worship . . . an object of passionate devotion." Idolatry is "excessive love . . . for anything." Mortify: "To deaden, to humble, to abase, to destroy the vigor, strength or the like of." Webster's Dictionary.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The Israelites came from Egypt which was an idol worshipping nation. In sending the ten plagues, God struck at their gods and proved them to be under Him and helpless to help the Egyptians. The River Nile was an object of their worship. God made it putrid. Frogs were sacred animals and dedicated to their god, Osiris. They became an awful scourge. The Egyptians, especially their priests, were affected greatly by cleanliness. The lice were to confound them and they immediately said, "This is the finger of God." The fly was held sacred. Their cattle and other animals were all objects of worship, but God struck them with disease. And so we see that God wanted the Israelites as well as the Egyptians to know that God is the true God, as we saw in studying the rest of the plagues. The Israelites must have received an impressive lesson on the vanity and wickedness of idolatry and were convinced that it was the will of God for them to leave Egypt, as they well knew that a wilderness life would be hard. So God spoke this commandment for them and for their future generation to flee idolatry. (See Clarke's Com.)

We want to remember that in this gospel dispensation God writes the commandments in our hearts when we have truly repented of our sins and are "born again." The Apostle

Paul said, "written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart." 2 Corinthians 3:3.

—M. Miles

**Lesson References:** Israelites were to destroy all molten images and pictures: Numbers 33:52. Saw no similitude of the Lord: Deut. 4:15, 16. They make gods: Isaiah 46:6-9. Write laws in the heart in this gospel day: Jeremiah 31:33; Ezekiel 11:19, 20. Lycaonia tried to worship Paul and Barnabas: Acts 14:11-18. Burned books: Acts 19:17-20. Love God: Mark 12:30.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Where were the Israelites introduced to idols and what did God do to expose the gods' helplessness? 2. Is there a difference between an evil jealousy and a godly jealousy? 3. Discuss the worshipping of heathen gods of today. 4. What else besides images can become idols to us? 5. How are we to worship God today? 6. Can we worship God with a heart full of carnal desires and self-indulgence?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Our God is a jealous God. He wants all of our love. He doesn't want to share us with any other thing because He knows that the things of earth and carnal desires will destroy us. This shows to us His great love that He has for us. God created many things for our enjoyment, but they become loathsome to God when we love them more than Him. God gives us children, but if we love them more than God He is displeased. Yet children are a blessing and a comfort to their parents. God has given us eyes, ears, speech, minds, bodies, etc., but when we use them for our carnal desires and to please self then we displease God. God wants to be enthroned in our hearts. He wants to be the center of our affections. He wants to be the lover of our soul.

Self doesn't want us to love God and put Him first. Self wants to be honored and have some say in our lives, but Jesus has told us to deny ourselves. Jesus is our example. The Bible says, "Christ pleased not himself." Romans 15:3. Self needs to be crucified and brought under the subjection of Christ. Self needs to be purged and purified and cleansed. Then is our love for God perfected.

Pride, loving worldly pleasures, following the fashions, fame, wealth, and even our work can become an idol to us.

Covetousness is idolatry. Anything that hinders us from loving and serving God with all our hearts is our idol.

There is yet in the world those who worship graven images. There is a distinction between mental idolatry and image worship. As all outward figures or images of God are forbidden, so every substitute for God, as an object of adoration and love, is also forbidden.

"The Roman Catholic Church has left the whole of this second commandment out of the decalogue, and has thus lost one whole commandment out of the ten; to keep up the number they have divided the tenth into two." (Clarke) But we know that their image worship, which started in 691 A. D., is an abomination to God.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

While but a small child I first heard of people worshipping a graven image. It struck my childish heart as something very silly. But since I have traveled considerably in this world and beheld the folly of men and the temptations of what all the world has to offer, I am seeing more and more how such that I called silly is dire foolishness but fully accountable and has a very good reason for so being. There is a cause for man even being tempted to worship anything material. In the first place, his unregenerated and darkened nature will not permit him to find contact with the Invisible God. It does not appeal to him at all to worship and serve something that he does not see.

As Paul told the Athenians: "We ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. And the times of this ignorance God winked at [overlooked]; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent. Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Acts 17:29-31. God has given man every bit of open manifestation of Himself that he needs to inspire and cause man to believe. Any kind of failure to believe and be assured of the truth of God and His love and mercy is purely the cause of stubbornness and evil. If a man will not be persuaded by the testimony of those witnesses who testified of Christ being raised from the dead (which testimony is accompanied by the personal dealing and revelation of the Holy Spirit), God will see fit to leave that man unpersuaded. His unbelief He will judge and punish, and He will be just and righteous in doing so.

God has been manifest. Man is no longer excused for seeking outward forms to satisfy his curiosity concerning God and His reality. God will judge this hard and stiff-necked society for their unbelief and pride. He is weary of their unthankful and lustful attitude. Instead of glorifying Him for His mercy unto them, they have set about to better themselves in the world, always murmuring and complaining for better this and better that. This dark state of mind infests even Christian leaders who instead of rejoicing about the great Light from heaven are going on about how much better things will be for their fleshly fancies in some kind of thousand-year reign. But their folly shall be made manifest, while those who have simply believed will be rewarded. —Leslie Busbee

### **IDOL INVENTIONS!**

The god Moloch was a fearful looking monster, with a huge red mouth and grinning teeth, to show he was fond of blood. The goddess Kalee, worshipped by many persons in India, is a fierce-looking female figure, with instruments of death in her hands, and a string of human skulls hanging round her neck as an ornament. Ganesa, another of the gods of the Hindus, is represented with the head of an elephant, and having four arms and hands. He always appears riding on the back of a great rat, having the figure of a serpent wreathed round his head. There are hundreds of uglier and more repulsive idols among the poor heathen in Africa and the South Seas; but it is not their hideousness that condemns them as objects of worship. Lovely idols are as loathsome in God's sight. How lovely are the sun, moon and stars, and how greatly the Psalmist appreciated their exceeding beauty! Yet men have made these beautiful creations of God loathsome. How? By making idols of them. The Brazen Serpent was no doubt a very bright and beautiful object; but it became repulsive when turned into an object of worship, and had to be destroyed. To admire a beautiful sculpture—whether stone, marble, brass, or silver—is not wrong; but to adore it, raises the Divine jealousy.

"Thou art a God who beareth no rival near Thy throne;  
Yet many a creature shareth the love that is Thine own.  
'Oh! may we never dare to act that wicked part;  
Nor offer up a prayer that comes not from the heart;  
Or speak that Name in careless phrase that heaven adores,  
and earth obeys."

—Homiletic Commentary

**July 22, 1973**

**PROFANITY AND IDLE WORDS**

**(Third Commandment)**

**Ex. 20:7; Matt. 5:34, 35-37; Matt. 12:36, 37;**

**Lev. 24:10-16**

Exodus 20:7 Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain: for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.

Matthew 5:34 But I say unto you, Swear not at all; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne:

35 Nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King.

36 Neither shalt thou swear by thy head, because thou canst not make one hair white or black.

37 But let your communication be, Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil.

Matthew 12:36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Leviticus 24:10 And the son of an Israelitish woman, whose father was an Egyptian, went out among the children of Israel: and this son of the Israelitish woman and a man of Israel strove together in the camp;

11 And the Israelitish woman's son blasphemed the name of the Lord, and cursed. And they brought him unto Moses: (and his mother's name was Shelomith, the daughter of Dibri, of the tribe of Dan:)

12 And they put him in ward, that the mind of the Lord might be showed them.

13 And the Lord spake unto Moses saying,

14 Bring forth him that hath cursed without the camp; and let all that heard him lay their hands upon his head, and let all the congregation stone him.

15 And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, Whosoever curseth his God shall bear his sin.

16 And he that blasphemeth the name of the Lord, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him: as well the stranger, as he that

is born in the land, when he blasphemeth the name of the Lord, shall be put to death.

**Memory Verse:** He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name. Psalms 111:9.

**Central Thought:** Irreverently speaking God's name and His titles, either in swearing or without deep honor, will bring the displeasure of God upon us.

**Word Definition:** Curse means "to use profanely, insolent language against one; to blaspheme." Blasphemy means "reviling God, indignity offered to God in words, writing or signs." Swearing means to invoke God's name in an oath." "Profanity includes all irreverent reference to holy things." (Web. Dict.) Idle means "without worth or basis, vain, foolish, useless." Vain means "empty, useless, devoid of real value, worthless."

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Let us not forget that God spoke these ten commandments audibly from Mount Sinai. This was also where God gave Moses the laws to govern the Israelites and the instructions for making the tabernacle with the Holy place and the Most Holy place.

If God was strict in teaching the people to regard His name under Moses who commanded them to be stoned, how does He feel today about those who blaspheme? They surely will be punished although He bears long with them and is merciful. But remember we all will be brought into judgment for what we do. No one will escape.

**Lesson References:** God's name is a great refuge: Psa. 18:10. God is a Friend in Covenant: Deut. 28:58. Swear to own hurt: Psalms 15:4. Tongue: James 3:1-18.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the third commandment, and what does it mean to you? 2. What causes people to swear and curse? 3. Under the laws of Moses what happened to those who cursed, etc., and does God still feel the same today? 4. What about idle words, and what are some of them? 5. Discuss habits of kind words and their effect upon others.

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

One time I heard a message on words and the tongue. When the minister got half through with that message I felt

like I never wanted to speak again as he surely proved by the Bible what a serious thing it was to speak wrongly. Then the minister took the other side of the subject. He pointed out what a blessing words are. It was brought out about Solomon of old, the wise man who said, "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." A word fitly spoken can heal a heart that is broken. It can turn away wrath. Kind words can fill a house with a fragrant odor. They can quiet and soothe a household. They can even quiet a mob of irritated people. The gospel story told by one who has experienced salvation can help others be brought to Jesus and receive eternal life. Oh, yes, the right kind of words are wonderful. But, oh, the heartache that harsh, unkind words can bring. Words are cruel when they come from a heart filled with selfishness and hatred. Words can be like swords, cutting deep, not into the flesh, but into a tender heart. Wrong words will soon become a habit if allowed to continue. A person might start out with words spoken in fun and not mean it to wound, but if that habit is allowed to grow it will soon become offensive.

Oh, how sad it makes one feel when the name of God and our precious Lord are taken in vain. One young person came home from the army and he had a battle in my presence to keep from using God's name in vain. He apologized and said that he heard it so much that gradually he had gotten into the same habit. A person first loses some of the fear of God before he can take His name in vain. That person will not be held guiltless.

