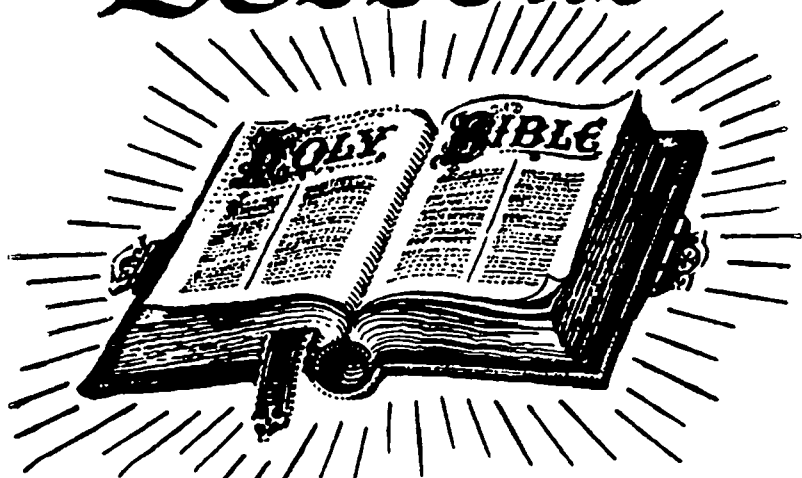


# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Vol. 6, No. 2  
April, May, June  
1974**

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

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

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**Vol. 6**

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## ***Table of Contents***

	Page
April 7—The Gospel Day .....	1
April 14—Resurrected to a Continual Reign .....	6
April 21—Prophecy of King Fulfilled .....	11
April 28—Christ, The Foundation of the Church .....	16
May 5—The Name of the Church .....	21
May 12—Entrance Into The Church .....	26
May 19—Restitution of Believers .....	31
May 26—Spirit-filled Church .....	37
June 2—The Gifts and Callings in the Church .....	42
June 9—Unity of Believers .....	46
June 16—Guide for Believers .....	51
June 23—Purpose and Meaning of Christian Baptism ..	56
June 30—Observing the Ordinances .....	62

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Jesus Christ and His Church**

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## THEME FOR SECOND QUARTER, 1974



Our lessons this quarter will be mainly on the Church. Our first lesson begins with the fact that it was in the prophecy of the Old Testament that a new time was dawning, and that would be the gospel day. In that day Jesus was to come and establish His church and the Holy Spirit would fill it. It would be a time when the Gentiles also would see the light and flow into it with the believing Jews.

In A. D. 32 Christ said, "I will build my church." We also know that in A. D. 59 and some years afterwards the apostles said, "Ye are God's building," "and are built up a spiritual house." Of course, we know that John the Baptist, Jesus, and His disciples labored and many believed. They were the material gathered together for the Holy Spirit to fill on the day of Pentecost which set the Church in operation.

Christ is the door of the church and no man can shut that door. The experience of salvation is the mode of induction into the church. God places the members in the church as it pleases Him. Some of the church members have gone on to heaven and others are here on earth, waiting for that time when they will be called to leave this world. One of these days this world will pass away and Jesus will deliver up the kingdom to the Father.

—Sister Marie Miles



April 7, 1974

### THE GOSPEL DAY

Isa. 12:1-4; 25:8, 9; 26:1-4; Zech. 13:1; Isa. 52:6-8

Isaiah 12:1 And in that day thou shalt say, O Lord, I will praise thee: though thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortedst me.

2 Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord JEHOVAH is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation.

3 Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

4 And in that day shall ye say, Praise the Lord, call upon his name, declare his doings among the people, make mention that his name is exalted.

Isaiah 25:8 He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth; for the Lord hath spoken it.

9 And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the Lord; we have waited for him, We will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Isaiah 26:1 In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks.

2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in.

3 Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.

4 Trust ye in the Lord for ever: for in the Lord JEHOVAH is everlasting strength.

Zech. 13:1 In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.

Isaiah 52:6 Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!

8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.

Memory Verse: And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and His rest shall be glorious. Isaiah 11:10.

Central Thought: We are now living in the gospel day and have the privilege to see fulfilled in our lives the glorious blessings prophesied by holy men of old.

**Word Definitions:** Ensign: A flag, banner, or signal. (Hebrew Dictionary).

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Peter tells us that the prophets inquired and searched diligently what the Spirit did signify "when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow." 1 Peter 1:10, 11. In our lesson we note the expression, "in that day," and behold the glory that was to be upon God's people because of the sufferings of Christ. The prophet was looking for a better day that would mean the fulfillment of all of God's holy will. No doubt he had many sorrows and disappointments due to the age he lived in, but the Holy Spirit inspired his heart and moved him to foretell wonderful things to come in that future day, which to us now in New Testament salvation is a reality and an up-to-date experience.

Read "Bible Terms Used" at the end of our lesson.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How was God's anger to be turned away? 2. What does it mean to draw water out of the wells of salvation? 3. The prophet said that it would be said, This is our God, and This is the Lord. Of whom was this to be spoken? 4. Who will be kept in perfect peace, and why? 5. How can we be scripturally sure that these prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament?

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

The prophet in our lesson foresees by the Spirit a great day. We must be persuaded by the Word of God that this great day dawned with the advent of Christ and the accomplishing of His work of grace in the earth. You will notice that our memory verse is quoted by Paul in Romans 15:12, and the text in Isa. 52:7 is quoted in Romans 10:15. It is a darkened heart indeed and unenlightened by the Holy Spirit that cannot behold these glorious truths fulfilled now in the fulness of God's grace and salvation.

I remember my visit to Crater Lake in Oregon one year. There in the tops of the mountains was a most beautiful lake and a resort that attracted the interest and pleasure of many people every year. But that very place is declared to have once been an active volcano, a scene of terror and death, spewing with fire and molten rock that meant destruction to whom ever came near. But once upon a time the volcano blew itself out and its gaping hole was filled with cool water that is more blue than the sky itself. This is a perfect likeness of

God. Before Christ came and trod the winepress of the wrath of God to appease His holy displeasure with sinful man, God was too awful and fearful to approach. His anger would not permit man to approach into His awful presence. But now in Christ His anger is turned away, and we see Him as the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

Christ has come and swallowed up death in victory for us. We, too, shall stand one day in His resurrected likeness, and it will be brought to pass concerning us the saying, "Death is swallowed up in victory." We can and will be glad and rejoice in His salvation.

Now is this song sung in our hearts. We do have a strong city, with the walls of salvation shielding us from the onslaughts of the enemy. We are kept in perfect peace for our mind is stayed on Him and we find in the Lord His unfailing strength.

"There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins,  
And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains."

How wonderful that we have found that precious fountain of cleansing for the soul! The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.

The greatest message ever taken to men is proclaimed in the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. What an honour and high calling to have a part in publishing the good news! What joy it is to our hearts to know that God reigns over all! We who have received this glorious vision do lift up our voices together and sing and proclaim the fulness of His grace. And we who are thus enlightened and anointed see eye to eye and are united in heart, soul, and mind. —Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Man was driven from the garden of Eden. He had been created in holiness and happiness. But sin entered his heart. Cherubims and a flaming sword prevented his return to the garden. This was a sad scene to behold. He in sorrow had to earn his support by labor. The ground was cursed for his sake. In sorrow he must eat of it all the days of his life. God looked down upon man's wretchedness and saw that his "wickedness was great in the earth" and "it grieved him at his heart." Gen. 3, also chapter 6:5, 6. In man's sinful state, he cried unto the Lord. God had mercy and promised him a Saviour to deliver him from his wretched state.

To the prophets of Israel, men who walked close to God, was given a vision in those prophetic days of the glorious

dawning of a great day when man would be freed from the prison house of sin. Even in the vision they saw what would come to pass and it caused them to break forth with gladness. The prophet Isaiah said, "Arise, shine; for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising." Isa. 60:1, 2. When the prophet said that the Gentiles shall come to the light, then we know when that great day came to pass. We are in that great day. It came when Jesus was born and brought salvation, which means deliverance from sin, to the people. Simeon, who was a devout man, looking for that great day to come, took the baby Jesus in his arms and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation." Luke 2:25-32. He saw the dawning of a day of the fulfillment of all the prophetic wonders of salvation. We are living in that gospel day. Today is the day of salvation. Today we can have forgiveness of sins and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Today, let us rejoice and be glad for we can be purified and made holy by the cleansing Spirit of God. We are not looking for another day to come upon this world wherein we can have peace, because we can have it in our hearts today. Today we can, with joy, draw water out of the wells of salvation and say, "Praise the Lord!"

—M. Miles

### BIBLE TERMS USED

Sometimes, phrases in the Bible are taken in a sense that was not intended. The words "forever" and "everlasting" or "eternal," when not used in connection with God as the subject, does not mean, in every instance, as being without end. These phrases sometime mean just a very long time. For example; it is said in Gen. 17:8, "I will give to thee and to thy seed the land of Canaan for an everlasting possession," or in Genesis 13:15, "I will give it to thee, and to thy seed forever." This would mean for a long space of time. But when the scriptures have a prophetic meaning of the Messiah, then it means "eternal" because it has reference to Jesus Christ as the subject. For instance, when the throne of David is referred to as an eternal kingdom, we know that since Jesus Christ reigns on the throne of David in His spiritual kingdom, then the meaning is "eternal."

"Everlasting" or "forever" used with reference to the Jewish rites and ceremonies would mean just until the coming of the Messiah.

For instance, in Joshua 4:7, the stones that were taken out of the River Jordan when the Israelites crossed over and stacked up for a "memorial unto the children of Israel forever" are not there today. That was meant just for their day.

"Eternity" or "eternal," when referring to Christ or God, means without end. We read in Exod. 15:18, "The Lord shall reign forever and ever." Deut. 32:40, "I lift up my hand to heaven, and say I live forever." Deut. 33:17, "The eternal God is thy refuge." In Matt. 25:46 we read, "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." This means that the happiness of one and the misery or punishment of the other will be forever or without end.

The New Testament, which Jesus confirmed by His blood, is an everlasting covenant and it will never be changed as the former was. Heb. 13:20. Everlasting life is involved and it deals with eternal values. More could be written on this subject, but this possibly will give a key on how to "rightly divide" the Word of God and its meanings. —M. Miles

—O—

**April 14, 1974**

## **RESURRECTED TO A CONTINUAL REIGN**

### **Acts 2:29-36; Eph. 1:19-23**

Acts 2:29 Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell [hades], neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,



35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Ephesians 1:19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his [God's] power to usward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

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

**Memory Verse:** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 1 Corinthians 15:2.

**Central Thought:** The prophecy of Christ to sit upon David's throne henceforth even forever "would have been nullified; but as His body did not see corruption, He therefore continues to reign upon the throne of David." (The Kingdom of God)

**Word Definition:** "Resurrection" means "a rising from the dead, or coming back to life; the state of having risen from the dead." It also means "the rising of all the dead at the Last Judgment."—Web. Dic. David is called "patriarch" as the founder of the royal family. He was buried on Mount Zion where most of the kings of Judah were buried. (1 Kings 2:10). The tomb is still there today. "The Lord said unto my Lord," thus distinguishing between himself and his Lord, who could be no other than the Messiah.—Hom. Com. Note: Read the article at the end of the lesson on the definition and explanation of hell, Hades, Sheol, purgatory, etc.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

The first part of our lesson in Acts is Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit filled the church that gathered in the upper room. That day people from about

17 nations heard the gospel story in their own language or tongue. This took place fifty days after Jesus arose from the grave and had ascended to heaven.

Verses in Ephesians for our second lesson were written in 61 A. D. by the Apostle Paul. He wants the Gentiles to see the glory of Christ and partake of the blessings brought to them through His death, resurrection, and ascension.

We used these scriptures in Acts that speak about David's throne to bring to our minds the prophecy fulfilled in Psa. 132:11, "The Lord hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne." Then we read in 2 Sam. 7:12, 16 where the prophet Nathan is speaking to David about the continuation of his kingdom, saying, "Thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee: thy throne shall be established forever." Some false prophets admit that Christ is Lord, but deny that He is now a king and sitting upon David's throne. Yet we declare by the Word of God that He is now King, and that the New Testament is the law He has given to His Church which is composed of the subjects in His spiritual kingdom on earth.