Christian people can get into a habit of using God's name. Sometimes we hear preachers say that many souls are going to hell, and then say, "Praise God." Even in prayer a habit can be formed of carelessly using God's name. When His name is used it should be with a deep reverence. There is power in the name of God and Jesus for believers.

—M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

It is very evident that God is concerned about how His name is spoken. And there are other ways of taking His holy name in vain besides slang, swearing, etc. When you or I testify that we are a child of God, that is taking His name. We are calling ourselves by His name. Then we should be very careful and diligent lest that name is besowed upon us in vain. We should seek to live and walk before the sons of men in such a way that His holy name is glorified and lifted up. We should be careful not to do anything that would bring

a reproach upon His name. The first part of the prayer that Jesus instructed us to use as a pattern for our praying was: "Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name." It should be in our hearts this way. We should have a great sense of dignity and respect in bearing His name. We should seek to honor and glorify that name in all we say and do.

Paul had to say to some of the Jews: "For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you." It was God's plan to bless and lead the Jewish nation to make of Himself an everlasting name. But time after time, the Jews carried the name of the Lord in vain. And they suffered for it. Ten of the tribes of Israel were wiped out for their contempt to His glorious name. Even Judah was eventually allowed to be taken captive into Babylon because they, too, departed from the fear of the Lord. The Psalmist in Psalm 102 prophesied of the return to Zion of God's people and said, "So the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory." When Jonah was caught sleeping in the ship that was nigh engulfed by the storm, his answer to the crew's questions was that he feared the Lord God who made the sea and the dry land. He humbled his heart for he realized that he was bringing dishonor upon the name of God for his disobedience. He was willing to be cast overboard, and prove that he had done wrong. When the storm ceased after he was thrown out, the men feared the Lord exceedingly.

Oh, how the Lord is interested in the influence of His name, and the influence of His Word. His Word has been exalted above His Name. His Word and Name are meant to go hand in hand. How diligent and careful we ought to be in these things.

—Leslie Busbee

### **PROFANE-PENALTY!**

(1) In one of the log houses so common in the southern counties of Vermont sat a man watching a fearful snowstorm. He was on his way across the Green Mountains, and was determined to reach home that day. When urged to tarry with his host, and not brave the perils of the increasing storm, he profanely declared that he would go though God Almighty stood in the way. But he never reached home. He was found dead near a large tree, partly supported by its trunk. His body was bent forward, and his ghastly features told the stubbornness with which he had profanely taken Jehovah's name in vain. For more than thirty years that tree stood by the solitary road, scored to the branches with names, letters, and hieroglyphics of death,—a silent rehearsal of the

Sinaitic speech: "The Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His name in vain."

(2) A profane coachman, pointing to one of the horses he was driving, said to a pious traveler, "That horse knows when I swear." To this remark his listener made the solemn retort, "Yes, and so does ONE ABOVE."

"Look to thyself, then, deal no more with oaths,  
Lest He that hears against thee sends His woes."

—Homiletic Commentary

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July 29, 1973

## THE SABBATH REST OF THE LORD GOD

(Fourth Commandment)

**Exodus 20:8-10a; Numbers 15:32-36; Mark 2:27, 28;  
Col. 2:16, 17; Heb. 4:1-5, 9**

Exodus 20:8 Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10a But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work.

Numbers 15:32 And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day.

33 And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation.

34 And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him.

35 And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp.

36 And all the congregation brought him without the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died; as the Lord commanded Moses.

Mark 2:27 And he said unto them, the sabbath was made for man and not man for the sabbath.

28 Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.

Colossians 2:16 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.

Hebrews 4:1 Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

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.

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

**Memory Verse:** For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his. Hebrews 4:10.

**Central Thought:** God ordained and instituted a rest for man, His creation, from the foundation of the world. The Old Testament Sabbath did not give the true rest that sinful man really needed, therefore Christ Jesus, in full salvation, brought rest to the soul wherein we cease from our own works and let God work in us to will and to do of His good pleasure. This is a spiritual rest.

**Word Definition:** Sabbath is a Hebrew word which means to repose or rest, that is, to desist (or cease) from exertion (or work). The Sabbath day was on the seventh day of the week. The Hebrew word for seven is also used to denote completeness and is associated with the thought of swearing and making oaths. To swear means literally to "seven one's self." This our Lord forbade us to do. Work is defined as exertion of strength or faculties for the accomplishment of something; physical or mental effort directed to an end; toil; labor. Let us further survey the meaning of rest. Besides that given above, Webster adds: "To cease from action or motion; to be free from whatever wearies or disturbs; to be quiet or still, to lean or remain confident; to rely or trust.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The Commandment of keeping a sabbath was nothing new to the Israelite. In Exodus 16, we find the Lord giving the children of Israel bread in the wilderness, and they were admonished by Moses to gather on the sixth day enough manna for two days and not to gather any on the sabbath. "Six days ye shall gather it; but on the seventh day, which is the sabbath, in it there shall be none." Note that this was before the Commandment in the law of Sinai was given. And, of course, we remember that in Genesis 2:1, 3, it tells how God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, for in it did He rest from all His works. Now from this time of the creation until Moses we see or trace nothing said of the sabbath. But there was the preparation of the hearts of Israel while in Egyptian bondage for a land of rest from their toil and labors. Perhaps during this period the sabbath rest would not have had much meaning to them. But now that they are prepared to enter into the land of their inheritance the command of God to observe a special day of rest as was ordained in the beginning is put into effect. All this concerning the Sabbath was pointing toward the future time when Christ, the Rest-Giver, would appear to bring spiritual rest to the souls of men.

—Leslie Busbee

**Lesson References:** God ceasing from His works: Genesis 2:2, 3. Invitation to enjoy the rest of God: Psalm 95: 7b-11. Sabbath years: Leviticus 25. Promise of God's blessings for the Sabbath's sake: Isaiah 58:13. Promised punishment if sabbaths are not kept: Leviticus 26:34, 43; 2 Chronicles 36:21. Christ fulfilling literal Sabbath: Matt. 11:28, 29.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God rest the seventh day? Was He weary?
2. Why did God especially bless the seventh day above the others?
3. Just how serious was an offense against the commandment of the Sabbath?
4. Was the Sabbath in the New Testament done away with or fulfilled?
5. What is the rest that we as believers in Christ have access to?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God's plans are perfect. The Israelite might not have known all the reasons that God was so strict in His commands, but today we know that the shadow had to be perfect in its design to bring out a perfect fulfillment in Christ. The Israelite was to have a perfect physical rest on the Sabbath. This

was "a shadow of things to come." Through Christ, who is the "Lord of the sabbath" we find perfect rest to our soul. That rest is described by the Apostle Paul as one having "ceased from his own works, as God did from his." Praise God for that wonderful soul-rest.

The Bible tells us about the wicked and we know by experience all about that restlessness that we had while in sin and obeying the lusts of the flesh and the desires of self. The Bible says, "The wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked." Isaiah 57:20, 21. Did you ever see the ocean and how it continually works? It rolls and tumbles and moves, continually dashing against the rocks and shoreline. Those who are in sin have an inner restlessness and especially when their sins loom up before them. When sudden calamity comes, there is a fear that grips their soul and holds them in a tight clasp. The Bible says this fear is torment. But thank God there is a peace for the soul. This comes through Christ. When a person realizes his lost condition and with godly sorrow repents of his sins, they are forgiven and taken away. As that person continues to go on to perfection, being filled with the Holy Spirit, he will then "cease from his own works" and be at rest in his soul. He will not be looking around at the things of the world that self might desire and be "picking up sticks" that will bring death to the soul. It's not what the flesh wants, but it's what God wants him to do. Surely there is no peace like the sabbath rest that comes to one through Christ.

—M. Miles

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

God has a rest that He wants to share with us. In this rest He enjoys the fruits and benefits of what He has accomplished and created. He wants us to enjoy this with Him in a holy and sacred fellowship. Survey the works of God in the creation of the heavens and the earth. Behold how the heavens declare the glory of God and how the whole earth is full of His glory. Get away from the glare of city lights and the din of man-pollution and get some place where you can look at the spacious firmament on high. With all the blue ethereal sky and spangled heavens a shining ray, their great Original is portrayed. The effect of such beholding of the wonders of God in creation is deep and abiding in the soul who draws near to God. Think of the mighty ocean that is swathed in by His command. Behold the green grass and verdant trees of shade that bloom along with the countless

beautiful flowers of all sorts. From day to day these undeniable witnesses give forth their testimony of the Master of our lives here. But to really behold and enjoy what God has done, we must turn aside from the grind and toil of labor and self-endeavor. We must take time to fix our minds upon these things and meditate upon their true value and purpose. Certainly it would be beneficial if man would take one day a week for such a holy and godly interest.

But let us behold now a greater and more lasting view of the works of God. Let us see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor. Let us behold Him as He was manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, and received up into glory. Let us behold His compassion and mercy to the souls of men in their distresses and troubles as He walked the shores of Galilee and the roads of Israel. Look at Him as He sits at the well of Samaria doing His Father's work in bringing hope to the weary and sin-sick adulteress who came to get a drink of water! Mark well His footprints in this care-laden world of strife and consider what He endured and suffered as a Man in our stead. Think how He bowed in Gethsemane's garden of prayer and submitted to the Father's will. See the throng come and take Him to be crucified. What was He doing? "I must work the works of Him that sent me"! Behold Him now as He hung there between two thieves, slowly dying from the torture of many wounds. Then hear Him say, "It is finished! Father, into Thy hand I commend my spirit!" But what then? From the tomb He rises in glorious triumph for all who seek Him in this time world! He bids us join Him in His everlasting rest. "For we which have believed do enter into rest." It brings everlasting rest to the soul to really believe from the heart that Christ is risen from the dead and is the Prince of the World to come. We cease our selfish strivings for the wealth and praise of this world, rejoicing in the gift of God which is eternal life. This is the Sabbath that is ours gratefully and joyfully to keep.

—Leslie Busbee

### **JESUS BROKE THE LITERAL SABBATH**

Paul was no novice in the things of the law. He knew that this classification of the Jewish holy days, and knew that the expression "the sabbath-days," when thus classified with new moons and feasts, always referred to the seventh-day sabbath. Now the question comes, If he knew this, why did he use the expression "sabbath-days" when speaking of the

things abolished by Christ? The evident answer is, because he wished to convey the idea that the seventh-day sabbath was abolished.

Notice how consistent this is with Paul's ministry and teaching. He was particularly the apostle of the Gentiles. He says that the Gentiles "have not the law" (Romans 2:14). They never kept the sabbath. Now if we include the Hebrews, Paul wrote fourteen of the New Testament Epistles; and the most of his Epistles were either written directly to Gentile churches or else directly concerned Gentile churches. In his epistles he gives us over and over again exhaustive lists of evil things, but not once does he mention sabbath-breaking as a bad thing. He also gives us many times long lists of good things that the churches must do; yet not once does he mention sabbath-keeping as a good thing. His only direct reference to the sabbath, calling it by name, is in Col. 2:16, where he says it was abolished. Is this the method of a sabbatarian sent to evangelize sabbath-breakers?

People who are anxious to perpetuate the sabbath under the gospel dispensation affirm that Christ kept the sabbath and that therefore we must keep it. Christ was "made under the law" (Gal. 4:4), while we "are not under the law, but under grace" (Rom. 6:14). But Christ was circumcised also. The law was not abolished until His death; therefore as He was a Jew, born and brought up under the law, it was perfectly natural that He should pay respect to the law. Can, it be shown that Christ kept the sabbath as a moral commandment? Of course, it can not. If it could, Christ would stand convicted of sin, for the Word of God affirms that Christ broke the sabbath on at least one occasion. "Therefore did the Jews persecute Jesus and sought to slay him, because he had done these things on the sabbath-day. But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto and I work. Therefore the Jews sought the more to kill him because he not only had broken the sabbath, but said also that God was his Father, making himself equal with God." (John 5:16-18). It was not the Jews, but John, who recorded the fact that Christ "had broken the sabbath." But it was a fact, no matter who said it. He commanded the sick man to take up his bed and walk (verse 12); while the old command was, Thou shalt "bear no burden on the sabbath-day" (Jeremiah 17:21, 22). See Nehemiah 13:19; Exodus 20:10. However, the sabbath was not abolished until the death of Christ; therefore Christ's observing it has no bearing on the sabbath question under the new covenant.

It is sometimes urged that, as the Bible says the sabbath is to be "perpetual," "forever," "everlasting," "throughout your generations," etc., it can never be repealed. But almost every ceremonial thing in the law is stated in the same language. Thus, the Passover, incense, burnt offerings, atonement, Pentecost, feast of tabernacles, circumcision, etc., were all to be observed "perpetually," "throughout your generations," "forever," etc., as can be seen by referring to the following scriptures: Ex. 12:14; 30:8; 29:42; 30:10; Lev. 23:21, 41; Genesis 17:13; Exodus 31:16, 17.

The very fact that these time-specifying words are used with reference to these legal enactments proves their "positive," or ceremonial, character. Moral precepts are never so stated in the Bible, because they exist not by enactment, but by nature. But in order that these ceremonial things might be maintained without negligence, it was necessary to state that they must be observed "perpetually," etc.; that is, they were to remain intact during the lifetime of that system of which they formed a part. But the New Testament teaches that the old system has been abolished, altogether with its offerings, incense, sabbath, circumcision, Passover, and all other ceremonial observances.

—F. G. Smith

("What The Bible Teaches")

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August 5, 1973

## HONOR FOR PARENTS

(Fifth Commandment)

Exodus 20:12; Ex. 21:17; Proverbs 30:17; Matt. 15:4-6;  
Eph. 6:1-3; Deut. 21:18-21

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

Exodus 21:17 And he that curseth his father, or his mother, shall surely be put to death.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Matthew 15:4 [Jesus said] For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.

5 But ye [Pharisees] say, Whosoever shall say to his father or mother, It is a gift, [or money promised to God,

or temple worship] by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;

6 And honour not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Deuteronomy 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.

21 And all the men of the city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

**Memory Verse:** Honour thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:2, 3.

**Central Thought:** The love, honour, and respect that God commands children to have for their parents is not only right and just, but it is also a vital step toward acceptance with God and the benefits of His Fatherhood.

**Word Definition:** The word honour in the Hebrew means to be heavy, this is in a good way (numerous, rich, honorable) or in a bad way (burdensome, severe, dull, etc.). We see then that the term honour in our lesson signifies the love, respect, blessing, consideration, and joy we should bestow in an abundance upon our parents.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Note that this fifth commandment is the first of the last six that have to do with our relationship with our fellow man.

And truly above all people that we are indebted to in this life, our fathers and mothers ought to have first place. One reason that this commandment is at the head of the list in this section is that herein lies part of the plan of God in the communication of His grace from one generation to the next. The honour and respect a child has for his father and mother will cause him to desire to follow the counsel and provision of his parents, but it also includes a plan for the care of father and mother when they are elderly and unable to provide for themselves. Viewing the condition of life in this world and God's outlook for the good of men and women's souls we are made to realize why He held this commandment in such high esteem.

"It is a gift," or in Mark 7:11 is the word "corban," which means that the money I have to help my parents is promised to God and to the temple.

**Lesson References:** Different Bible characters and the honour manifested to their parents. Noah's sons went into the Ark: Genesis 7:7. Isaac submitted to Abraham: Genesis 22:7, 8. Isaac trusted the wisdom of his father and servant in securing him a wife: Genesis 24. Isaac loved his mother and needed her comfort after her death: Gen. 24:67. Joseph's concern for his father: "Doth my father yet live?" Genesis 45:3. Ruth's honour for her mother-in-law: Ruth 1:22. David's care for his parents and help in finding refuge: 1 Sam. 22:3, 4.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How serious were the consequences of disobedience to this commandment? 2. Is man's honour for his parents reckoned as a means for a special blessing? 3. Could you say that this commandment was done away with in the New Testament? 4. Does the parent have anything to do with the honour that he expects from his child? 5. What do you think the real purpose of capital punishment of the rebellious child was that God had in mind?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

We are now studying the commandments that have to do with our relationship with our fellow-man, and we notice that the honour we should have for our parents comes first. This is a precept of God that passed the change from the Mosaic law to grace with no alteration whatsoever. We notice that this commandment along with the fourth commandment concerning the Sabbath is of a positive order while the other eight are of a negative manner. God expects us to be wise

and observing of His Nature and Law to be able to grasp just what honour to our parents should mean. He needeth not to say, Do not do this, or do not neglect, or do not disrespect; but rather He expects His creation to be sensitive to the natural feeling and emotion that He puts within the breast of every boy and girl toward their mother and their father. Therefore, He commands in a positive way, and expects us to apply our hearts in that direction.

Note, in the mention of the rebellious and stubborn son, the purpose for which God gave command that such be stoned: That all Israel shall hear, and fear. He wanted to stress before other people the seriousness of this offense, and how angry He (God) really is with a person who is so hard and willfully darkened to curse his father and mother. We look at this part of it and say, I'm surely glad I did not live under that! But think again. There are more serious elements involved here than physical death. There is spiritual death entering into the picture. This is the first commandment with promise, and the promise was pronounced as long life and many days upon the earth. It is still true that the son or daughter that loves and honours his parents goes farther in every way than he or she who does not. Young people of today do not realize the woe and curse they are bringing upon themselves by disobeying and turning against their parents.

Jesus rebuked the Pharisees for allowing people to give gifts to the treasury and to the priesthood—gifts that should have gone into the provision for the care and sustenance of their parents. This was dire wickedness and gross error. Of all the commandments to misuse and despise, they were guilty of the greatest in this section. God is holding children responsible for the comfort and care of their parents when their parents are no longer able to help themselves. What a sad picture we have in the world today in this one thing. Nursing homes and hospitals are doing big business today with aged people who live off the government whose sons and daughters are not carrying the burden and responsibility. Money enters the picture, and people are more interested in paying someone else to do this than to have the personal touch of caring for their loved ones. This is not true in every case, we know, and we realize that many of our dear aged people of today would have no other place to go. But it is a fact in this evil generation that mother and father are forgotten and pushed out of the way, deprived of that honour that God so graciously and wisely designed that children should administer. Space will not permit justice to this subject. May

God help us to accept this commandment and live in gratitude and honour to our dear parents. —Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I want to mention in connection with this lesson about honouring father and mother an experience I had that gave me quite a thought. In June of 1968, my family and I were on a trip to the west coast. I had washed the car just before we left, hoping to have it clean and enjoyable for the trip. As we started out that morning we started discussing about stopping to visit my parents on the way. But as we came on into Oklahoma the storm clouds gathered and it began to rain. I came to the conclusion that we would not stop this time as my mother and father lived off the main highway on a dirt road, and the mud would really mess up my nice wash job. So we pretty well all agreed that we would not try to go by, but would just call them on the telephone. But as I drove along, the Lord began to talk to my heart like this: "Your mother did more for you in the first two years of your life than you can ever repay, and here you will not visit her merely on account of getting your car muddy!" This changed my thoughts and I announced to the others that we were going to visit mother for awhile.

So we swung off the highway onto the muddy road that led to her home. I could hear the red Oklahoma mud splattering up on the underneath side of the car as we slipped along. After getting out of the car in mother's yard, the mud just fell off in little piles, but I closed my heart to that and we went on in and had a very profitable visit. We finally bid dear Mother farewell and continued our journey. But the Lord so graciously looked down upon us and rewarded us for the time we spent obeying His pleasure and will. As we started down the Interstate, the heavens opened something like a cloudburst. Oh, how the rain fell so thick and fast that we could hardly see to drive. I could hear the water hitting the underneath sides of the car as we drove along through the downpour. The Lord washed off our car very well that day and we did not have to make the trip in a muddy vehicle as I had feared. How we did rejoice and have been telling about it ever since. It surely pays to obey the commands and precepts of our gracious God! —Leslie Busbee

### FILIAL FOLLY!

In Deut. 27:16, we read these solemn words: "Cursed be he that setteth light by father or mother." In Prov. 30:17, God speaks in this awful way: "The eye that mocketh at

his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out." In Western Pennsylvania dwelt an Irishman, who had been wealthy at one time. He had an only son, whose wild and wicked ways reduced the father to poverty. With shattered health and fading sight—poor, blind, friendless, and forsaken—the old man found shelter in the Franklin almshouse. One day the wicked and ungrateful son was passing through the city, and was urged to visit his kind father, whom he had ruined. He refused to do so, and proceeded on his journey. A severe storm overtook him, and he caught a severe cold. It fastened on his eyes, from which all sight soon entirely fled. Poverty came; and on the very day that the dead corpse of the father was borne out, his living corpse was borne into the Franklin almshouse. He was put into the same room, died in the same bed, and was borne forth to the same grave.

"Thou shalt honour thy father the guide of thy youth,  
And yield him the homage of love and of truth."

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August 12, 1973

## THE SIN OF HATRED AND MURDER

(Sixth Commandment)

Exodus 20:13; Genesis 9:5, 6; Matthew 5:38, 39, 43, 44  
Mark 7:21-23; 1 John 3:11-15

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

Genesis 9:5 And surely your blood of your lives will I require: at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man.