—M. Miles

#### QUESTIONS:

1. What day of the week did Jesus arise from the grave?  
2. Is Jesus a king; and upon whose throne is He reigning today?  
3. What kind of power will be "wrought" in "us-ward who believe?"  
4. Where is Jesus reigning today and who is His body or kingdom in the world today?  
5. When will Jesus come for His kingdom, and what will happen at that time?

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

The resurrection and exaltation of Christ, His name, origin, His throne and reign are all connected and must be in one dispensation—that is the present one. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1: 31, 32. These words were spoken to Mary by the angel, telling her of the birth of Jesus, etc. We do not have two dispensations presented here, but only one. In Amos 9:11, 12, you read of the prophecy of David's throne. This same scripture is quoted by the Apostle James in Acts 15:15-17 where he rejoices to see the Gentiles chosen as a people for His name, in this dispensation. (Isaiah 16:5 says that the throne and tabernacle of David are identical.) The visiting of the Gentiles

and seeking from them a people was the building of a tabernacle of David. The throne of David was in the tabernacle of David. Christ is now sitting upon David's throne in this dispensation. Christ is our King. (Jer. 30:9; Heb. 4:7; Matt. 21:1-9; John 18:36, 37.) Christ acknowledged Himself as a king. He has a kingdom and His servants are His subjects. Christ's kingdom is not of this world. We are translated into the kingdom of His dear Son. (Col. 1:13; Rom. 14:17.) His kingdom is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. After He reigns until He puts all enemies under His feet, the last enemy being death, then the end will come. Jesus will then deliver up the kingdom of God to the Father. 1 Cor. 15:22-24. Some false prophets teach that He will begin His reign just at the time when He will deliver up the kingdom to the Father. But we know Christ is reigning now as King and over us, His children, in this dispensation. Praise God for such a wonderful King and we are reigning with Him over sin right here in this present world.

"If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. If Christ be not raised, your faith is vain, ye are yet in your sins." (1 Cor. 15:14, 17). Because Jesus arose, we believe, according to the scriptures, that there will be a general resurrection of the dead, which will come to pass at the end of the world, and those who are saved and ready to meet the Lord will be changed to immortality and live in eternity with Jesus and all the blessed. Those who are not saved nor ready will be raised to damnation and everlasting punishment. It will pay us to be ready. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The power that God wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead was generated for a divine and eternal purpose. It is to be used specifically for redeeming mankind from the fallen state of sin unto a new life of righteousness and victory over sin and death. In the world there are many different kinds of power, all of which are produced for special purposes. Most of the power is produced or generated. The power of an endless life was produced and generated in the operation of God when He raised Christ from the dead. This great power works a force of holy living in the hearts and lives of all who turn from sin and its unholy ways and seek the heavenly way.

We must be aware of how exceeding great this power is. Its potential reaches to the uttermost and does a perfect work. It is the power of an endless life, a resurrected life. Man was enslaved in the chains of spiritual death, separated from God because of the error of his way. Sin and transgression held full control of his heart and mind. He was condemned and lost

before a righteous decree of the judgment of God. A power was needed to restore man to his rightful place again. An energy or force enough to quicken the soul of man was required to enable him to live and serve God once again. And the only power that could accomplish all of this was found in the resurrection of Christ from the dead. When Christ for sinners and the lost of the world became the sacrifice for their transgressions and sins, God was willing to look away from the guilt of man and to forgive him of all his offences. The suffering and death of Christ was sufficient to atone for all of God's grievance with His creation. And it put the Son of God in a position for God, Himself, to exert the greatest power ever known in this world, the power of the resurrection, the power of an endless life.

How unaware Christ's followers were of what was taking place when they saw their Lord nailed to the tree! To them, all was lost. Each one of them went his way, disappointed and defeated. Their Master was laid away in the tomb with a guard of soldiers to see that He stayed there. Their weary and sad hearts were filled with despair and dread as they huddled behind closed doors for fear of the Jews.

But on that glorious morn of the first day of the week, the tomb was found empty. Christ was seen near Emmaus, and in various other places, revealing Himself that He was alive. And they that saw Him knew that He was the Son of God. The truth of this wonderful gospel inspires and warms the seeking soul now just as it did then. For the Spirit of Truth accompanies it and makes the heart to know Him as the risen King of kings and Lord of lords. Yes, the power of His resurrection is still being exerted, and all who seek Him with the whole heart in response to the gospel can be saved forevermore.

—L. Busbee

## **AFTER DEATH AND RESURRECTION**

**Hell**—This term, as translated in the King James Version, can mean two different places. In Matt. 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 23:15,33; 18:9; Mark 9:43, 45, 47; Luke 12:5; and James 3:6, the word "hell" is translated from the Greek word *gehenna*. This is the "hell" that we usually mean when we use the term—the lake of fire as the eternal destiny of the wicked. In Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31; Rev. 1:18; Rev. 6:8; 20:13, 14, the word "hell" is translated from the Greek word *hades*. (The word "grave" in 1 Cor. 15:55 is translated from *hades*.) *Hades* is not the grave. The grave is the receptacle for the body after death; the soul goes to *hades*—the invisible world of disembodied spirits.

In Acts 2:31, we read that the soul of Jesus was not left in hades, neither did His body see corruption in the grave. Christ's soul was in hades only three days and nights, however, because His soul left hades at His resurrection. Now Christ had not yet ascended to His Father (John 20:17); therefore, hades is not in heaven. Furthermore, He said to the thief on the cross at the time of His death, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." (Luke 23:43). So paradise is in hades. It is the place where all heaven-bound souls rest while they wait for the judgment day and the final reward of heaven.

In Luke 16:23, we read that the rich man lifted up his eyes in hades—the same invisible spirit-world as Lazarus was in. But he was in the lower hades, "in torments." In 2 Peter 2:4, the word "hell" is translated from tartarus, the proper name for the waiting place of the wicked in hades. There they are "delivered into chains of darkness, reserved unto judgment." There they are tormented in flames. (Luke 16:24.)

Paradise and tartarus are the two waiting places in the spirit world of hades. Between them there is a great gulf fixed.

Sheol—A Hebrew word that is very flexible in meaning. It is generally synonymous with the grave, but can mean hades or the pit. It is identical with hades in Psa. 16:10; Deut. 32:22; Psa. 86:13; Prov. 23:14; and Isaiah 5:14, and other scriptures.

Purgatory—a mythical place, supposedly a place of fire where the souls of Christians suffer until they are pure enough to enter heaven. It is not even remotely hinted at in the Scriptures.

—Mark Spinks

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April 21, 1974

## PROPHECY OF KING FULFILLED

Isa. 9:6, 7; Zech. 9:9, 10b; Matt. 21:1-8; Mark 11:9, 10

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Zech. 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto

thee; he is just, and having salvation; lowly, riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.

10b And he shall speak peace unto the heathen [Gentiles]: and his dominion shall be from sea even to sea, and from the river even to the ends of the earth.

Matthew 21:1 And when they drew nigh unto Jerusalem, and were come to Bethpage, unto the mount of Olives, then sent Jesus two disciples,

2 Saying unto them, Go, into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

3 And if any man say aught unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them, and straightway he will send them.

4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.

6 And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them,

7 And brought the ass, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon.

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

Mark 11:9 And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord;

10 Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Memory Verse: The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the kingdom of heaven is preached, and every man presseth into it. Luke 16:16.

Central Thought: We are not looking for Jesus Christ as the Messiah and King, because He has already come. The government is upon His shoulder and He is our King, reigning upon the throne of David today.

Word Definitions: Ass is "a donkey." Hosanna "is an Hebrew word, which signifies, Save I beseech you. It is a form of acclamation, of blessing, or wishing one well. Thus our Sav-

our's entering into Jerusalem, when the people cried, Hosanna to the Son of David; their meaning was, Lord preserve this Son of David, this king, keep favors and blessings upon him."—Cruden's Concordance

## LESSON BACKGROUND

"God had commanded the kings of Israel not to multiply horses. The kings who broke this command were miserable themselves, and scourgers to their people. Jesus came to fulfill the Law. Had He, in His title of King, ridden upon a horse, it would have been a breach of a positive command of God; therefore, He rode upon an ass, and thus fulfilled the prophecy, and kept the precept unbroken." We read that Judah did not have a king from Zedekiah, except Jesus Christ, until now. (See Clarke's Com.) Zechariah was a sure prophecy of Jesus Christ. Only Jesus can save from sin, Satan, death, and hell. He is the righteous One and the Fountain of righteousness. Praise God for our King, Jesus Christ, who is reigning on His throne today and we are in His kingdom today.

The prophecy of Zechariah of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on an ass was 587 years before Christ. It is a glorious fact that what God had said would come to pass did come to pass in His time. He told us when our king would come and set up a kingdom and He did it just as God said. We are not looking for Him to come and do it all over again as some believe.

—M. Miles

## QUESTIONS:

1. What does Isaiah tell us Jesus will do when He is born?
2. What does Zechariah prophesy will come to pass during the time Jesus is here on earth?
3. Are we going to look for Jesus to come as king and fulfill Zechariah's prophecy during a thousand-year reign?
4. When was his prophecy fulfilled, and does Matthew tell us when it was fulfilled that Jesus was made king or recognized?
5. What does Mark tell us in our lesson?
6. Discuss the memory verse.

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

When is the fulfillment of the government to rest upon Christ's shoulders, and when is He to sit upon David's throne? Many today are trying to answer these questions by saying that it has to be in the Millennium which they try to fit into a so-called thousand-year reign of Christ here on the earth. But we must take God's Word for it. If the Bible is against it, we must discredit such a theory. If the New Testament teaches us that Jesus came as King and came to sit upon Da-

vid's throne when He was here on earth, then why look for another time? When does the Bible tell us that He was to sit upon David's throne? It definitely says He would when a child was born unto us. The angel told Mary exactly why Jesus was coming and what He would do. The Lord was going to give "him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end." Luke 1:31-33. He was born to be king. So any Bible student can easily see that this is now fulfilled. Christ now sits upon David's throne and He is ruling His kingdom with justice and judgment. Praise God for our King today! We are in His kingdom when we are translated out of the kingdom of darkness.

Zechariah prophesied of Christ's coming as King, sitting upon an ass. Are we going to look for this to be fulfilled in a future date when it was already fulfilled in Christ's stay here on earth? If He was king then He must still be a king and sitting upon the throne of David. The people in that day believed Christ had come as king and to the kingdom of his father David. Matthew, in writing the account later, said that Zechariah's prophecy had been fulfilled. Of course, we might become confused if we are thinking that Christ's kingdom is of this world. It is not of this world, but it is a spiritual kingdom. When we are saved, we become the children of Abraham. Then that would take in Gentiles and any today who are saved are in the kingdom of God. Christ is the king of all "born-again" children of God. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink [literall], but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost."

We are looking for the return of Christ, but not to set up His kingdom because it is already set up. At that time, He will come for His subjects. "Then cometh the end, when he [Christ] shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father." 1 Cor. 15:24.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Behold, Thy King cometh unto thee!" What a wonderful declaration to mankind. Oh, that men and women would behold Him, would but come and see! To behold Him as He really is in His grace and power will cause the heart to greatly rejoice. For we see Him "not in wrath or in terrors, but gentle as when in love and in meekness He moved among men. And the voice of His love is the same even now as at Bethany's tomb, or on Olivet's brow." We see Jesus who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honour. We behold His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. Behold the Lamb



of God that taketh away the sin of the world! And as Pilate declared: "Behold, the Man!"

Thy King cometh! The Kingdom of God is near at hand. The Royal Majesty of the Heavens has approached. Our souls are blessed as we yield to His divine purpose and bow before His great majestic presence. As they of old spread their garments in the way and sang, "Hosanna in the highest," so we prepare room for Him in our hearts, believing and trusting in Him as our King. The blessed Son of God who holds the highest place of honour and reward of God approaches and bids you come to Him, and He will give you rest. He is the King of Glory, declared in the 24th Psalm as the Lord of hosts, the Lord strong and mighty in battle. Behold the nail-prints in His hands and feet and the scars of the thorn-crown. Hear Him speak, "I am he that liveth and was dead; behold I am alive forever more."

It is a wonderful theme, this truth concerning the King. Songs have been written, sermons have been preached, books have been published, and yet the half has not been told. We who believe in Him and have Him revealed to our hearts rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. We are yearning for the day of His appearing. But even now He is dear to our hearts and we ever seek His favor. We want to walk in His blessed steps who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth. In our hearts we crown Him King of our lives now, and look to His wisdom to guide us in this world. We want to be as the humble donkey, and bear Him forth to the world. Slow, sure-footed, and seemingly stubborn (to the world because we do not go along with them in their folly), we are happy to be chosen and blessed in Him. He is our King, the righteous Saviour, and He has spoken peace to our souls.

—L. Busbee

### THE FAMILY ALTAR

Much has been said and needs to be said about home religion. Religion in the home is an essential part of Christianity, and yet there is no part of practical religion so woefully disregarded. Family prayer and grace at meals are rare even among those who are in church work. Is it not true that in few homes heads are bowed and thanks given at meals, and fewer still where the family gathers at morn or eve to hear the father read God's Word or lead in prayer?

No doubt the chief reason for family quarrels, wandering children, divorces, and domestic trouble in general is that there is so little practical religion in the home. The early Christians show us beautiful examples of home religion. The apostle wrote of "the church which is in thine house." The relationship be-

tween parents and children grows pure and dear when they all bow together and ask the peace of God to rest on their home. You may have come from a home where a family altar was maintained, and such homes were not uncommon years back. Remember how as a little child you often had to sit through a long reading in the morning when you were anxious to get out and play; or in the evening when your eyelids grew heavy, and often you did actually fall asleep regardless of the promptings of an affectionate, watchful parent. You must nevertheless admit that these home influences are now most sacred to your memory.

The influence of a Christian home spreads throughout the whole community. The home itself is more happy and cheerful. These blessings radiate to others and bring sunshine into their lives. May the family altar be reinstated or established, as the case may be, so that the full measure of joy which the Savior has intended for us may be realized. —Selected

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April 28, 1974

### **CHRIST, THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH**

**Matt. 16:16-18; 1 Peter 2:4-7, 8; Eph. 2:19, 20;**

**Col. 1:12-14, 18**

Matthew 16:16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

1 Peter 2:4 To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

6 Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

7 Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

8 And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

Ephesians 2:19 Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.

Colossians 1:12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

18 And he is the head of the body, the Church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pre-eminence.

**Memory Verse:** Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste. Isaiah 28:16.

**Central Thought:** Christ, in His power to save the soul, is made the foundation of the Church, which is His body, and is a Rock for all men to build their experience with God upon.

**Word Definitions:** Simon Bar-jona means, Simon, son of Jona. This was his father's name. Elect means, chosen or choice. Meet: worthy, or answering to.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

From the world God is calling and seeking the souls of men and women to come and be joined unto Him in a perpetual covenant. This gathering of holy people is to be to Him a special precious treasure. So many times in the prophecies we hear Him foretelling the building and operation of His Church. He does not dwell in temples made with hands, but seeks rather habitation within the heart of man. He designs to fill man with His glory and lead him triumphantly in the way of peace all his mortal days, and also to receive him in glory some blessed

day. For such a structure that will endure the fleeting ages of time and the endless age of eternity He must lay a foundation that was choice and sure according to His pleasure. And we see Him accomplishing this great cause, a Habitation that will endure forever.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. According to the reading in Matthew 16:16-18, what would you say the Rock was that He was to build His church upon? 2. What kind of stones are built up a spiritual house? 3. What is it that the disobedient stumble at? 4. How are we forgiven of our sins? 5. What is Jesus to have in all things?

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

Jesus had just asked the disciples whom that men said that He was, and it was answered that the opinions of men as to His identity were greatly mixed up. But to His question, "Whom say ye that I am?" Peter responded emphatically: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God"! Jesus made it clear then that he had received this only from above by revelation of the Father. "Upon this Rock," Jesus said, "I will build my church." And so it is even now. Christ's Church yet stands triumphant upon the Rock of His own power and grace to save and deliver from sin and reveal His glory to the souls of men. A revelation of Christ to the humble heart becomes a solid Rock beneath one's feet in this world of sin and strife.

In coming to Him, we must remember that He is a living Stone. He is not a dead, cold fact stranded on the shores of the oblivious years. He is ever living, a Present Reality. But in so being, He becomes a stumbling block as well as a Rock upon which to build. And what is it that people stumble at in Christ? It is His commandments, His Word, His doctrine. If there were no standard to conform to, no cross to bear, no yoke to put on, no discipline to be engaged, I guess about everyone who hears of Him would accept His free grace readily. But, no, there is some submission and humbling down to be done, which not very many souls are willing to do. What is He going to be to us: a Stone of stumbling and Rock of offense, or a Foundation upon which to build our lives?

But after we humble our hearts and receive the blessing of His love, we are enraptured with great joy. We praise God for His wonderful deliverance from sin and its seductive snares. We flee the kingdom of darkness and find a transforming power to open up a place for us in the Kingdom of God's beloved Son. For this we always give thanks and praise.

We recognize that His Body is His Church in this world. We see Him in full authority and control, the leading King that

goes before us and helps us win the battle for His sake. Praise the Lord for His wonderful grace and power. —L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When Jesus began to preach repentance to the people and many began to believe and entered into the kingdom, then they constituted material for the church. They gathered together on the day of Pentecost and were filled with the Holy Spirit, thus the church was set in motion, and was fully organized.

All the Apostles are foundation stones, and of course Peter was one of them. If we were held to apply that the "rock" in Matt. 16:18 meant Peter that still would not conflict with the scriptures since he was one of the Apostles. But we know that Jesus was speaking to Peter, and his name was Cephas which means a stone. In Rev. 21:14, we read about the twelve being the foundation. But Christ is the "chief corner stone" and the all-underlying foundation. We know that the Apostles were chosen to give to us the teachings that Jesus gave to them through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, thus they were a connection between Christ the Rock and the rest of the building. Each one that is "born again" and comes into the church through the door, which is Christ, becomes a lively stone in the building. What does he mean by lively stones? Have we not been quickened and made alive after being dead in trespasses and sins? Surely, we then are lively stones and are busy for the Lord. We have been given the gospel message and have been sent forth to tell others about Jesus' great love. We have our hearts filled with praises and thanksgiving to the Lord. We have been translated out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. What a glorious position each one has in the building of God. Let us be humble and let Jesus shine out through our lives by carefully obeying His Words, thus making attractive the ways of the Lord. —M. Miles

### DOVE ROCK

While spending my second summer in Palmer Lake, Colo., I decided to hike to Dove Rock, but instead of going the usual way which had been traversed so successfully many times before, I had an impulse to try reaching it from behind.

This formation is of solid stone and seems to look disdainfully down from a height of about 280 feet on the miniature trees as they try in vain to rear their heads above it. While below, the trees do look majestic as they wave softly in the breeze above our heads, and their shade is cool and inviting. However, after climbing the path, which is well worn and leads

us quickly and surely to the top, but which is very treacherous if we sidestep, how insignificant those trees look. One no longer sees cool shade, but a tangled web.

I had been warned that I might not reach the top that way, but I wished to reach the goal by following my own path. The one I took was very good at first—wide enough for a firm foothold, and very little slant to it, and was well marked. However, as I pushed farther up the mountain it became narrow, crooked, and in many places entirely lost in tangled masses of vines. Slippery pine needles made a safe footing nearly impossible, as I toiled up the path which became so steep that it was necessary to climb at an angle which was practically at right angles to the base of the mountain.

About noon, overcome with weariness, I at last saw large boulders ahead of me, and directly behind them Dome Rock towered. After resting for several minutes I scrambled over the boulders, eager to begin the last lap of my hike, that of climbing the remaining 280 feet to my goal. Stark terror gripped me as, looking over the last rock to find a good stepping-place, I saw a sheer drop of several hundred feet; and across the narrow chasm Dome Rock gleamed in the afternoon sun. There was no way to reach it but to go back and take the well-worn yet sure way to the top, which I had refused to do.

My comparison is clear to you, I'm sure. I had used all my energy to go a way I felt was right. Weren't things going my way? I was getting to the top—so I thought. Life is so much the same—God has a well-marked path for us to take. We use all our time, talents and heart to work things our way. We may have more money, better homes, better clothes, and "better times" than the others—surely things are working for the best! But analyze these "good times," use of money and time. Are they not used often to bring glory to or satisfy ourselves? Think of all the souls we could bring to Christ by using our influence, time, and money for the Saviour.

You and I have also to think of our reaction when, on coming to the end of our path, we see hell opening at our feet. Will I be awakened in time—will you? The road back through Christ is open to us always. Let us pray that it will not take death to show us our mistake—too late.

May God open our eyes so that we will be able through Him to make others see the great danger in living a life out of His glorious plan which leads to an eternal life at the top!

—D. McAdams

**May 5, 1974**

**THE NAME OF THE CHURCH**

**John 17:1, 6, 9, 11; Eph. 3:14-16; Acts 20:28; 1 Corinthians 1:1a, 2; 10:32; 15:9; 1 Tim. 3:5, 15**

John 17:1 These words spake Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee;

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

Ephesians 3:14 For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

15 Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named.

16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man.

Acts 20:28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

1 Cor. 1:1a Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God,

2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both their's and our's.

10:32 Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the church of God.

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

1 Timothy 3:5 For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?

**15** But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

**Memory Verse:** The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Proverbs 18:10.

**Central Thought:** Since Jesus prayed that we be kept in His Father's name, and since the family of God must go in His name, the name of the Church is scripturally called the Church of God.

**Word Definitions:** Church: translated from the Greek word "ekklesia" which means a calling out, a religious congregation or Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both; an assembly. Looking into the word name, we find some interesting facts from the Greek dictionary. The English word "name" is derived from the Greek word "onoma" which has a root in the Greek word "ginosko" from which the English word "know" is derived. We are led to believe that in olden times a person's name lay much closer to their person and character than it does today. A person's name represented their character and authority, and was a vital link in one's knowledge of them.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In this lesson we seek to establish the truth of the Bible name for the Church. We quote from Jesus' prayer to the Father that His disciples be kept in His name, and from Paul's statement concerning the family of God, and we have also brought in the different places in the epistles where the Church was so called in the name of God. Let us also consider the power and authority of the Father's name, and also the inheritance that is given to those who are kept in His name. Let us remember that it is not the name God spelled G-O-D, but what the name stands for and the personage back of it.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why did Jesus manifest the Father's name to His disciples, and why did He pray that they be kept in His Father's name? 2. What does a person's name have to do with the person himself? 3. Why do we have to have names? 4. What were the overseers charged to do for the Church of God? 5. The Church of the living God is the pillar and ground of what?



## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

One of the Saviour's main burdens in His prayer to the Father was the preserving of His disciples in this evil world after He was to leave them. He knew that many things evil and destructive would face the Church as long as time would last. He was looking down through the dark ages and perilous years of the march of time. He was commending them to the greatest power of all, the power of His Father and praying that they would be kept in His almighty name. He designed that they be as one as He, the Son, and the Father in heaven were one. As the song says, "Only one Church of God, kept in His name." Yes, even as a child is kept in his or her father's name as he goes out into life, so the children of God in one family take the name of their Father, God. In that name there is safety and great inheritance. Whatever has our name inscribed to it can be easily identified and associated with us. If our name can be taken from it, all claim to our ownership is in jeopardy. Things of value like an automobile, home, business, or money must surely have our name affixed thereto. And so it is with the Church of God. We are in His name for our identification to Him, and also we are in His name for eternal seal and protection in that great day of wrath. Only those who have the Father's name in their foreheads will be permitted to enter the gates of the celestial city. Revelation 22:4.