6 Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed; for in the image of God made he man.

Matthew 5:38 [Jesus said] Ye have heard that it hath been said, An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth;

39 But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also.

43 Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor and hate thine enemy.

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

**Mark 7:21** For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

**22** Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

**23** All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

**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 loveth not his brother abideth in death.

**15** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

**Memory Verse:** Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. **1 John 3:15.**

**Central Thought:** The taking of a man's life and the shedding of his blood is a great sin in the sight of God. But judged and condemned before this is the hatred and bitterness within the heart that causes such an act to be committed.

**Word Definition:** Murder, to kill a human being unlawfully and with premeditated malice, or willfully, deliberately, and unlawfully.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

An earnest view of the very nature of a loving and just God—all-wise and all-powerful—is a rebuke to the wrath and anger of man that causes him to destroy the life of one of his fellows. Let man beware of any right or authority that he assumes causing him to feel that the shedding of his brother's blood is justified in any way. There are many different points and angles to this discussion, but if we will remember the supremacy of God and the insignificance of man's judgment, it will guide us to balanced conclusions. We know that God will forgive this terrible sin, but the deed executed and carried out has very little hopes of being atoned. Back of all murder is the element of strife deep in the fallen nature

of man. It is the absence of love and mercy, the pulsing of hatred and bitterness. This element is destroyed in the fountain of full salvation.

How it grieves our hearts today that the laws of our land have legalized abortion, which is a sin. The killing of the unborn fetus or baby is murder. Surely our nation is marching on toward more murder. They will probably next legalize what they call "mercy killings" of the aged, incurable sick, and probably those who are kept in wards who are called "vegetables" because of being born without a mind or greatly deformed. God will bring all of this into judgment and we need to pray for sin-sick United States. When the "Daughters of Jerusalem" were weeping over Jesus He turned to them and said, "Weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." (Luke 23:28.) Surely that is what we are doing today as we see sin abounding in the hearts of our people around us. —M. Miles

**Lesson References:** Whence come wars and fightings? James 4:1-3. Cain's anger and murder: Genesis 4:8-11. Disciples wishing destruction of the Samaritans: Luke 9:51-56. God's message concerning David not building the temple: 1 Chronicles 22:8.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What was the cause of the first murder? 2. What element within the heart is the basic cause for the act of murder? 3. What power and virtue can cleanse this from man? Give this next question some thought: 4. After a man is saved and sanctified by God, is it possible for him to be tempted to murder? 5. What was the reason for God not permitting David to build the temple?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Throughout all the scriptures we see that God is sorely displeased with the sin of murder. God knows that murder springs from an evil principle within the corrupt nature of unregenerated men and women. This principle shows itself in many forms. In the case of Cain it was jealousy. Cain talked with Abel. There were words spoken, and so often it is that the tongue adds fuel to the fire of bitterness that burns in man. It was also jealousy in the hearts of Joseph's brothers that caused them to plot to kill him. A man must be seized with violent and burning anger or displeasure to want to kill anyone.

The New Testament plan of salvation fills the heart with love for God and man. A man cannot and will not kill whom he loves. This love that Christ imparts to us according to His gracious example radiates out to all men. Fail to apply this love to this thought and your reasoning will lead you astray. There are two manners in which killing takes place that are justified by many. One is the issue of capital punishment, that is, punishment of death for persons guilty of such a serious offense that it is deemed by the law worthy of such judgment. The other involves bloodshed in war. Both are referred to as justifiable in the Old Testament. The literal nation Israel had strict and rigid laws of punishment, many of which called for the supreme penalty. Then we witness Israel as a nation warring with other nations in carnal battles. It would seem to the logical mind that such is countenanced by God today. But let us not forget that the New Testament teaches us to have the love of God in our hearts which Christ died to give us for all mankind. Bear in mind also that the world is going on just as it did in times past, and we as saints of God have no control over the civil governments of men. God has not called us to apply righteousness in that direction. There will always be wars and rumors of wars, and it is proving out in the civil court laws of today that the abolishment of the death penalty is emboldening men and women to more fearlessly break the law. In civil government the death penalty can serve to protect innocent people. These are things that we as Christians had better leave to the world to order. As for ourselves, and our eternal welfare, we must keep our hearts free of hatred and malice. Jesus said that all they who take the sword will perish with the sword. Christ came not to destroy men's lives, but to save them.

We are to keep our hearts free from malice, hatred, jealousy, and strife. Without these things, murder cannot take place.

—Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

David hath slain his ten thousands. So they sang of David, and we have heard people use this as cause for justifying engagement in war. But they also forget that for this very cause God did not allow David to build Him a house. There is another aspect of David's life concerning killing that is worthy of notice. It appears that God allowed David to go out and fight his enemies, and to punish those worthy of death in his judgment. But when it came to taking the life of another person to fulfill his own pleasure, it was a different story. Notice how David solemnly vowed not to take

the life of Saul, his enemy, even when he was being urged by his own soldiers to do so. But look how he suffered the rest of his life because he had Uriah the Hittite smitten purposely in battle so that he could take Bathsheba to wife. So we see that David's shedding of blood was not such a profitable project after all. In this he was not commended when it came to building the temple of God.

Regardless of how much murder and killing was put up with and endured in the past, it is a fact that God now commands men and women everywhere to repent and come to a knowledge of His divine love. When people do not do this, murder along with a hundred or so different other evils will make their appearance into the heart and life. Man should be entitled to live just as long as God will permit him to live. "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord." Romans 12:19. God has a way to take care of things for His people's sake.

—Leslie Busbee

### **PART OF DERO BROWN'S TESTIMONY**

On arriving in Los Angeles and settling here in the Valley, my wife found a job almost immediately and so did I. I joined the painter's union and it looked like we were going to make it for awhile. I stayed off of drugs for a year and worked. Of course, I was stopping at too many of the bars and booze will get you in trouble almost as fast as drugs. Of course it is not a violation of the law to drink, but it will get you into a lot of trouble. I am sure that there are more men in all of the prisons that I have been in who are there indirectly because of alcohol than there are for any other one thing in the world. It will break up your home and will destroy your life and will certainly send you to prison.

Any number of men I have talked to seemed like nice fellows when I met them in prison and after talking to them they would say, "Brownie, you wouldn't believe this I am sure, no one else does, but I was so drunk when I committed this crime I don't even remember committing it. Here I am in prison doing twenty years for this terrible crime committed against society while I was so drunk I don't remember it." So you see alcoholism is just as destructive and will cause you just as much trouble and send you to a devil's hell just as quickly as any of the rest of the vices that I know anything about.

So here I was in California, painting, making a hundred and forty or fifty dollars a week, but drinking too much, and for the first time in all these years I was having some serious domestic difficulties. My wife resented very much my

use of drugs, but at least while I was using drugs I wasn't violent and didn't abuse her or do some of the things that I did when I started using alcohol. It looked like this thing was going to break up our home. I began associating with some of my old friends doing many things for which we could be sent to prison (if we got caught) and one day found myself facing an assault and battery with-intent-to-kill charge. I had a lot of hatred in me built up during my years in McAlester, Oklahoma when I was locked up in solitary. I was on bond doing everything in my power to get it fixed, and really the police, knowing the circumstances, were not too anxious to send me to the penitentiary for this because of the way it came up—it didn't look too bad on my part. Even though I was still out of prison I was not doing too well. It looked like that I would get back in there because the boys were coming around frequently and we were playing some of the old con games trying to make some easy money.

It wasn't long until I was back on drugs again and this, of course, almost crushed the heart of my dear little wife because she had seen this pattern over a period of years and she knew just what it would do. I would begin as though I had a little sense and then I would wind up like I didn't have any because this thing grows on you as time goes by. I started out by using a small amount of drugs and then I kept on until I was again using a large quantity. Of course, this requires more and more money. Now you can't make this kind of money painting, or any other kind of legitimate work, so I had to start back in the rackets again to support this vicious dope habit.

Heroin in California was about twenty-five dollars per paper and before it was over I could shoot one of these papers every two hours and I had to have it. If I didn't have it, I was out there trying to get it and this meant I had to commit an awful lot of felonies. I would imagine that in the year and a half or two years this dope habit ran, I must have committed not less than five thousand felonies. So you see when I was caught, I was way overdue. I was arrested and as always I made bond and then set about to try my best to get the lesser sentences on the charges against me. Some of these charges called for more time than the others, but usually I put it off as long as I could. By spending money with attorneys to have my case postponed in court, and then getting my business all straightened out, when it came to a show down, I would plead guilty just to save the State some money and the prosecutor some trouble. He usually agreed to give me the lightest sentence that he

possibly could. And that is what happened in my case in California.

I took the least that I could possibly get, which was fourteen years. Now I had never been in an institution like the one in California where they have an indefinite sentence, where after the sentence is given, the pardon and parole board, (or adult authority as it is called) determined how much time one is to serve. Of course when they classified me they saw immediately that I would be placed in the incurable class along with the habituals that could not be cured and there was little hope or help for me from any of these people. They would no doubt be surprised today if they knew that I am out, going on my second year, doing the work that I am doing right now and writing this testimony. But nevertheless, I am out, and this is the important thing in my life and I believe with all of my heart that I am out now to stay since God so marvelously saved me.

—By Dero "Jack" Brown, 30 years a drug addict, 17 years in prison, 3½ years in solitary confinement.

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**August 19, 1973**

### **THE HOLINESS OF MARRIAGE**

**Exodus 20:14; Genesis 2:18, 21-24; Matthew 19:3-9;  
Romans 7:2, 3; Hebrews 13:4**

**Exodus 20:14** Thou shalt not commit adultery.

**Genesis 2:18** And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

**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 thereof;

**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.

**Matthew 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 say 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.

Romans 7:2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband.

3 So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

**Memory Verse:** Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge. Hebrews 13:4.

**Central Thought:** God designed the relationship between man and woman to be founded upon principles of holiness and pure love as the gift of God to man, and woe to the person who dares to trifle with its sacredness.