The way that the New Testament writers referred to the Church of God assures us that it is God's acceptable way of naming the Church. They did not say, The Baptist Church, or the Episcopalian Church, or the Christian Church. But they called it the Church of God. The congregation or assembly of believers who are born of God, and are in the Father's name make up what is really the Church OF God. I believe it is proper to be diligent to make that little word "of" sound out. I have heard some say, "Church-a-God." I know what they mean, but they are leaving out an important word when they fail to sound that little word, "of." What a wonderful privilege to be kept in the Father's name!

One of the greatest and most striking likenesses of the Church is the term, "family." A family goes by the father's name. The whole family in heaven and earth is named of God. Although it is in the Saviour's name that we have access to God and find forgiveness for sins and all the blessings of God, yet it is in the Father's name that we are kept and assured of the final triumph of the Church. So let it not be just a name, but let us comprehend the real value and meaning of the name, and live according to its standard.

—L. Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

God was dealing with a man as he drove along. He had seen an accident and several had gone into eternity. This caused him to be very much stirred. He knew that he would leave this world some day and where would he go? As he came to a town he saw a church building. The thought came to him that he needed to go to church. Now he saw another church building, and then another. Now the man was confused. "What church shall I go to?" he said aloud. "Which one is right?" Could you help this man to know what to do about this state of confusion?

The prophecy of what was to come in the gospel day is in Isa. 4:1. We see it being fulfilled today. It reads thus, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." There are many groups today that are calling themselves the Church of God. Only in the past thirty years or less has this name been used extensively by religious organizations other than the true family of God. But today people have read the Bible and seen the name, and are using the name, but they are not living by God's Word. They are like the women who wanted to take the man's name, but they wanted to "eat their own bread, and wear their own apparel." In other words, they wanted just to live like they wanted to, but they wanted the name of God. Oh, how sad this is! To truly be God's people, we must take all of God's Word and live by it. We must be "born again" and be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit and the Word agree. God does have a Church of God, and it is pure and holy. God keeps the record and only sin will put one out. If one of God's people is in the cage of sectism, he needs to come out and be freed from man's bondage. —M. Miles

## WHICH CHURCH SAVES?

Must we become Protestants in order to be saved?

Not at all, my friend. I wouldn't waste any time trying to convert you to Protestantism.

But do you not believe that either the Roman or the Greek Catholic Church can save, do you?

Certainly not!

Well then, I am a Roman Catholic and my friend here is a member of the Greek Orthodox Church, neither of which, you say, can save. And you, you are a Protestant. Do you not want us also to turn Protestant?

I do not. I have never asked any Catholic, Greek or Roman, to turn Protestant.

**You haven't? I don't understand! Do you not believe that Protestantism can save?**

**No, I do not.**

**You don't? I am amazed! What then—**

**Protestantism has no more power to save than has Catholicism, my friends.**

**What then—how can a man be saved? There are only the three great Christian Churches, are there not?**

**I repeat, my friends, that neither the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox, nor the Protestant Church can in any way save your souls. Wait a minute. No Church can save, but—JESUS CHRIST can!**

**JESUS!**

**Yes, my friends, you are saved, not by the Church, either Catholic or Protestant, but through a Person, and that Person—the Lord Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son.**

**Can it be possible? And to think that we have never heard this before!**

**It would do you no good to become Protestants, for there are thousands of Protestants who are not saved, thousands who have embraced Christianity who have never accepted the Christ of Christianity.**

**Is that why we have not found peace? Is there no peace in Catholicism?**

**No, friend, and none in Protestantism, either. Peace is found only in Jesus. Religion cannot save, but Christ can.**

**But, are you sure of this, Sir?**

**Neither is there salvation in any other (Protestantism or Catholic). God says: "For there is none other name [Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, or Protestant] under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**

**"Thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He [not the Catholic priest nor the Protestant minister, but He—Jesus Christ] shall save His people from their sins." (Matt. 1:21).**

**What, then, must we do?**

**"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved," for "as many as received HIM to them gave He power to become the sons of God." (Acts 16:31 and John 1:12).**

**And will He receive us?**

**"Him that cometh unto Me, I will in no wise cast out." (John 6:37).**

**He loves you. Yea, He died for you. Your sins He bore as He hung on Calvary. Then come, accept Him; trust His atoning death. Take Him now as your Saviour, for He will "have mercy" and "abundantly pardon."**

**We thought we were saved because we were good Catholics; but you have opened our eyes, and we know now that**

Jesus is the only Saviour, and the only One who can forgive sins. —Selected

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May 12, 1974

### ENTRANCE INTO THE CHURCH

John 10:9, 11; Matt. 11:28-30; John 6:44a; 2 Cor. 7:10;  
Acts 3:19a; John 3:5-8; Psa. 87:5, 6

John 10:9 I [Jesus] am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out and find pasture.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

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

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

John 6:44a No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.

2 Cor. 7:10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

Acts 3:19a Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

7 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

8 The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Psa. 87:5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

6 The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

**Memory Verse:** Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. Luke 13:24.

**Central Thought:** There is only one way to get into heaven and that is through Christ. He is the door to the church, which He built.

**Word Definition:** "Strait" means "narrow, difficult, or strict."

### LESSON BACKGROUND

We notice in the first two verses that Jesus calls Himself the door and then changes the thought and calls Himself the "good shepherd." Only through His death, resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God could He be the door and also the good Shepherd. Through Jesus giving His life and then being the good Shepherd to us can we be ready to enter that place prepared for the faithful few. Jesus is the good Shepherd who is standing with outstretched hands, saying, "Come unto me, ye that labor and are heavy laden" with sins and "I will give you rest." Notice that godly sorrow will bring repentance when the Father, through the Holy Spirit, draws you to Jesus. When we come through the Door, or are "born again" and become "a new creature in Christ," we are then in the Church of God. Our names are written in heaven's book.

—M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1. Who is the door and the good shepherd? 2. Who draws us to Jesus to be saved? 3. Does Holy Spirit conviction give us power to quit some of our sins? 4. What does it mean to be "born again"? 5. Can we be saved without having godly sorrow, and what is the difference in just being sorry about wrong doing? 6. Who keeps the record of all who are in the Church?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

In reading the Bible we notice that the devil tries to counterfeit everything that God has or does. We read about the good shepherd, but we are right away reminded about the hireling or the false shepherd. John 10:12. Surely, we need to be watchful whom we follow. Then we notice that Jesus says, "I am the door," and our memory verse speaks about the "strait gate," but Jesus also warned about that gate that is "wide" and "broad is the way that leadeth to destruction." Matt. 7:13. The devil is opposing everything God has done or tries

to do to help people find the right way, which leads to heaven. We need to be aware of the many false teachers and prophets that are in the world which "come as angels of light" to deceive souls. Some false prophets speak a lot of truth, but it is to deceive. But thank God, if we are honest and will read the Word of God with an eye singled to find truth, we will be led by His Spirit into all truth. Praise God for that faithful Spirit of God that deals with honest souls in the world today.

The Father, God, through the Holy Spirit deals with a sinner. As they listen and yield to that Spirit, He points them to Christ. There, they see Christ standing with outstretched arms, saying, "Come unto me." Your sins are many and they have become a great load upon your mind, conscience and body. You need deliverance. The Holy Spirit has convinced you of this; so as you look to Jesus, you see Him as your Saviour from your sins. You see Him as the One who died on the cross and bore the punishment for your sins. Then He arose from the grave, and today He is sitting at the right hand of the Father, interceding for you. The Holy Spirit has brought you to the door, which is Christ. He is the door into the Church. There you repent of your sins with godly sorrow. Jesus forgives you and you are "born again." You become a new creature in Christ Jesus. You forsake your sins and turn with all your heart to the Lord. As God looks down upon your broken and contrite spirit and sees your godly sorrow, He forgives you of your sins. How wonderful this is! What a glorious privilege it is to have our sins blotted out. They are cast from us as far as the east is from the west. They are remembered against us no more. We are free from them.

Now God keeps the record of everyone that is born into the Church of God. He writes your name down upon that big book. Only when you sin again will your name be blotted out, but God has grace to keep us from sinning as we go on and are filled with the Holy Spirit, who gives us power. (Read Exodus 32:32, 33). When those books are opened in that last day you want your name to be there. John saw a vision of those books being opened and He said, "Whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev. 20:15. Oh, how important it is that we are born into the Church of God and have our names written in the book of life when the Judgment comes! Jesus told His disciples to "rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Any structure, place or thing of any value is most honorably entered by way of a door, gate, or entrance. To enter

our houses we pass through a doorway, which was built along with the house. To enter our automobiles, we open the door. To enter this world we are born by a natural birth. To enter a country or nation, one must pass through the customs gateway. Honorable entrance is gained through being allowed to enter by way of the door or gateway.

The Church of God can only be entered by passing through the door. Our lesson clearly explains what this door is. Christ Jesus is that door whereby we enter through repentance from sin and faith in His blood and being born again by the Spirit of God. This is the only true and just way of entering into the House of the Lord. In this life there are structures and places one can enter illegally, and perhaps escape detection and arrest. But not so with the Kingdom of God. "The kingdom of heaven is preached, and every man presseth into it." You and I must enter in through the door if we desire entrance into the favor of God.

The ark that Noah built had a door. Through this, Noah and his kin, along with all the families, entered into the ark. Think what a sad and serious time it was for the people outside the ark when the waters were rising and they were not permitted to gain the safety of the ark because "the Lord had shut him in."

Jesus said to the Church of Philadelphia that He had the key of David, and that He openeth and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth. And because of their faithfulness to Him, He set before them an open door, and no man could shut it. Oh, may this be true with every one of us. This is serious. If we refuse to obey Him and fail to follow Him, He will close us out. We cannot enter except through the door, and the door is now standing open for all who will seek the gracious way according to His Word. —L. Busbee

### CHRISTIAN ENTERING THE NARROW GATE

Christian got up to the gate. Now, over the gate there was written, "Knock, and it shall be opened unto you." He knocked, therefore, more than once or twice, saying:

"May I now enter here? Will He within

Open to sorry me, though I have been

An undeserving rebel? Then shall I

Not fail to sing His lasting praise on high."

At last there came a grave person to the gate named Goodwill, who asked who was there, and whence he came, and what he would have?

Christian: Here is a poor burdened sinner. I come from the City of Destruction, but am going to Mount Zion, that I may be delivered from the wrath to come; I would, therefore,

sir, since I am informed that by this gate is the way thither, know if you are willing to let me in.

Goodwill: I am willing with all my heart, said he; and, with that, he opened the gate.

So, when Christian was stepping in, the other gave him a pull. Then said Christian, "What means that?" The other told him, "A little distance from this gate there is erected a strong castle, of which Beelzebub is the captain; from whence both he and they that are with him shoot arrows at those that come up to this gate, if haply they may die before they can enter in." Then said Christian, "I rejoice and tremble." So when he was got in, the man of the gate asked him who directed him thither.

Christian: Evangelist bid me come hither and knock, as I did; and he said that you, sir, would tell me what I must do.

Goodwill: An open door is set before thee, and no man can shut it.  
—Pilgrim's Progress

### **MY MOTHER'S LOVE**

My Mother's love is beautiful—it is the shining thing  
I see within her lovely eyes that makes my glad heart sing.

My Mother's love is comforting—it always seems to know  
Just how to soothe, and heal, and bless, and lighten every woe.

My Mother's love is spiritual—it is a precious way  
Of warmth, and tenderness, and light, and prayer and God  
each day.

My Mother's love is mine to keep—a priceless, sacred thing,  
A treasure hid within my heart to keep—remembering.  
—Mildred Allen Jeffery

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(Teacher: If you want lessons for the third quarter which begins on Sunday, July 7, 1974, your order must be in this office by June 3, 1974.)



**May 19, 1974**

**RESTITUTION OF BELIEVERS**

**Luke 19:1-10; Ezekiel 33:15; 2 Cor. 7:11a; Heb. 12:13**

**Luke 19:1** And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

**2** And, behold, there was a man named Zaccheus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich.

**3** And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature.

**4** And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

**5** And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for today I must abide at thy house.

**6** And he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully.

**7** And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner.

**8** And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him four fold.

**9** And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forasmuch as he also is the son of Abraham.

**10** For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.

**Ezekiel 33:15** If the wicked restore the pledge, give again that he had robbed, walk in the statutes of life, without committing iniquity, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

**2 Cor. 1:11a** For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves!

**Hebrews 12:13** And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

**Memory Verse:** He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. **Prov. 28:13.**

**Central Thought:** The Lord forgives us of our sins, but wherein we have wronged another or taken something that did not belong to us, we are duty bound to clear it with them as we did with God.

**Word Definitions:** The press means, "the crowd." "A sycamore tree" is a tree with short trunk and wide lateral branches. Robbed means, to "take property from another, unlawfully, by using or threatening force or to take something legally belonging to a person."

### LESSON BACKGROUND

"Jericho, the city of palm-trees (Deut. 34:3) is about six miles from the Jordan and fifteen miles from Jerusalem. . . . In later times Jericho became a great and wealthy town, being fertilized by its abundant springs (2 Kings 2:21) and enriched by its palms and balsams. . . . The trade in balsam was extensive, and Zaccheus was evidently superintendent of the tax-collectors who had oversight of the revenue derived from that article." —Hom. Com.

The time of the winning of Zaccheus was just a few days before Jesus went to Calvary to die for our sins. It touches us to know that even though our Lord knew that His time had almost come to die, yet He was seeking out the lost. As far as we know, Zaccheus was the last convert before the cross. The penitent thief who was on the cross next to Him was the last one.

A Jew who was working for Rome was held among other Jews of that day as having very little patriotism and religion. The Jew publican was classed with thieves, and regarded as an agent of the enemy and hated accordingly. They knew they were hated. Since bitterness breeds bitterness, they returned bitterness. —M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1. Do we have any people today that are like Zaccheus before he was saved and his seeking after Jesus? Tell about some. 2. Will Jesus go where He is not wanted, and will He stay with a person who does not want Him? 3. What does real Bible salvation cause a person to want to do? 4. What about restoring something you have stolen when the person is dead? 5. Is a person generally thought more of after they correct something they have done than before?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We never know what is in the heart of people. Sometimes we look at a rich, elegantly dressed person, who seems to have

an air about himself of shrewdness and self-complacency, and think that surely he never takes time to think about God. Or, we might see the deeds (which are wicked) of a person seemingly having no regard for honesty, and think that he is too deep in sin for God to reach. But let us remember that God's Word tells us that the "grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11. Underneath all that front that people display, the Spirit of God has access to their heart. He is able to plant a seed of a desire to see Jesus. Zaccheus felt that desire and a stirring within his heart that he probably hated to acknowledge at first, even to himself. But the fame of Jesus being a friend of the publicans had reached his ears, and we find him yielding to the desire that had grown within him. As he came to the place where Jesus was to pass he could not see this Friend because of the great multitude. Being short, he climbed up into a tree. His desire caused him to lose his worldly dignity. He was so anxious to see Jesus that he forgot about those who might laugh at him. Oh, that people today would become so anxious to seek after Jesus that they would forget what their worldly friends might say or think of them! Only those who humble themselves will find Jesus. And be assured that when humble people start seeking after Jesus, He is seeking after them. Jesus has come to seek those who are lost. And be sure, if He is wanted, He will be there. The result of Zaccheus seeking after Jesus brought salvation to his heart and into his home. He was so overjoyed at having Jesus with him that he willingly said that "half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold." The love of Jesus melted his heart. It touched his pocket-book, and it ran away back into his life and pointed out where he had wronged Jesus by taking from others that which did not belong to him. Oh, to be like Jesus, was the cry of his heart. He saw something sweeter than the money or things he had stolen from others. If we love Jesus as we ought, we won't have to be told to give Him our all and take back that which we have robbed. We will want to clear up our life and keep it clear. The true spring of self-sacrifice is the reception of Christ's love. Now Zaccheus was truly a son of Abraham. He was already a Jew, but this was a greater blessing. He was now of a true spiritual descent. A Jew or Gentile becomes a "son of Abraham" when he is "born again."

Restitution was taught under the Law of God given to Moses. In Exodus 22:1 it reads, "If a man shall steal an ox, or a sheep and kill it, or sell it; he shall restore five oxen

for an ox, and four sheep for a sheep." Those who do not clear up their back lives will not prosper in the Lord.

—M. Miles

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One minister presented the picture of restitution in a man's life in this way: He drew a series of crooked turns and humps which suddenly changed and straightened out into a straight line. Our life straightens out, he said, when we come to the Lord and are saved. But what about all the people caught in those turns and humps? They have to be seen about, too. And surely this is true. The Bible plan for us to be saved is a perfect plan. It covers every essential point, and making restitution is one of those essential points. If we are truly sorry for our sins when we come to the Lord for forgiveness, it will not seem unjust or too hard to ask forgiveness of our fellowman or give back something that we took by fraud. We want our life clear and we will love the souls of our fellow-men, and will not want one thing standing in their way. Oh, how we will want to make up for all the grief and sorrow we have caused our neighbor, our loved one, or our brother! Sin not only blots our lives, but also it affects others, and we owe to others a recompense of any wrong and harm that we have caused.

It glorifies God for us to go to the person we have wronged and in an humble manner beg their forgiveness and explain to them what made the change in our life. It is a great testimony. There is no price too great for a clear conscience. I have been told that in Washington there is a fund or depository for money sent by individuals across this land of ours who want to clear up something in their life and know not how to do it except to send some payment to the government. I was in a certain store and saw a dollar bill framed with a writing attached. It was a letter from a man who sent the dollar paying back for something he stole in that store many years ago. They were so struck with such honesty that they deemed it worthy of being framed and placed for all the public to behold. One great mark of a Christian is honesty in the sight of God and in the sight of men. If you are ever in a store and find that the clerk short-changed himself, the Lord wants you to go back to the store and correct it. I remember the time that I paid a car repair bill for a little over \$30.00 and later I found that \$30.00 in my wallet. It bothered me, but I felt certain that I had paid the bill. But to be sure, I went to the garage and asked about it, and found out that somehow I had absent-mindedly put the money back into my

wallet after taking it out and laying it down on the counter. The clerk was so overjoyed that he took me in to see the big boss and I had the opportunity of witnessing for the Lord to him. It surely pays to straighten our life and keep it straight as we go.

—L. Busbee

## SOUL SUICIDE

I remember reading somewhere of an incident that happened in a gospel mission in Philadelphia. They were having a Patrons' Night and some of the rich folk from that town had come to the service. They had a song, and a prayer, and then a testimony meeting. During the course of the testimony meeting a lawyer, well known to all in that town, stood up. He said:

"Brethren and Sisters, I am sixty-two years old. Tonight I want to tell you how I became a Christian. When I was twenty-four years old, I married a young Christian girl. I was anything but a Christian. I guess I was an atheist. I didn't believe in anything or anybody. Every way I could I tried to break my wife of the habit of going to church, but I couldn't do it. She went anyway. In the course of time, God sent us a beautiful baby daughter. When the child was young, her mother took her with her to Sunday school and revivals and prayer meeting and everywhere else like that. When our child became a young woman, she was so beautiful and so cultured. I was so proud of her that I began taking her with me. I would take her on trips and parties and to night clubs and dances, and bit by bit I weaned her away from her mother. I would lie in bed on Sunday morning and hear my wife knocking on that girl's door and hear her saying, 'Doris, please wake up. Mama is getting ready to go to Sunday school. Will you go with her?' Then I would hear my girl in a sleepy voice say, 'Daddy didn't bring me in until three o'clock. If you will let me off this time, next time I will go with you.' And the next time it was another excuse. After she was nineteen or twenty she never went to church any more. She became engaged to be married. She set the date for Thanksgiving afternoon. Toward the end of October when it was getting rather cool in the Pennsylvania mountains, my daughter and her friend, and a bunch of young people took a trip or a picnic. They went out to a mountain lake. They hired a motor boat and got out and had a grand old time. It began to get dark, and they started for shore. You know that in every party there is always a smart Alec, and there was in that one. He began to rock the boat and turned it over. They were all in the water only a short distance from shore, about a block or less, maybe. They just left the boat as all of them could

swim. Instead of drying their clothes, they got into an open automobile and drove for Philadelphia. The first thing you know, the girl went to bed sick, and several of her friends were sick, but my girl seemed to be the worst of them all. The doctors said it was influenza. On the third day he said he was afraid she would get pneumonia. We got a nurse by day and by night. We got an oxygen tent. We tried everything medical science could do, but we couldn't save the girl. On the eleventh day the doctor walked up to me and said, 'Ralph, I am sorry, but Doris is dying. Will you tell her, or shall I?'

"I will tell her," I said.

"I walked in and sat down by the side of our girl's bed. My wife was on the other side, her eyes red-rimmed from lack of sleep. She looked at me; I looked down. I couldn't get up enough courage to tell my daughter that she was dying. I took hold of her hand and said, 'Darling, I am sorry, but the doctor says you are not going to live.'

"She began to cry and tried to get up and to get out of bed. She began to sob, 'Daddy, I can't die! I mustn't die! Daddy, you have a lot of money, can't you help me? Take me to a hospital. Get another doctor.'

"Darling, not only would I spend everything I have, but I would take your place. There is no use, darling; you have got to die.'

"After a while she quieted down and turned to her mother and said, 'Mama, do you think it would be bad taste for me to be buried in my wedding gown?'

"No, if you want it that way, darling.'

"Do you think he would mind if I wore our engagement ring into the grave?'

"The mother bit her lips until the blood flecked her teeth to keep from crying. She said, 'No, darling, I don't believe he would if you wanted it that way.'

"Bit by bit my girl talked her life out. After a while she raised up on her elbow and said, 'Daddy, I am dying, am I not?'

"Yes, darling. If I could, I would take your place.'

"Daddy, tell me something. I want you to tell me the truth, Daddy. Mama says if I want to go to Heaven I must take Christ as my Saviour. You have been saying all I have to do was to be a good girl. I have been a good girl, haven't I, Daddy?'

"You have been the best daughter any man ever had.'

"Daddy, whose way shall I take? Yours or Mama's?'

"I threw my arms around my child and picked her up in my arms and drew her to my heart and kissed her and said,

'Darling, if you have a moment to spare, for God's sake, for Christ's sake, for your own soul's sake, for Daddy's sake, take Mama's way!'

The lawyer said that by the time he had lowered her into the bed she was dead. He said he threw himself across the body of that child in a storm of passionate remorse and tears and gave his heart to Christ. As he talked he ran his fingers through his hair and pulled at it like he was trying to tear it out, and in a voice of memories of indescribable anguish, he said, "Men and brethren, only God in Heaven knows whether my child had time enough to take Mama's way."

But you have. You have time enough now and had better take advantage of it while there is yet opportunity. —Sel.

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**May 26, 1974**

### **SPIRIT-FILLED CHURCH**

**Mal. 3:1b, 2, 3; John 16:7, 13; Acts 1:8; 2:1-4, 47b;  
Acts 4:29, 31, 33.**

Malachi 3:1b And the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.

2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap.

3 And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I [Jesus] tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

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

Acts 1:8 But ye [disciples] shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

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 [languages], as the Spirit gave them utterance.

47b And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

4:29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

33 And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

**Memory Verse:** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 1 Cor. 6:19.

**Central Thought:** The work of the Holy Spirit is to cleanse the church (Eph. 5:25, 26), and to fill each member in the church, which is the body of Christ, with His presence to be their guide.

**Word Definitions:** The Bible definition of church is, "the body of Christ." Eph. 1:22, 23. Cleanse means, "to free from guilt; make pure; to purge; to make clean." Filled means, "to take up the whole of; occupy; to put as much as possible into." Sit as a refiner alludes to a refiner of metals who sits by the fire and increases the heat when he sees it necessary, and watches the progress of his work. When, by the fire of the Holy Spirit, we are purged of the sin principle there is yet a continual process upon our souls as we face life with its new perplexities.