**Word Definition:** The two words adultery and fornication are two closely associated words. Both are defined as unlawful or unsanctioned relationship between man and woman. Adultery is that which involves married people and fornication has to do with the unmarried class. Marry: To unite in wedlock; to constitute as husband and wife according to the law. The word divorce is from the Latin word that means to separate or turn different ways.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

This commandment, like the others, covers a very important phase of our life in this world. It involves a most serious and important part of our mortal path. God shaped and fashioned this institution of marriage in the dawn of creation, and how beautiful and sacred He planned it to be! He also knew that it like all other blessings would be marred should sin and disobedience find its way into man's heart. Not willing for man to be alone (notwithstanding His divine presence with him) God graciously added an extra blessing and source of happiness and pleasure by creating a fellow creature. This companion for man was formed from part of his own body and fashioned in beauty and grace to comfort and cheer his heart and soul. Oh, what a beautiful picture it is! Be sure and get this sacred scene fully in mind and behold the purpose of God in it all. It will help to guide you in further study. Back of all of this study let us behold the plan for the Lord Jesus and His Bride. See the sacred and holy relationship between God and His people. As you behold the splendor of God's great purpose, it is no wonder that He gives the commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

Under the law man's heart was hardened by sin and was not filled with the fulness of the Spirit. Thus they were suffered to put away their wives. The vision of God's plan had become dim to these people's eyes. But Christ pointed them back to the beginning. That is what we desire to do in this lesson; for by beholding and considering the beginning and its beautiful plan, it can help us today to find happiness and God's blessings as we partake of this wonderful institution of marriage.

**Lesson References:** Wise counsel to shun temptation of adultery: Prov. 6:20-35. Paul's counsel concerning marriage matters: 1 Cor. 7. Union of husband and wife as compared to Christ and the Church: Ephesians 5:22-33.

### QUESTIONS:

1. Did God plan and desire to make for man an help meet? 2. Why did God allow the people under Moses to be granted a divorce? 3. What should be the first step a man should take in seeking a wife? 4. Gathering from the scriptures of the lesson, what would you say the reason is for God not wanting us to marry another while our first companion still lives? 5. What did Jesus seek to re-establish in

the New Testament salvation with regard to marriage? 6. What is needed to make a successful marriage other than the commandment not to commit adultery?

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

How very few seem to comprehend the seriousness of this subject! What was originally willed for the blessing and happiness and joy of man has been degraded and a source of a terrible curse. From these scriptures we can plainly see that God had man's welfare and happiness at heart when He proceeded to bestow upon Adam the gift of the love and fellowship of a woman. God could have said, "Man needs nothing but My Presence," but He did not. "It is not good that the man should be alone." Think about this. What all did He have in mind? Why would it not be good for man to be alone? God wanted man to learn to share and enjoy the divine blessings with someone else. How many wives did God create for the one man? We have in the course of history the practice of polygamy, which is having more than one wife at the same time. But close examination of those cases prove that more than one wife never added to man's true happiness. It is God's plan clearly revealed that there should be but one man for a woman and one woman for the man as long as they both shall live. Be it at anyone's peril who dares to meddle or change this design of God. The command, "Thou shalt not commit adultery" yet reveals God's displeasure with man's meddling and trifling with this sacred ordinance. Yes, He is displeased no matter how much man may seek to justify himself. Any person who is endued with God's holiness and power of His Spirit can discern this. Oh, how sad to see the condition of the world today, not only among outright sinners, but also that of people who make a profession of religion. These scriptures along with others reveal that if a marriage cannot be entered clearly and cleanly from defilement of others, if another man or woman has entered the picture by marriage to either party, such a marriage is commanded to be avoided.

Marriage is a sacred ordinance of God for man's profit. The love and pleasure and joy a man and his wife have for each other in living and working together is truly a beautiful picture indeed. Yes, it is a picture of Christ and His relationship with the Church of God. Beholding this comparison is vital to properly understanding the purpose and plan of marriage.

—Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In 1 Thess. 4:3-5, Paul gave this: "For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: that every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence [evil desire], even as the Gentiles which know not God." It is generally understood that the word vessel here is indicating the wife. Peter speaks about the wife being the weaker vessel. Therefore we know that it is the will of God for men to keep from impurities and lust of evil desires in his earthly walk and seek the will of God for a wife. After God graciously grants us the blessing and privilege of a wife, it is the will of God for us to learn how to possess or make proper use and benefit of the wife in the capacity that God intended. God wants us to live with our wives and husbands in sacredness and purity and divine honour. This is a high and noble calling.

"I will make him an help meet for him." Oh, the comfort, sweetness, cheer, benefit, pleasure, help, and profit God meant for man when He planned this sacred ordinance. What a noble place the woman is called upon to fill! And how beautiful it all is in the light of the blessings of heaven. But, oh, how sin has marred and stained the pages of history in this thing. Because man has failed to sanctify himself and all his desires to the will of God, much sorrow and trouble and destruction have fallen into his paths. Adulterers and whoremongers God will judge. All this moral wickedness and transgression of God's holy, just, and righteous laws are going to reap the destruction that is due. Any thing that strays from the original plan for man's good and God's glory will be visited with sore judgment.

There are many complications and situations that have arisen through the years concerning marriage and it has caused many diversified ideas and doctrines to come forth. Sometimes we are inclined to wonder about it all, but don't forget that God is the Master of every situation. If we live close to God and seek His face in all things, He can reveal His will to us. Many people are living in adultery today whose real problem is not adultery at all. Their marriage problem is but the off-spring of a greater need, and that is the salvation of their soul. Salvation is a perfect plan and it can solve every problem and deliver from every evil including the sin of adultery.

—Leslie Busbee

## **PASSION-POWER!**

One bright July morning, I was driving to town. As I came to the top of the hill just above the bridge, on the outskirts of the place, a little boy, from a cottage on the north side of the road, fired off a small cannon. He was so near the road, the cannon made so big a noise, and the whole thing came so unexpectedly, that my little bay pony took fright, and shied, with a spring to the other side of the road. He not only over-turned the carriage in doing so, but was with great difficulty reined in and prevented from running away. "You should not fire your cannon so near the road," said I to the boy, after I had got the pony somewhat quiet. "You frightened my horse badly, and nearly made him run away." "I didn't mean to do it," said he, "but it got agoing before I saw the horse, and then I couldn't stop it." I said no more but drove on, thinking of the boy's answer, as I have often thought of it since, though all this happened years ago. "Couldn't stop it!" How often, when we "start lust," there is no stopping. Do not begin, and the difficulty will not arise. It will not get "agoing." "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

"But if once we let them reign,  
They sweep with desolating train,  
Till they but leave a hated name,  
A ruined soul, a blackened fame."

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**August 26, 1973**

## **DISHONESTY NEVER PAYS**

**(Eighth Commandment)**

**Ex. 20:15; Eph. 4:28; 2 Cor. 8:21; Acts 5:1-11**

**Exodus 20:15** Thou shalt not steal.

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

**2 Cor. 8:21** Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of men.

**Acts 5:1** But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession,

**2** And kept back a part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part and laid it at the apostles' feet.

3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?

4 Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.

5 And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.

6 And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him.

7 And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in.

8 And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much.

9 Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? Behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.

10 Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and carrying her forth, buried her by her husband.

11 And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.

**Memory Verse:** That ye walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing. 1 Thessalonians 4:12.

**Central Thought:** We must be honest with ourselves, and our neighbors, and perfect honesty is secured only when we are honest before God.

**Word Definition:** To steal is to take something, often secretly, that does not belong to you. Honest: sincere, freedom from deceit; free from fraud; genuine; trustworthy; upright.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

One of the reasons we are studying what God's Word teaches is that every deed that we commit, we will meet it  
(44)

again. If we do not meet that sin or wrong deed here in this world and get it forgiven by Jesus through godly sorrow and repentance, we will meet it at the Judgment. The Bible says, "another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works." Rev. 20:12. The Bible also says, "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God; who will render to every man according to his deeds." Romans 2:5, 6. How important then it is that we know what God requires of us and get our soul clear before God before death finds us unprepared. As death finds us so will the judgment. There is no time between death and the judgment to get right.

Another reason for studying these Ten Commandments is that a greater respect should be restored in our country for God's laws. —M. Miles

**Lesson References:** Steal to satisfy: Prov. 6:30. False prophets steal: John 10:10.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does stealing mean? 2. Discuss the reasons people will steal. 3. How can we provide things honest in the sight of the Lord and also man? 4. How were Ananias and Sapphira dishonest before the Lord? 5. What will happen to us if we are not honest with ourselves and God? 6. Is there a spirit of stealing that will cause people to steal?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Our responsibility to God and to our neighbors is found in this commandment. But first we must be honest with ourselves. We know what God requires of each of us. We know that He also has given us plenty of grace if we will only seek for it to keep those commandments. It's up to us to be careful that we watch and pray and obey them. We can not try to get around God's requirements but must face them squarely and honestly and then obey them. We find in 2 Thessalonians 2:10, 11 what happens to people who will not love truth or be honest with themselves before God. We read, that because they did not love righteousness or truth and become saved that "for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Doesn't that put a fear upon a person causing him to

be sure he is truthful and honest with himself before God? Are we obeying from our heart what God's Word teaches? Are we gauging our attitudes by His Word? Our attitudes are what we really are. We might put on a good front, but are we really feeling in our hearts like what we are saying or acting? Are we truly honest before God and ourselves? If not we are open for a delusion, and if continued in, we will be damned because we were not truthful. Let us not fancy evil against anyone. Let us form and cherish all the purest and best affections toward others.

The prophet asks the question, "Will a man rob God?" Malachi 3:8. The answer was that you have robbed God in tithes and offerings. The creature belongs to the Creator and is His property with all that he possesses. We need to act like we believe this.

There is a spirit of stealing that gets hold of people. Many a young person has been tempted and has stolen something. Instead of asking God to forgive him and correcting it, the devil binds him and as he goes on in life he will add sin to sin. It takes courage to correct a wrong, but God has that to give and you are thought more of after you correct it than before, but the devil never tells you that. If you have taken something, don't wait any longer to take it back, or pay for it, or in some way get it cleared up before you go deeper in sin.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What would you do if you saw someone commit a crime? Do you think you should report it? Should you tell on that person? Is it wrong to keep silent? What would you do in the following case? A man and his wife were in a restaurant eating. Their attention was attracted to the cashier as they heard her ask the girls who were serving if they saw the money that a couple who had eaten their breakfast had left on the counter. The girls all denied seeing it. They went back to their serving. Soon this man and his wife noticed one of the waitresses watching the cashier and others and when she was sure none of them were looking she slipped the money that had been stolen under the coffee urn while she was in the pretense of filling a cup of coffee. Then she moved a pitcher in front of it and went about her serving, as if nothing had happened. Now she probably thought it would be found and no one would know that she had taken it. If it were not confessed the cashier would still hold each innocent girl under suspicion. Now what would you do if you saw this happen? If you reported it, it would mean trouble and maybe

the poor girl would be discharged. But isn't it unfair to the others to be held under suspicion? Isn't it unfair to the restaurant owner? Maybe, if the girl is not caught, she will go on and commit larger thefts. What would you do? Turn to your Bible for the answer. It is found in Leviticus 5:1. Remember it's a great sin to tolerate a little sin. —M. Miles

### **THEFT-TESTS!**

Years ago, in Edinburgh, there lived a "gang of body-snatchers." It was common for gypsies to steal children from their homes. The Arabs of East Africa are designated "Men stealers," while some white traders under the southern cross are termed kidnappers. All these are regarded as heinous breakers of the eighth commandment. But this "eighth of God's moral offspring" may be slain and set at defiance by others. Very recently a man of eminence stole a rare volume from the Metropolitan Library, though he would have cut off his hands rather than steal the money it was worth. He steals, who robs God of the honour due unto His Name; and so does she who plunders her own soul of those precious moments given for solemn preparations for eternity. The self-plunderer thus seriously breaks God's law; how much more, then, the robber of God! To withhold part of the price of our obligations to God is the most aggravated form of theft. "Higher yet this sin extends; for it steals the spirit's love From the very best of Friends—robbing e'en the God above."