## LESSON BACKGROUND

The prophecy in Malachi speaks of Jesus' coming and the "refiner's fire" which is the Holy Spirit. In Matt. 3:11, John the Baptist speaks of those who believe on Jesus shall be baptized "with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Fire purifies metal and the dross is skimmed off the top and thrown away. This was a prophecy over four hundred years before Christ's coming.

On the day of Pentecost, there were 120 assembled together, waiting to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This was fifty days after Jesus had ascended to heaven.

We will not be confused if we will think of the word tongues used in the New Testament as languages. You will notice in 1 Cor. 14, when the word "unknown" is used that it is printed in italics. "Italics" is a differently shaped design of type and means that the translators supplied the word. It was not in the original. If you read it as "languages," it will be understandable according to truth.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is a Spirit-filled church? 2. If the Holy Spirit is in each person and each one letting Him be their Guide, what kind of a service will we have when we meet together? 3. What was the spiritual condition of those who were together on the day of Pentecost waiting for the infilling of the Holy Spirit? 4. What is the definition of sanctification? 5. In a congregation where everyone speaks the English language, do we need the gift of tongues, or languages, manifested?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It is a marvel to me when I study the great plan of God concerning mankind. How wonderful it is to know that He never left one thing undone that we needed. God knew that we would need more than just our volitional sins forgiven. He did not forget about that sin principle that had passed upon all mankind from Adam. The cleansing of that sin principle is the work of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is a person, and is referred to as "He." His work is compared to the cleansing of anything by fire. Also, He is spoken of as the "fire burning" in one's heart. When we have that fire burning in our very souls then those things that touch our lives will be burned up by the Holy Spirit and we will have power to face them. Any ill feeling that the devil would try to bring to us from an injustice will be burned up by the Holy Spirit, and we will be able to forgive and commit that person to God. How precious it is to have the Holy Spirit indwelling within our souls.

Jesus' work, when here, was to gather together those who would be ready for the coming of the Holy Spirit who would fill the church and cleanse it. We read in Eph. 5:25, 26, "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word." The word sanctify means to "set apart," and also "to purify." So we are thankful that on that day when the 120 were assembled, they were "set apart" as God's special possession and were cleansed and purified of that sin principle. They were also given power to witness for God. We remember how Peter sinned because he didn't have power to stand by Christ when He was brought to trial. Peter denied that he even knew Him. Matt. 26:69-75. But after he was filled with the Holy Spirit, we find him on that day boldly declaring that they had crucified the Holy One. He was bold through the working of the Holy Spirit power within him. We find that the Spirit-filled church went forth and through the anointing of the Spirit upon them many souls were born into the church and God added daily to the church "such as should be saved." Thank God for the Spirit-filled church today that is in operation. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For a Church to be a Spirit-filled Church, all the members, each one of them, must be Spirit-filled. This comes down to each individual. God designs that each and every member of His body be filled and anointed with the Holy Spirit with the exception of the new-born babes that have just recently been converted. But even to them the message is given not to tarry but go forth toward the Spirit-filled and perfected life in God. To draw back from this will mean spiritual ruin and defeat. He does not want a soul to go for years and years before it begins to seek the Lord for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. But rather the justified soul should early begin to seek the Lord, consecrating his or her life all on the altar for God and His cause. We should seek for this with all our heart, making living for God the number one thing in our lives. Being filled with the Holy Ghost and being sanctified are one and the same thing, no matter how mixed-up people with darkened hearts will argue to the contrary. Much confusion exists in the minds of many people on the subject of Bible sanctification, but it need not be so. The scriptures are so plain when we view them in their true setting. Jesus, praying for the disciples before He was taken from them, said to the Father, "Sanctify them through thy truth, thy word is truth. For their sakes I sanctify myself that they all might be sanctified through the truth." John 17:

17, 19. Oh, one cannot read and behold the recorded life of Christ and truly deny that His followers are all willed to be filled with the Spirit.

Of all the doctrines of the Bible, the devil surely hates this one. He knows that once a soul gets light on sanctification and seeks for it and obtains the experience, he, as the adversary of men's souls, is defeated. If he can keep it veiled in mystery or have doctrines floating around to confuse the mind, he is very glad for many hearts are hindered from entering into the blessed Canaan rest of sanctification and being filled with the Spirit. Other souls that this particular person might be a blessing to through being sanctified will be hindered also. But praise the Lord for those who will press their way through all the confusion, whom the Lord will lead unerringly to the blessed land of promise and full salvation! They will bear the splendid fruits of the Canaan land and rejoice in its grace, year in and year out, day in and day out. We must seek for this experience with a thirsting quest that will take nothing short of complete victory for an answer. This is God's plan and purpose, the mystery that has been hid from the ages past and is now revealed to His servants to be preached and experienced.

—L. Busbee

### FOR THE GRADUATE

If you can hear the whispering about you  
And never yield to deal in whispers, too;  
If you can bravely smile when loved ones doubt you  
And never doubt, in turn, what loved ones do;  
If you can keep a sweet and gentle spirit  
In spite of fame or fortune, rank or place,  
And though you win your goal or only near it,  
Can win with poise or lose with equal grace;

If you can meet with unbelief, believing,  
And hallow in your heart a simple creed;  
If you can meet deception undeceiving,  
And learn to look to God for all you need;  
If you can be to fathers and to mothers  
Chums in joys and comrades in distress;  
And be unto others as you'd have the others  
Be unto you—no more, and yet no less;

If you can keep within your heart the power  
To say that firm, unconquerable "No";  
If you can brave a present shadowed hour  
Rather than yield to build a future woe;

If you can love, yet not let loving master,  
But keep yourself within your own self's clasp,  
And not let dreaming lead you to disaster.  
Nor pity's fascination loose your grasp;

If you can lock your heart on confidences  
Nor ever needlessly in turn confide;  
If you can put behind you all pretenses  
Of mock humility or foolish pride;  
If you can keep the simple homely virtue  
Of walking right with God—then have no fear  
That anything in all the world can hurt you—  
And, you'll be a Man—you'll be a Woman, dear.  
—Selected

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June 2, 1974

### THE GIFTS AND CALLINGS IN THE CHURCH

**Eph. 4:7, 8, 11, 12; Rom. 12:6-8; 1 Cor. 12:4, 7-11.**

Ephesians 4:7 Unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.

Romans 12:6 Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith;

7 Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching;

8 Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence: he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

1 Cor. 12:4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

**Memory Verse:** But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him. 1 Cor. 12:18.

**Central Thought:** The body of Christ is one, but all the members do not have the same office; for it is the Holy Spirit that distributes to every man the gift and calling that is pleasing to God and beneficial to the church.

**Word Definitions:** Apostle: a delegate, ambassador of the Gospel; a commissioner of Christ with miraculous powers. Prophet: a foreteller, or an inspired speaker. Evangelist: an announcer of good news. Pastor: a shepherd, or one who feeds and cares for the flock. Teacher: Instructor. The word Proportion in the Greek indicates Divine revelation and communication as distributed to the individual. Exhortation: solace, consolation, a calling near and inviting. Severally: individually.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

God is gracious as well as wise to plan and ordain gifts and callings for men who are redeemed and called by His holy purpose. In the beginning, man was placed in the garden to dress and to keep it. Here was responsibility and faithfulness. In the New Testament Church through the avenue of the Holy Spirit is given to the children of God various functions, offices, and gifts. It is important that we be not ignorant of the spiritual gifts and the function of each in the body of Christ and the work of the Lord. God looks down into a man's heart and weighs his capabilities and what he can handle, and distributes to each accordingly. With each one working in the capacity that God has called and given, the work progresses and souls are blessed in the body and in the world. In this lesson consider the different gifts and callings of God, and count it a privilege and an honour to be chosen to be in the body of Christ regardless of what the Lord may bestow upon us.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Church likened unto in this lesson?
2. Are we privileged to choose in what capacity we will serve the Lord?
3. Who is it that bestows the gifts in their proper places?

4. How is this done? 5. What is the attitude that one should hold who is endowed with a spiritual gift? 6. Can you take each gift and visualize the benefit and profit of each one?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Not every one is gifted and anointed in the same manner with the same thing. There are diversities of gifts and callings. When Christ arose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God, He received of the Father gifts to be distributed by avenue of the Holy Spirit to His own. It rests solely in the wisdom of the Father as to whom the gifts are given, and what gift is given to each individual. There is one body, one Spirit, one Lord, one faith, and one God. We are called in one hope. But to every one is given the portion of grace that the gift of Christ measures, or distributes. This clearly illustrates the personal contact and knowledge that the Saviour has of all His own. He knows their down sitting and their uprising, their capabilities and their inabilities. According to what He knows they can properly and successfully handle will He bestow His divine gifts.

Each function of the members of the natural body is different, but altogether they co-operate to make life and health possible. So it is with Christ's body, the Church of God. God sets the members in the body as seemeth good in His sight, and we know His ways are best. He had a work to give Paul to do, a work that He saw that Paul would be able to handle. Perhaps Ananias, when he was instructed to go and pray for Saul to be healed and go forth for Christ, might have been tempted to think: "Well, Lord, why could you not send me on that kind of mission?" I do not think that he entertained such a thought. He knew that God was running His own business.

Every function in the Church is there, not because of human talent or esteem or ability, but is placed as a divine gift upon the faithful heart and life of the respective child of God. There is nothing to glory in as far as the human is concerned. It is of God, and God alone. It is given not for praise or exaltation of the individual, but rather that it might profit the entire body. In enjoying, using, and being thankful for the gifts, we must not lose sight of the Giver. Much is said in these days of the gifts, and many get carried away with these things. But Jesus warned us not to rejoice because of the devils being made subject to us (or for any other divine power), but rather that our names are written in heaven.

We are exhorted in our lesson to wait on the gifts, and prophesy and exercise ourselves according to the proportion of faith that has been distributed unto us. The word of wisdom

is much needed in our time, and so is the word of knowledge. Notice how these two are mentioned first. Could it be that this means that they are just that much more important? We surely need much wisdom, counsel, and solace, do we not? And the most wonderful thing is that God tempers the body together, so that all these gifts, though different, worketh for the one and self-same purpose of glorifying God and benefiting the souls of men.

—L. Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are a number of gifts in the body of Christ. Each one has its place and is very important. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, he is then given a gift. Many times the devil will be right there to push a person ahead of God's plan for him, and that person many times becomes discouraged. Zeal without knowledge is a hindrance to souls. The Bible says, "For I bear them record, that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge." Romans 10:2. Yet, on the other hand, we do not want to dampen zeal. I am afraid that not very many have enough zeal. But zeal is a beautiful work and very profitable when it is according to knowledge. God will give that knowledge, but one must wait in prayer upon the Lord to have it. We notice in the life of the Apostle Paul that after his conversion and being filled with the Holy Spirit that he went into Arabia and spent three years before he went up to Jerusalem. Then he spent fifteen days with Peter and also conferred with the other Apostles. God was preparing him for a work. Many times we have seen in the lives of others how God was preparing them for a work that was not known to them, but as they moved on they moved right into greater responsibilities and a greater work for God as they kept humble.

There are gifts of giving. This must be prayerfully administered. The gift of mercy is much needed. Many times oil of mercy needs to be poured in after a soul has heard some truths that seems hard to measure up to, yet the truth must not be compromised. There are many gifts that are not mentioned in the Bible, but there is a work for all.

—M. Miles

## DOES YOUR LIFE RING TRUE?

You may testify in public that you love the Lord,  
You may sing aloud His praises and proclaim His Word;  
You may tell of sins forgiven just as others do;  
But the question comes, my brother: Does your life ring true?

How about your daily conduct as you come and go?  
Are you careless in your dealings? Does your grocer know  
He can trust you for the payment when your bill comes due?  
True religion bears this testing: Does your life ring true?