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**September 2, 1973**

### **THE POWER OF AN EVIL TONGUE**

**(Ninth Commandment)**

**Ex. 20:16; James 3:5-8; 1 Kings 21:5-11a, 14, 16, 20, 21a, 23**

**Exodus 20:16** Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

**James 3:5** Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

**6** And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

**(47)**

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

1 Kings 21:5 But Jezebel his wife came to him [King Ahab], and said unto him, Why is thy spirit so sad, that thou eatest no bread?

6 And he said unto her, Because I spake unto Naboth the Jezreelite, and said unto him, Give me thy vineyard for money; or else, if it please thee, I will give thee another vineyard for it and he answered, I will not give thee my vineyard.

7 And Jezebel his wife said unto him, Dost thou now govern the kingdom of Israel? Arise, and eat bread, and let thine heart be merry; I will give thee the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab's name, and sealed them with his seal, and sent the letters unto the elders and to the nobles that were in his city dwelling with Naboth.

9 And she wrote in the letters, saying, Proclaim a fast, and set Naboth on high among the people:

10 And set two men, sons of Belial, before him, to bear witness against him, saying, Thou didst blaspheme God and the king. And then carry him out, and stone him, that he may die.

11 And the men of his city, even the elders and the nobles who were the inhabitants in his city, did as Jezebel had sent unto them.

14 Then they sent to Jezebel, saying, Naboth is stoned, and is dead.

16 And it came to pass, when Ahab heard that Naboth was dead that Ahab rose up to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee; because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the Lord.

21a Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity.

**23** And of Jezebel also spake the Lord, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

**Memory Verse:** All liars shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death. Revelation 21: 8b.

**Central Thought:** The tongue can steal and murder. Many a person's reputation has been darkened all of his life by the malicious tales of those who bear false witness.

**Word Definition:** False witness would be another word for lying. "By the term neighbor any human being is intended, whether he ranks among our enemies or friends." —Clarke

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

This is one of the commandments given by God on Mount Sinai as the children of Israel were gathered at the foot of the mount.

We chose scriptures from James, the Apostle, on the evil of the tongue. He also teaches us that "If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able to bridle the whole body." James 1:2. We do want to watch and pray so we will be that "perfect" child of God.

We have used the account of King Ahab acting like a spoiled child because Naboth would not sell him his vineyard. Through the wicked queen Jezebel she had false witnesses set up and had Naboth killed. Maybe today many would not go this far, but what about setting up some false tale to kill someone's reputation? Some have died of a broken heart because of a lie being told on them which they could not get straightened out. Ministers have been ruined in their work for God by some malicious evil tongue. Oh, what judgment will be meted out on the person who does such a thing. We surely can not talk about people and get by. We might forget about it, but God has an account of it. By your words you will be justified or condemned. Matt. 12:37.

**Lesson References:** Refrain tongue from evil: 1 Peter 3:10. Seek peace: Psalm 34:13, 14. By words condemned: Matt. 12:37. Evil-speakers be ashamed: 1 Peter 3:16. Watch mouth: Psalm 141:3.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What kind of a power do you have over another person by the way you talk about them? 2. If you tell only part-

truths, or put a wrong emphasis on certain words to make them sound differently, is that acceptable with God? 3. What should you do about it when you are asked a point-blank question and you do not want to tell the person about what they asked? 4. Is it just as bad to tell lies about another and kill his reputation, as it was for Naboth to be lied against and put to death? 5. How will one who kills another's influence be held? 6. Read Matt. 12:37 and discuss it.

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

When people are "born again" and have become "new creatures in Christ Jesus" they will put away lying. The exhortation of the Apostle Paul is, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak the truth every man with his neighbor: for we are members one of another." Ephesians 4:25. Many people who are not saved get into a habit of lying. They just say anything that comes handy to say to fit the occasion. A spirit of lying gets hold of them. That spirit will trouble a person even after he is saved if he is not careful—not that it is within him, but it will come to him from the devil. An evil spirit hates to leave its home in any unregenerated heart and even after a person is saved it tries desperately to get back into its home. That is the reason a person is worse after he backslides than he was before he first was saved. The spirits that have been making their home within that heart takes with it re-enforcements so they can have a better hold. Oh, it's a terrible thing to yield to the devil! We need God to help us. If you are troubled with any problem of this kind after you are saved, be encouraged to fight against it with boldness and don't yield to it. You will find that victory is yours. When a person is saved he has the whole armor of God that he can put on and the devil can't win. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Bearing false witness is a terrible thing. Even today a person is afraid to repeat some things because he might have heard something that is not so and he would be a part in bearing false witness even if he did it innocently. My mother often taught us children not to repeat some things we had heard even if we were not told not to tell them. Things that would hurt a person's reputation should not be repeated.

The question was asked who would abide in God's house and dwell in His holy hill. (Psalm 15:1-5.) The answer is, in part, he that "Speaketh the truth in his heart . . . nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor." It truly means much for us to speak the truth in our hearts. We will have to give an account for not doing so. —M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What about words spoken by one person, and a wrong emphasis put on those same words when another person repeats them? Can those words take on a wrong meaning? Yet when the first person is faced with the question of whether he had said it or not, he could not deny that fact. Or, what about words spoken by a person and when they are repeated, part of those words are left out to make it sound differently? What will keep a person from wanting to deliberately make another look as if that one were in the wrong by his words? I would say everyone must keep enough love in his heart so he will feel that person meant well even if he did not express it so it would be easily understood. If it were repeated, he would surely give the speaker all the benefit of the doubt. But it's wrong and bespeaks a wrong attitude on the part of any one who deliberately repeats words spoken by another and puts a wrong or different emphasis on them for his own advantage or another's disadvantage. That person will surely have to give an account to God for such things.

If you have heard a person confide in another and it was not meant for your ears, what are you to do about it? I definitely feel that you would be held accountable to God if you repeated it. If you told it, the one who confided in just one person would feel sure that he had betrayed his confidence, even if that person assured them he had not. It is best to walk away and never try to hear things not meant for your ears. If you do, you are really putting yourself in a position where you will be held accountable if you repeat it. Remember we will have to give an account for our words in the day of judgment.

If a person talks to you about others, can you be assured that he will not talk about you to others also? —M. Miles

## SCANDAL-SEED!

The story is told of a woman who freely used her tongue to the scandal of others, and made confessions to a minister of what she had done. He gave her a ripe thistle-top and told her to go in various directions, and scatter the seeds one by one. Wondering at this, she obeyed, and returned and told her confessor. To her amazement, he bade her go back and gather the scattered seeds; and when she objected that it would be impossible he replied that it would be still more difficult to gather up and destroy all the evil reports she had circulated about others. Any thoughtless, careless child can scatter a handful of thistle-seeds before the wind in

a moment, but the strongest and wisest man cannot gather them again. And the thistle-seeds, need not be of the tongue. False witness is too often borne by:

"The hint malevolent, the look oblique,  
The obvious satire, or implied dislike,  
The sneer equivocal, the harsh reply,  
And all the cruel language of the eye."

### **FALSE-WITNESS!**

This commandment requires us to keep our tongues from evil-speaking, lying, and slandering. In the garden of Eden, Satan bore false witness against God by telling Eve that she would not die if she ate of the forbidden fruit. Every one, therefore, who lies, slanders, or speaks evil of his neighbor, is becoming like Satan. It is said that there is one place in India where, when a person is found guilty of false witness, he is taken to a public place, and in the presence of a multitude of people his mouth is sewed up. It is to be feared that such a penalty inflicted impartially on such offenders in our city would produce startling stillness of speech. Still greater would be the silence were the mouths of all who gave ear

"With greediness, or wittingly their tongues  
Made herald to his lies, around him sewed."

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**September 9, 1973**

### **GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT: GREAT GAIN**

**Ex. 20:17; Luke 12:13-21; Eph. 5:5; 1 Tim. 6:10**

**Hebrews 13:5, 6**

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

Luke 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

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

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

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

1 Timothy 6:10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Hebrews 13:5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

**Memory Verse:** But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Timothy 6:6.

**Central Thought:** God wills that the blessings we have come to us by the avenue of His grace and love, rather than through our own selfish efforts and desires.

**Word Definition:** Covet: The Hebrew word for "covet" means to delight in or desire. The Greek word means to set the heart upon and long for. Paul said in Romans 7:7 that he had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt covet. Both these words, covet and lust, are from the same Greek word root. The two other places in the New Testament where it says to covet earnestly the best gifts, and covet to prophesy, are from another Greek word which is

our English word zeal. It means to warmly and earnestly desire.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

This commandment is the last, but far from being the least. It seems that this subject of covetousness might come closer to touching the area of temptation than some of the others. One reason is because that no matter how saved and sanctified one may be, he or she is yet in this mortal flesh and possesses appetites and desires that must be kept within proper bounds. So let us not despise this commandment just because it is on the bottom of the list. God knows that it was through desire that man was tempted in the first place, and yielded. The only avenue Satan has to approach us is through the appetites of the natural man. These desires must be wholly kept in proper bounds and always subject to God. This commandment could very well take in some of the other commandments. Who would steal unless they first desire what they steal? As one of the scriptures in the lesson says, God is striking in this commandment at the root of all evil. Circumcise a man's heart and enable him to learn the lesson of contentment, and he will covet no more. Thus we see that the New Testament cure for covetousness is the state of gratitude and contentment and rest to the soul which comes through beholding Christ and His eternal riches and believing in Him.

**Lesson References:** Achan's sin: Josh. 7:20, 21. David's sin: 2 Samuel 11:2-4. Sin of Ahab: 1 Kings 21:1-4. Paul's lesson learned: Philippians 4:11, 12.