Are you kind to those who hate you, helping when you can?  
Are you patient and forgiving towards your fellow-man?  
Are you doing unto others as you'd have them do  
Were they in your stead, my brother, Does your life ring true?

People see as well as hear you: more than words are deeds;  
When your life and lips speak discord, who respects your creeds?  
'Tis the faithful, daily witness of the blood-washed, who  
Give to God the glory due Him, for their lives ring true.

—Author unknown

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June 9, 1974

### UNITY OF BELIEVERS

John 17:19, 20-23; Gal. 3:28; Acts 4:2, 3, 21, 23, 24a, 32a;  
Col. 3:14; 1 Cor. 12:25; Eph. 4:3; 1 Cor. 1:10

John 17:19 And for their [disciples] sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

20 Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word;

21 That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

22 And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one:

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

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

Acts 4:2 [The rulers] Being grieved that they [the disciples] taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

3 And they laid hands on them, and put them in hold unto the next day: for it was now eventide.



21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and repeated all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24a And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord.

32a And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul.

Colossians 3:14 And above all these things put on charity [love], which is the bond of perfectness.

1 Cor. 12:25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.

Ephesians 4:3 Endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

1 Cor. 1:10 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.

Memory Verse: Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1.

Central Thought: "There is no true and perfect unity without heart-purity, and there is no true heart-purity without Bible unity" and there is no true Bible holiness without both.

Word Definition: Unity means, "to make into one; to become one; consolidate; unite."

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Our first verses were part of the prayer of Jesus to His Father for His disciples and all that believed on His name through their labors, which would be us today.

The part of scripture in Acts was written by Luke and is an account of the early church being persecuted. Some of the disciples were put in prison because a man was healed, who had been born a cripple. It stirred the rulers because it was told that through the name of Jesus the man had been healed. After

they were threatened they went back to their company who with one accord prayed for them. When they heard how God had delivered the disciples from the rulers they rejoiced. There was unity among them. They were of "one heart and of one soul."

The other scriptures we have chosen were written by the Apostle Paul. In 1 Cor. 12:11-27, the Apostle Paul uses an example of the human body to show the unity of the body of Christ.

—M. Miles

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the difference between the bringing together of many human organizations or churches, and real Bible unity?
2. What did Jesus say in His prayer that would make perfect unity among believers?
3. What are we commanded to do to keep the unity of Spirit?
4. Did the disciples go to their homes and worldly friends when they were released from prison?
5. What is the mortar that holds the "lively stones" together in God's Building?
6. What are we to do with those who cause division? (Rom. 16:17).

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

Our subject is so great that only a few scriptures could be chosen to study. We thank God for the wonderful unity of the saints of God. Even though two people might be strangers, if both have the Spirit of God dwelling in them, it won't be long after they meet that they have a fellowship and a bond of love that makes them flow together. There is nothing like it in this world of social mixing. One person got on a train. He wondered if anyone else on the train was saved and loved the Lord. He said out loud, "Praise God," and way in the back of the train someone said, "Amen." They made their way to each other and had a good time talking about the good things of the Lord. They were not strangers in the Lord. They both knew the same God. They both were filled with the same Spirit and they both were interested in the same thing, and that was to please the Lord. What a glorious truth this is, and only God can make it so!

In some of the last hours of our Lord's time here on earth, He thought about His disciples and all of those who would believe on Him down through the years to come. His prayer to His Father was, "that they all may be one." Jesus had told the Father that the disciples and believers had believed on Him; that they were not of this world, and had been kept in His name, but He still prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth . . . that they all may be one." John 17:19, 22.

Salvation brings us into divine relationship with one another, but sanctification destroys the indwelling sin principle that prevents perfect unity which Christ in His prayer so much desired. Heart-purity will bring oneness. Paul, in writing to the brethren in Corinth, mentions about their strife and preacher-preference and attributed it to the fact that they were still "carnal." They needed that carnality to be destroyed so they could be of "one mind and one soul."

Love is like the mortar that holds the blocks in the building together. So we need perfect love to have perfect unity. In our lesson the disciples wanted the first thing to go to their company and those who believed on Jesus Christ. They were their people. They were knit together with love and were of "one heart and of one soul. How precious!

Does the human body have disunion and inharmony? Of course this is impossible. The Apostle Paul compares the unity of believers with the unity in the natural body. We are all members of the one body of Christ. This represents a perfect picture of true unity among the members of Christ. —M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Two of the things that Jesus prayed to the Father for, concerning His disciples in John 17, was for them to be sanctified and for them to be one. In Hebrews 2:11, we read that "both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one." It is impossible for anyone to scripturally deny that all who are truly saved and sanctified, and who are being led by the Spirit are one. Paul rebuked divisions and strifes in his day and branded them as fruits of carnality. It is the design of the New Testament plan of salvation for carnality to be destroyed out of the heart and the Holy Spirit in all His fruits and workings enthroned. This alone will bring the unity that Christ prayed for. Men suppose today that they must legislate and organize to bring about this unity, but their efforts are vain.

Humility is a vital ingredient in the recipe of unity. Any element of pride and self-esteem will keep the heart from flowing together with another. There must be a disposition in the soul that esteems the other better than himself. This involves having the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to such depths of humiliation. This brings us to another ingredient: self-denial and the cross. Strife comes through efforts of carnal self-preservation or self exaltation. When this element is destroyed from the soul, all cause of division is gone. Another ingredient is love, divine love. If we really love our neighbor and our brother as we should, we will pursue peace with him or her. Charity, as our lesson declares, is the bond of perfectness; and

Peter stated that it would cover a multitude of sins. Another ingredient is the peace of God which is to rule in our hearts. To this we are called in one body. We are to pursue peace and endeavor to live in peace with all men, especially so with our brethren.

It has been brought out that there are three phases of unity. They are unity of the Spirit, unity of the faith, and the unity of co-operation. Yes, there is a practical side to this. We might be united in heart by the Holy Ghost, but if we do not watch we can fail to work together as we should in the work of the Lord. Paul and Barnabas were in the unity of the faith and the unity of the Spirit, but the contention became sharp between them as to whether they should take John Mark with them on their journey. I am not going to say just who was at fault here, but it is to be noted that John Mark was some fleshly kin to Barnabas. How easily things like this can cause us to fall short of the unity of co-operation. —L. Busbee

### AN INFIDEL'S DEATH

Altamont, that learned and defiant French infidel, made the members of his infidel club promise to come to his death bed when they should hear he was dying. How he boasted to them that they should see him meet death boldly, without the least reliance upon the blood of Christ.

When he was about to change worlds, his club came. They said, "We have come to hear how it is with you in the dying hour." As he fixed a look of fear and of horror, shivering and shrieking with terror, he exclaimed, "Oh, if you had one-half the mountain upon your souls that is upon mine, you would struggle with the martyr for his stake, and would bless God for a flame that is not an everlasting fire." After uttering such language, stretching his hand above his head, and gazing upward in awful agony, he cried, "O Thou merciful but blasphemed and insulted God, hell itself is a refuge if it but hide me from Thy frown." He then fell back on his pillow, dead.

—Selected

### ONE LITTLE HOUR

"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us." Romans 8:18.

One little hour for watching with the Master,  
Eternal years to walk with Him in white;  
One little hour to bravely meet disaster,  
Eternal years to reign with Him in light;  
One little hour to suffer scorn and losses,

Eternal years beyond earth's cruel frowns;  
 One little hour to carry heavy crosses,  
 Eternal years to wear unfading crowns;  
 One little hour for weary toils and trials,  
 Eternal years for calm and peaceful rest;  
 One little hour for patient self-denials,  
 Eternal years of life where life is best;  
 Then, souls, be brave and watch until the morrow,  
 Awake, arise, your lamps of purpose trim;  
 Your Savior speaks across the night of sorrow,  
 Can you not watch one little hour with Him?

—Selected

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June 16, 1974

### GUIDE FOR BELIEVERS

**Jno. 6:63, 66-68; 5:39; Mark 13:31, 33, 36; 2 Tim. 3:16, 17;  
 Acts 17:10-12**

John 6:63 [Jesus said to his disciples] It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.

67 Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away?

68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life.

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

Mark 13:31 Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

2 Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

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

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

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

**Memory Verse:** Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4:4b.

**Central Thought:** The Bible is our Guide. It should be read slowly, frequently, prayerfully, because it is to us as our compass, or map, to show us the way to heaven.

**Word Definition:** Search means "to examine carefully; probe; to look through in order to find" what God requires of us so we can please Him and be ready when He calls us to leave this world.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our first verses in John were spoken by Jesus to a number of His disciples. Also the verses in Mark are by Jesus. The verses in 2 Tim. were instructions given to the young convert named Timothy. The verses in Acts were written by Luke which are an account of the visit of Paul and Silas to Berea, a Gentile city.

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Word of God to us? 2. Who tells us how to have eternal life? 3. Why is it so important that we study the scriptures? 4. What did Paul tell Timothy the scriptures were given for? 5. Discuss some false teachings that are given out today by false teachers.

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Most of the man-made organizations of today have what they call their "Discipline" for their members. Even so, we in God's Church have a discipline and that is the New Testament's teachings. They are our Guide. We have so many today trying to interpret it and they are taking some and leaving out other parts, also taking symbols to mean literal things, and thus, many are becoming very confused. But dear ones, there is a chain in the Scriptures which must be found. When we read it under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, it will link together and not contradict. But, sad to say, not many are read-

ing the Bible, but are listening to what many false preachers say on the radio and otherwise. These preachers think they ought to know because they have studied the Bible the required years in their Bible schools and learned under the best professors. But we are to "study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim. 2:15.

Recently, a woman came into the office and she saw the booklet, "Was The Devil Ever In Heaven?" She read the title and said, "Why, yes, he was in heaven, he sinned and got kicked out." I asked her where she read that in the Bible. She couldn't tell me. Then she asked me, "Can't the angels sin?" I told her, no, that they were "ministering spirits," as the Bible tells us in Heb. 1:13, 14. And, of course, we should know that there will never be any sin or trouble in heaven. We wouldn't want to go there if there was. She said, "Well, that's what you get by listening to others and not studying your Bible yourself." Just so it is. I told her that sometimes a person has to unlearn a lot of things that they have learned that were wrong.

Another question she asked was: "Can a person be forgiven of the sin of adultery when they have married again while in sin?" She meant when one would leave his companion, get a divorce, and marry again. I told her that we would let the Bible tell her what the answer was to that, so we read in Matt. 19:3-9, where Jesus tells us that God made male and female in the beginning and that, "What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder." Then we read in Romans 7:2,3, where Paul taught the early church that a wife was bound to her husband as long as he lived, but if he was dead she could marry again. It is just as plain as A-B-C. We know that we are living in an age of much adulterous living. Some don't bother to marry, etc. We know that people need God's help in such cases. But we must study the Word of God and rightly divide it. We must live a clean, holy life to be ready to go to that heaven that is made for the pure and holy. No sin will enter there. The Bible is a gold mine of good things for us and we need to search it and seek to know what God requires of us. When this world is on fire and it passes away, we want to be measured to the Word of God so we can be ready to be taken to heaven.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If there is any one thing that we should treasure the most, it is the Bible, and the privilege we have to read and learn of the grace and the love of God. I once heard a story about a father who gave his son a choice of two things that was to be

given him. The choice was between a ten-dollar bill, and a Bible. The son gave it some serious thought. He thought of the many things he could buy for himself with the money and how he would enjoy it. But he thought of the value of the Bible and how it would teach him how to live and be ready to meet the Lord in death or at the last day. He finally decided to take the Bible, much to his father's delight. He joyfully presented his son with the Bible and watched him take it and sit down to read and look therein. As the boy was leafing through the Bible, reading here and there, he came upon a ten-dollar bill inserted in the pages. He went on farther and found another, and another. How true this is! If we will seek the way of life over and above the material things, the Lord will take care of these temporal things also.