## QUESTIONS:

1. What does the Bible call a covetous man? 2. Why did the writer in Hebrews exhort us to be content? So we can boldly say what? 3. What danger is there in a man seeking for whatever his own selfish fancy desires? 4. Are we able to rightly judge what is best for us to have in this world? 5. What happens to people who covet after this world's riches?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We have two attitudes before us in the lesson. One is a covetous attitude. A man or woman who is possessed with this kind of spirit never knows a happy moment. He or she cannot truly enjoy anything, because there is always something more to want. This becomes a disease not only of the soul, but it also develops into a warping of the mind and thoughts. People become unreasonable and so foolish in their

love for wealth. You have heard of the term "miser" and perhaps have read of the folly of many pitiful people who were so rich that they would have had much to enjoy and use for the happiness of others, and yet were so stingy and tight that they lived on scarcity rather than spend a dollar. This evil generation that we are living in right now has lost sight of true happiness in their downward plunge toward more of material gain.

The other attitude is that of a true Christian who has sat at the feet of Jesus and learned the lesson of contentment. The poor fellow that came to Jesus hoping the Master would help him get part of his father's inheritance received a sharp rebuke. As if Jesus cared for the gain of this world, he dared to approach Him with such a request! I wonder if we ever come to the Lord with a similar burden? The Apostle Paul said wisely that they who covet after this world's riches fall into a temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts that drown men in perdition. Better a crust of bread with quietness and contentment than great revenues with strife. What our fellow man has may not be the best for us. Our outlook is not nearly as dependable as the up-look. To covet a man's house, or his wife, or anything else for that matter is, many times, coveting troubles without end that we could in no wise handle. You do not know what that poor man may be putting up with in his house and his wife! Far better is it to learn that God cares for us and will see to it that we have all our needs supplied if we will seek Him first. One brother told how they saw a cow that was so beautiful and desirable for milk. He did not pray about it, but just went ahead and bought the cow. His troubles began when he took the cow home and tried to feed and milk her. She would not eat and knew how to keep him from getting the milk, too. He finally had to take her back. Much sorrow and trouble have come from unwise longings and desires. This lesson strikes pretty close to all of us, don't you think?

—Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Peter spoke of our being partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. 2 Peter 1:4. John spoke of all that is in the world being the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. 1 John 2:16. And truly as we view the shape of the world and its spiritual condition, we see that the corruption which is eating away at everything is so because of the evil desire and covetousness of men's darkened souls. The word

lust is from the Greek word "epithumeo" which, broken down, means "super-imposing desire." Bro. George Stephenson used to tell us, "If people didn't want so much, they would not have to work so hard." That pretty well describes it. Such super desires are drowning men's souls. They are being choked by the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches. It is no wonder that God said, "Thou shalt not covet." He knew what coveting after things would do for a man. And Satan is always on hand to paint pretty things before the mind. "No doubt you think that would be nice?" he will whisper. In this day of indecent dress especially among the women, there are many men who lust after the bodies so shamefully exposed. Oh, but women say, "Well, they just do not have to look." But they underestimate the power of the devil and temptation.

Lot beheld the well watered plain of Jordan, and what did he do? He pitched his tent in that direction, toward Sodom. It was not long before he was actually living in Sodom. He was fortunate to escape with his life. Oh, the Lord is going to destroy this present world today for its unbelief and lust. Are we going to be able to escape? "Remember Lot's wife!" Jesus warned, and told us that in that day of His coming to be cut loose from all our "stuff" in this world. Are our thoughts, plans, desires, pleasure, and hopes entwined about some earthly possession? If they are, it will be too bad for us. The command was to Lot's wife: "Look not behind thee." Oh, how we must beware of covetousness. Did you ever think why the word of God calls covetousness idolatry, and a covetous man an idolater? It is because a covetous man is worshiping material goods rather than the Lord. He is serving mammon and not God. Ask yourself the question, Could I return home and find all my material goods swept away by a whirlwind or consumed by fire, and still bless God in my soul? May God help us. We are but stewards in this life, are we not? Nothing that we have really belongs to us. Then let us not covet, but be content and know that God cares for us. We can boldly say, "The Lord is our helper, and we will not fear what man shall do unto us."

—Leslie Busbee

### COVETOUSNESS!

In the backwoods of Canada the forests have to be cleared for farms. The trees are cut down, but the roots remain. Efforts have been made to burn them, but this method is only partially successful. Someone has, however, invented a "Root extractor," which has huge iron hooks and a crank

connected with very powerful machinery. In this way the tough gnarled roots are torn up. The human heart is like the uncleared prairie. It has many twisted roots, and amongst the worst is that of "covetousness." Men, women, and children have these roots in their hearts. Hippocrates, in his letter to Cratena, an herbalist, gives this good counsel: "If it is possible, among other herbs, cut up that weed covetousness by the roots, that there be none left; for know this of a certainty, that by so doing your patients will soon be cured in mind and body." Diodorus Siculus relates that the forest of the Pierian mountains being set on fire, and the heat penetrating to the soil, a pure stream of silver gushed forth from the bosom of the earth. The best dissolver of the spirit of covetousness is the fire of gospel love. When it burns up the growth of worldliness, silver lodes of self-denial and devotedness flow out from the human heart; for, says the Bible, out of the heart are the issues of life.

"Is there, then naught above

That we may covet to possess?

Yes, there's the Saviour's boundless love,

With which He waits my soul to bless."

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September 16, 1973

## THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

1 Tim. 1:8-10; Gal. 3:17-25; Romans 7:12, 13

1 Timothy 1:8 But we know that the law is good, if a man use it lawfully;

9 Knowing this, that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and for sinners, for unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers, and murderers of mothers, for man-slayers,

10 For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine.

Galatians 3:17 And this I say, that the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18 For if the inheritance be of the law, it is no more of promise: but God gave it to Abraham by promise.

19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

20 Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? God forbid: for if there had been a law given which could have given life, verily righteousness should have been by the law.

22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

Romans 7:12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

**Memory Verse:** Moreover the law entered, that the offense might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound. Romans 5:20.

**Central Thought:** God's purpose in giving the Law was not to save, but to make sin appear more exceeding sinful, so that man could more clearly sense his need of the Saviour which was to come.

**Word Definition:** A law is that which is laid, set, or fixed. It is a divine commandment or a revelation of the will of God. It is the binding custom or practice or rules or mode of conduct which is controlled and enforced by authority. A perjured person is one who swears or makes an oath falsely. Profane means that which is without the temple, that is, that which is not holy and consecrated; impure and defiled.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

It is very important for us to know what was the real purpose of the law that came through the hand of Moses. Our lesson bears out that the law was given four hundred and thirty years after the covenant was made of God with Father Abraham. There was a very important reason for God accomplishing His plan in this way. That we should know what the purpose was in God giving the law as He did and when He did is very important also. The Apostle Paul was a man well authorized to speak of these things. The lesson is gathered from his writings on the subject. He was at one time very strictly and devoutly a follower of the law. But in Christ, he was made to realize what the law which he so zealously followed was really meant to be. As you study this lesson, try to discover for your own spiritual benefit just what is the true means of our acceptance with God. Is it found in the works of the law or the hearing of faith?

Lesson References: Romans 3:19-26; 4:4, 5, 13-16; 6:14, 15; 7:5-10; Galatians 3:2-14; 1 Corinthians 15:56, 57.

### QUESTIONS:

1. For what kind of people is the law made? 2. Which was established first, the law and commandments or the covenant of faith? 3. How did the law as a schoolmaster prepare men and women to receive the justification by faith? 4. After that faith is come, why do we no longer need the law (schoolmaster)? 5. Is there any hope for a man obtaining favor with God through the deeds of the law? 6. How many are concluded under sin?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Oh, how easy it is in all our efforts to do right and to please the Lord to forget the true source of righteousness that really avails with God. The law spirit and attitude is not dead in the world as of yet. It is so easy to slip back into the rut of the law and fail to realize that all our good deeds and good living will not avail with God without the unmerited favor and blessing of His holy Son and His supreme sacrifice.

The law was made to reveal man's sin. If all men had been righteous and fearing God without the stain and consciousness of disobedience, there would have been no need for Moses' law. But God wanted mankind to be conscious of where they were disobeying and displeasing Him. He knew that their sins were not only grieving His own loving, holy,

and pure heart, but that sin was taking its toll in their happiness and peace as well.

But before God dealt with the issue of sin from their hearts and lives, He went about to establish a relationship with man on another better and higher plane. He wanted man's confidence and faith to be built up and established in His love and power and goodness. He knew that unless He won the love and devotion of man's heart, He would have very little hope of turning man from sin as He would have him to do. So our lesson reveals that the covenant was confirmed before of God in Christ four hundred and thirty years previous to His giving of the commandments on Mount Sinai. This is a very important thought. It goes to show that God counts love and faith which anchors itself deep into man's affections more than discipline and punishment for sin. Is it not that way with a parent and its child? What parent can get anywhere correcting and training a child if he or she has not a firm and loving relationship with the child on the plane of love and trust?

After God had dealt with man for many years on the basis of faith, He saw that it was time to deal with him concerning the sin against Him, and its dreadful consequences. With such loving arms around them, the people should have wisely obeyed with great courage and comfort of heart. Many people today have been discouraged because their minds could grasp only the law part of this thing. But, oh, let us lay hold of His grace so free. Through the power of His grace we can overcome Satan and have the law fulfilled in our hearts.

—Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

### **(THE LAW AND CHRIST)**

John Bunyan, after being whipped about by Satan for several years and being kept from entering the kingdom of God, laid hold on grace and was used of God to bless the souls of many. He perceived the difference between the law and grace as is revealed different times in his wonderful book, *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Especially illustrative of his point along this line is this taken from the story of Christian on his way to heaven. Faithful, Christian's companion, was telling of the encounter he had with Adam the first, and how he had inclined toward him a little, but had finally escaped him. "So," he said, "I went on my way up the hill. Now when I had got about halfway up, I looked behind me, and saw one coming after me, swift as the wind. As soon as the

man overtook me, he was but a word and a blow; for down he knocked me, and laid me for dead. But, when I was a little come to myself again, I asked him wherefore he served me so. He said, because of my secret inclining to Adam the First. And, with that, he struck me another deadly blow on the breast, and beat me down backwards; so I lay at his feet as dead as before. So, when I came to myself again, I cried him mercy; but he said, 'I know not how to show mercy'; and, with that, he knocked me down again. He had doubtless made an end of me, but that One came by, and bid him forbear. I did not know Him at first; but, as He went by, I perceived the holes in His hands and His side; then I concluded that He was our Lord." To this, Christian answered, "That man that overtook you was Moses. He spareth none, neither knoweth he how to show mercy to those that transgress his law."

—Leslie Busbee

### **MORAL RESTRAINTS!**

No doubt, says Guthrie, the Law restrains us. But all chains are not fetters, nor are all walls the gloomy precincts of a prison. It is a blessed chain by which the ship, now buried in the trough, and now rising on the top of the sea, rides at anchor and outlives the storm. The condemned criminal in Newgate would give worlds to break his chain, but the sailor trembles lest his should snap. And when the grey morning breaks on the wild lee-shore, all strewn with wrecks and corpses, he blesses God for the good iron that stood the strain.

"Laws do not put the least restraint  
Upon our freedom, but maintain it;  
Or, if it does, 'Tis for our good,  
To give us freer latitude."

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September 23, 1973

### **THE WORD TRANSFERRED FROM STONE TO HEART**

2 Cor. 3:3, 9; Acts 2:1-6; Hebrews 8:7-10

2 Cor. 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.

9 For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Hebrews 8:7** For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.

**8** For finding fault with them, he said, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:

**9** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord.

**10** For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people.

**Memory Verse:** But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. John 14:26.

**Central Thought:** The Commandments of God given by Moses were engraved on tables of stone, but the New Testament Law of Christ is written by the Holy Spirit within the hearts of His people.

**Word Definition:** Ministration is from the Greek word "diakonia" which means attendance, aid, or service. The ministration of the law was the service God gave to the peo-

ple in the bestowing of His commandments in their midst. The word "diakonia" takes shape as "deacon" in our language meaning one who serves or ministers. Covenant: The Hebrew defines it as a compact between two parties, and the Greek calls it a disposition, contract or will that has been assigned. Therefore we conclude that it is a very binding agreement between two parties. Pentecost: A numbering of fifty days. In this case a feast was ordered and carried out fifty days after the passover. This feast was called Pentecost.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The feast of Pentecost commenced on the fiftieth day reckoned from the first day of unleavened bread, that is, on the morrow after the paschal lamb was offered. In Leviticus 23:15, 16, we find this feast commanded: "And ye shall count unto you from the morrow after the Sabbath, from the day that ye brought the sheaf of the wave-offering; seven Sabbaths shall be complete: even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days." This feast was instituted in commemoration of the giving of the Law on Mt. Sinai, frequently called by the Jews, the feast of weeks. There is a correspondence between the giving of the law, which was celebrated by the feast of Pentecost, together with the crucifixion of our Lord, which took place at the passover, and this descent of the Holy Spirit, which happened at this Pentecost. At the passover the Jews were delivered from Egyptian bondage, which is a type of being delivered from the bondage of sin. At the passover, Jesus Christ, who was typified by the paschal lamb, was sacrificed for the sin of the world. On the pentecost, God gave His law on Mount Sinai, accompanied with thunderings and lightnings. On the pentecost, (fifty days after Christ was crucified) God sent down His Holy Spirit, like a rushing mighty wind; and tongues of fire sat upon each disciple. —From Adam Clarke

**Lesson References:** Old Covenant versus New Covenant: Hebrews 12:18-24. The Law of Liberty: James 2:8-13. The prophecy of Jeremiah concerning the New Covenant: Jeremiah 31:31-34. The offering of Christ sanctifying us forever according to His law in the heart: Hebrews 10:14-17.

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Upon what was the Mosaic law written? 2. How long was it between the passover and Pentecost? 3. Why did God see the need of a new and better covenant? 4. Where is

this new covenant to be written? 5. What is the difference in having the law on tables of stone and having it written in our hearts?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

How blessed of God to bring to us through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ the covenant of His grace which not only shows us what we must do, but also inspires and strengthens our will and our desires so that we can fully accomplish His good pleasure! A man cannot truly accomplish anything unless the work is springing up from within his very heart. God fully knew this, and we need to know it. The laws were written on stones, and placed before the people to read and obey. But within their hearts was a nature so rebellious and hardened that they were not able to fully obey those laws. Those commandments engraved upon those stones had no power to reach within the heart of man and transform his nature to do right. Instead, they stood as condemnation and judgment upon them. They brought death. It was a glorious thing for God to be so real to Moses and with His own finger to engrave upon those stones His laws. But regardless of how glorious and close to God it all seemed, it did not help man out of his trouble. We must remember this, for it is very easy for us to assume a law attitude in our dealings with others. It is easy for us to emphatically declare what our fellowman should do, but if we wield no love or spirit to inspire and lift him up to higher levels or vaster issues, we have not helped him at all. The letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life. This law must be written upon the heart, planted within the very affections of man, or it is given in vain.

This is the work of the Holy Spirit, and not man. The Holy Spirit, who comes to us by the way Christ made, is able to inspire, quicken, and strengthen us for the right and the performance of God's law. The Holy Spirit has a transforming power, to renew our hearts into the image of God's holiness. This is what Christ purchased for us. Christ received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost and hath shed Him forth. Oh, how we must receive Him. Every saved person should begin to seek for the infilling of the Holy Ghost. Without His presence within our lives, we cannot live or accomplish anything for the Lord. He will deal with us, convicting, reproving, and instructing us concerning sin, righteousness, and judgment. He will guide us into all truth, speaking to us those things that proceed from the Father. Thus the fulfilling of God's commandments is a great joy to our

hearts, for the outflowing of our lives is holiness to Him and adoration and honour to His wonderful name.

—Leslie Busbee

### **LAW AND LOVE!**

The prodigal's father was no Eli, chiding with bated breath. Faithful and monitory were his counsels; urgent and exhortatory were his warnings. Did he love the wayward child less when thus he chided sternly than when he gently seated him at the festive board with its fatted calf? We trow not. The same deep, tender love was there in both; only it differed in expression. When I warn one dear to me from entering on some desperate plunge that must end in peril if not death, is my affection less than when I plunge in to save him? No. And so there is the same love in the law of Moses, love warns; in the gospel or Messiah, love wins. Both are the true mirror of Him who thus defines His own character, "God is Love."

"The Law brought forth her precepts ten, and then dissolved in grace."

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**September 30, 1973**

### **THE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN**

**Ex. 20:18-21; Numbers 16:46-48; Deut. 18:18, 19;**

**John 1:18; Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:24, 25**

Exodus 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die.

20 And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

21 And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was.

Numbers 16:46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the Lord; the plague is begun.

47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

Deut. 18:18 [God spake unto Moses] I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

Romans 8:34 It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Hebrews 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood.

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

**Memory Verse:** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 2:5.

**Central Thought:** Because of sin in man's heart, there must needs be a mediator—One who will go between sinful man and his Creator. Moses was mediator in his day with the children of Israel, but Jesus Christ as a Man is mediator between us and God.

**Word Definition:** Mediator: The Greek defines this word as a go-between, a reconciler, or intercessor. Atonement: To cover or expiate which means to extinguish guilt. Intercession means entreaty in favor of.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Viewing the scene of Sinai we are impressed with the terror and awfulness of such an event as God speaking to the people. With the sound of a trumpet, and a Voice so great

and terrible speaking such firm commands, and with the sentence of death to any who would get too close, it is no wonder that the people entreated that the Voice should not speak to them anymore. Moses was thus authorized to assume the role as mediator. God is so great and holy and powerful, and man is so weak, infirm, unholy, defiled, helpless, and unworthy, that a mediator or go-between is surely needed.

The account in Numbers 16 when Moses and Aaron made atonement for the people with the incense was the time that the people murmured against him, and God's anger was kindled to such a point that He was ready to destroy the whole crowd and raise up of Moses another nation. But Moses interceded for the people and the plague was stayed, notwithstanding the great multitude that perished.

Jesus Christ, because of His perfect sacrifice and His obedience to God, emerges at the right hand of God exalted for our sakes. There we see Him seated in glory interceding for us. So well pleased was the Father with the faithfulness of His Son, that He exalted Him to that glorious position, and listens to the entreaties of Christ in behalf of those who believe in Him who are yet in this world. What a wonderful blessing to us!

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why do you think that God dwelt in thick darkness and came down in such terror on Mt. Sinai? 2. Where would you be today had it not been that Someone interceded for you? 3. Why did Jesus have to be a Man to be a Mediator? 4. Why do you think that God cannot be seen of man? 5. In what way has the only begotten Son declared the Father?

Lesson References: Moses and Christ each faithful as God called them: Hebrews 3:5, 6. The law, and grace and truth: John 1:17. Job spoke of a daysman needed: Job 9:33. God finding for man a ransom: Job 33:23, 24.

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

We see in our lesson that Moses was a type of Christ in that he was a mediator for the people. He stood between them and God. God was able to look upon Moses with respect and honour when He was not able to do so with the people. Moses loved the people and had great compassion for them in their iniquity. Therefore he used his favor with God on their behalf. In this he was a mediator, a go-between. He made intercession for the people, that the Lord would not destroy them as He had threatened to do. We find him in

one place pleading that he would rather be blotted out of the book of the Lord than to see them destroyed. He loved the Lord, but He loved the people, also. He had, as it were, one hand upon the Lord and the other hand upon the people.

Mankind surely needed a mediator. Job, when speaking of God's severity said, "Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both." Job 9:33. Unless someone intervened the whole creation would perish in eternal night. And thus we see that Jesus because of His love for man and faithfulness to God became the true Mediator betwixt them both. As He hung there on Calvary's cross between the earth and heaven, He took hold of man in His iniquity, but at the same time said, "Father, into thine hands I commend my spirit." He took secure hold of God at the same time He took us by the hand. Thus God and man are united together in Christ.

And now seated at the right hand of God, our Saviour is interceding to God for us. What a consolation it was to Stephen when he was being condemned to look steadfastly into Heaven and see the Son of Man standing on the right hand of God. Think of what it meant for Esther to be a mediator to the king for her condemned people. She had favor with the king, but she had love for the people, also. If it were up to us to gain entrance to the throne of God, it would be a hopeless case for us. God in His holiness and power cannot be approached by sinful men unless they come through His chosen One, the Intercessor. Jesus knows what we as mortals suffer and bear, and His intercessions with the Father are not turned away. Oh, it is a beautiful plan, exalting the love of God and the beauty and grace of His Son. Thus we can say with the prophet, "Oh, Lord, I will praise thee, for though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and behold, thou comfortest me." Though we all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ, the Righteous.

—Leslie Bushee

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(Teacher, have you ordered lessons for the 4th quarter of 1973? The first Sunday of the quarter is October 7.)