I have been much inspired with some of Robert Pollock's speaking of the Bible. He was but a young man when he wrote these lines: "They had the Bible. Hast thou ever heard of such a book? The author, God Himself; The subject, God and man, salvation, life and death—eternal life, eternal death—dread words! whose meaning has no end, no bounds—Most wondrous Book! Bright candle of the Lord! Star of eternity! the only star by which the bark of man could navigate the sea of life, and gain the coast of bliss securely; only star which rose on Time, and, on its dark and troubled billows, still, as generation, drifting swiftly by, succeeded generation, threw a ray of heaven's light, and to the hills of God, the everlasting hills, pointed the sinner's eye. Evangelists, apostles, men inspired, and by the Holy Ghost anointed, set apart, and consecrated to declare to earth the counsels of the Eternal One. This book—this holy book, on every line marked with the seal of high divinity, on every leaf bedewed with drops of love divine, and with the eternal heraldry and signature of God Almighty stamped from first to last. This ray of sacred light, this lamp, from off the everlasting throne, Mercy took down, and in the night of time stood, casting on the dark her gracious bow; and evermore beseeching men, with tears and earnest sighs, to read, believe, and live.

And many to her voice gave ear, and read, believed, obeyed; and now, as the Amen, True, faithful Witness swore, with snowy robes and branchy palms surround the fount of life, and drink the streams of immortality, forever happy, and forever young."

—L. Busbee

### SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

Do not neglect your Bible. A good book is all right in its place, but if you have the Bible, you have the Book of books; you have more than all others put together, because it is God's



own word to you, and it is life. See St. John 1:1, 2. There is so much neglect of reading the Bible these days; therefore I feel it my duty to warn you. So if you want to go to heaven, you must search the Bible, or else how will you ever find out what the Lord wants you to do, what heaven is, and what hell is, and the way to get to heaven? Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6). Well, how would I know this if Jesus had not said it and I found it in the New Testament that He left for us? In the Bible we see what is left for us in Jesus' will, what we will inherit if we keep His sayings and do them. What book besides the Bible promises you this? How are you to know what to do if you don't read and search it? If you have none, get one at once; and if you have, read it. Don't lay it on the shelf or in a place where it is unhandy; have it with you wherever you go. Instead of picking up a paper or book, take your Bible and read a portion. If you wish to live happy and want to go to heaven, and if you want to win souls for Jesus, read your Bible and be faithful. If you want to be a true servant of Jesus Christ, read the Bible. —Selected

### THE BIBLE—YET IT LIVES

Generations follow generations—yet it lives.  
 Nations rise and fall—yet it lives.  
 Kings, dictators, presidents come and go—yet it lives.  
 Torn, condemned, burned—yet it lives.  
 Doubted, suspected, criticized—yet it lives.  
 Damned by atheists—yet it lives.  
 Scoffed at by scorners—yet it lives.  
 Exaggerated by fanatics—yet it lives.  
 Misconstrued and mis-stated—yet it lives.  
 Ranted and raved about—yet it lives.  
 Its inspiration denied—yet it lives.  
 Yet it lives—as a lamp to our feet.  
 Yet it lives—as a light to our paths.  
 Yet it lives—as a gate to heaven.  
 Yet it lives—as a standard for childhood.  
 Yet it lives—as a guide for youth.  
 Yet it lives—as an inspiration for the matured.  
 Yet it lives—as a comfort for the aged.  
 Yet it lives—as food for the hungry.  
 Yet it lives—as water for the thirsty.  
 Yet it lives—as rest for the weary.  
 Yet it lives—as light for the heathen.  
 Yet it lives—as salvation for the sinner.  
 Yet it lives—as grace for the Christian.

To know it is to love it.  
To love it is to accept it.  
To accept it means life eternal.

—Willard L. Johnson

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June 23, 1974

## **PURPOSE AND MEANING OF CHRISTIAN BAPTISM**

**Matt. 3:13-17; 28:19, 20; Acts 8:36b, 37, 38; Col. 2:12;  
Col. 3:3; 1 Peter 3:20b, 21**

Matthew 3:13 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him.

14 But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?

15 And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him.

16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him;

17 And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

28:19 [Jesus said to His disciples] Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

Acts 8:36b And the [Ethiopian] eunuch said [to Philip], See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?

37 And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

38 And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him.

Colossians 2:12 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

**3:3** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

**1 Peter 3:20b** Once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

**21** The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Memory Verse:** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. Romans 6:4.

**Central Thought:** Baptism by immersion into water is a figure of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, testifying that we who are thus baptized are partakers of the risen life of Christ both now and forever.

**Word Definitions:** "Baptize" is a Greek word which means to completely whelm or submerge, to dip or immerse. "Figure" The word figure in our lesson in the Greek is our word "anti-type" which means "corresponding to" that is, a representation or counterpart. Noah's passing safely through the flood was a type of which baptism is the corresponding fulfillment.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

There is quite a background to the presentation of baptism to the New Testament. As our lesson reveals, baptism goes away back to Noah. He and his family were saved (carried safely through—Greek) by water. Psalm 24:2 tells us that God founded the earth upon the floods and established it upon the seas. In the creation, He divided the waters from the waters. The world that then was (because of sin) being overflowed with water, perished. It is a very worthy comparison, our deliverance from death and being saved from drowning in water. Baptism illustrates this. Moses, to be spared from death, was placed in the river at the mercy of God. The Egyptian princess who found and saved him called him Moses, which means, drawn out of water. Paul said in 1 Cor. 10:2 that Israel "were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea." Look at how God miraculously helped them to cross the angry depths of the sea unharmed! Jesus said that the only sign to be given to the wicked generation was the sign of the prophet Jonas. He likened His death and burial to the ordeal and miraculous

delivery of Jonah from the deep and the whale's belly. Jonah said, "All thy waves and thy billows are gone over me." The entire theme of baptism points to the death, burial, and glorious resurrection of our blessed King of glory. When we are taken down into the watery grave and put beneath the water, it means that we are turning our backs on sin and the world, and are looking forward to a new life for Him in this world and a life in glory with Christ when we leave this world.

—L. Busbee

## QUESTIONS:

1. What was John's reason for not wanting to baptize Jesus? 2. Why did Jesus command to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? 3. What is the prescribed method of baptism: sprinkling, pouring, or immersion? Why? 4. When should a person be baptized? 5. Does baptism literally wash away your sins? 6. Just how does baptism save us?

## ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

It is a sacred scene to behold in the account of the baptism of our Saviour. It was needful and right for Him to fulfill the Father's law. He is our example of humility, meekness, and obedience. The baptism of John for the remission of sins pointed toward the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord. And Jesus came to be baptized of John with this in mind. It was the Father's great will to purchase and redeem the souls of men from the pit of darkness and sin, and lift them from the waters of sorrow and death. It was through Jesus that this was to be accomplished, and it was accomplished through His death on the cross, and His glorious resurrection from the tomb. Of baptism, this is a worthy symbol.

We should not only be willing to submit to baptism, but we should desire it even as the Ethiopian eunuch desired it. "What doth hinder me from being baptized?" How eager we should be to fulfill the Father's will also.

To be really saved from sin and this wicked world means that our affections are on things above. We are looking for a city to come. We are but strangers and pilgrims here and are partakers of the Christ life, the life that He was given of God when He came forth triumphantly from the grave. Baptism in water is not washing away our sins, but it does have something to do with remission of sins. Were it not for the essence of baptism there would be no remission. Being baptized should not be just a form or a ritual. It should be carried out with great meaning and serious and sacred thought. Ananias told Paul when he came to pray for him: "And now why tarriest

thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." Acts 22:16. So many take that scripture and assuredly gather that you wash away your sins when you are baptized. But careful and prayerful consideration of the setting of this reveals something else. The Greek says, "Wash away your sins, having called on the name of the Lord." It was a command to Saul to leave his sins for the blood to cover and launch out in the life of a Christian.

Thus we see that baptism is yet a part of the soul's progress with the Saviour. When we get a clear picture of its meaning, it becomes a joy to us to follow the Lord in this sacred ordinance. Just as Noah was carried safely through and delivered from the waters of the flood, even so we shall be saved from the wrath of God that will be poured out upon us in the last day. This is done through the power of His resurrection. We are living this new life in Christ now.—L. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Do we take the body of a person, who has died, to the cemetery and sprinkle a little dirt on him? Would we call that burying him? I am sure you agree that he would not be buried. Well, the Bible tells us that we are "buried with him [Jesus] by baptism unto death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Jesus was buried, which would mean He was put out of sight. To be buried with Jesus in baptism would be to do like the eunuch that Philip took down into the water and put out of sight under the water. If Philip had sprinkled a little water on him, he surely would not have been buried out of sight. But we are sorry that today there are many who are willing to take a short cut and just be sprinkled with a little water and feel sure that they have obeyed the scriptures and have been buried in baptism. This will not stand. This is not obedience. But those who will take that short cut will take another short cut. They will not be obeying the rest of the verse which says, "walk in newness of life." Their lives possibly have not been changed much. In fact, when they get light on how they should be baptized and refuse to do so, they will be cut off from God. God is longsuffering and will wait until folks get light and knowledge, but when they refuse to walk in the light, darkness comes to them and the Bible says, "great is that darkness."

There is also a false understanding about being baptized for the remission of sins. There is no cleansing in the water. A person must be saved from his sins and then be baptized. This is to show the world that he has been saved from his sins. But if a person's sins have not been forgiven by God, through

godly sorrow and repentance, he will go down into the water a dry sinner and come up just a wet sinner. —M. Miles

### A LESSON FROM TWO FATHERS

One of my earliest interests was my father's bookcase with all its delightful volumes. Daddy often read aloud to his family, but I looked forward to the day when I would be old enough to go to school and learn to read, so that I might better share in his pleasure in the books.

No doubt Daddy was just as eager for that day of more complete sharing as he let me look at the pictures and illustrations in some of the books, somehow trusting my childish fingers to use the necessary care for proper handling. Of course, I was taught that certain rules went with this privilege and that I must abide by them.

One of my favorites was a book that was profusely illustrated by a then well-know artist whose drawing even a child could enjoy. I looked through this book often.

A pencil was another thing that I needed to make life complete. I needed one to make endless scribbling and to try to balance it over an ear as I had seen Daddy do. Again my parents granted my wish and gave me a tiny stub of a pencil—and necessary rules to protect the walls and other things from my "literary" efforts.

All went well for some time, and then one day while looking at my favorite book, I was overcome by temptation and I marked on several of the illustrations and even on some of the text.

My act was immediately discovered and the book was taken away. Daddy took the pencil from my guilty fingers and said, sadly, "Pearl is just not old enough to know how to use a pencil properly."

He tossed the poor little stub into the fire and it was consumed before my eyes. I did not know that on a recent trip to town he had purchased a new pencil especially for me. At that very moment it reposed in a compartment of his desk, waiting for the moment when he could present it to me. But this was certainly not the time.

Like Cain, I thought my punishment was more than I could bear. But even greater than the loss of the book and of my cherished pencil was the knowledge that I had broken my father's rules and betrayed his trust in me.

At my first opportunity I got the book down from the shelf again and tried to erase the marks that I had made. I had no eraser but used a dampened fingertip to rub the spots. I succeeded in removing some of the marks—along with the print and even some of the paper. My mother rescued the book at

this point and explained that the marks must remain just as I had made them, lest I do even greater damage.

Only a few days later Daddy seated himself at his desk and opened it to reveal all the fascinating pigeon-holes, nooks, and crevices that so enticed me. As usual, I gravitated toward this center of interest and he had only to speak to have me up in his lap. He asked if I had learned my lesson and I assured him that I had. Then he gave me the new pencil that he had so desired to give me all that time. Perhaps his joy was even greater than mine, but my joy seemed complete. I had been restored to Daddy's confidence, for he had demonstrated his forgiveness by trusting me again with his books and a pencil of my very own.

A few years ago when it became necessary to divide the household things after the death of our parents, you may be sure that one thing I really cherished was that battered old book. Today those pages still bear the scars of my disobedience but also call back the memories of a loving and forgiving father.

What a picture, in a small way, of our loving Heavenly Father! He too is eager for the day when He can share the blessings of His heavenly kingdom with His children. He grants us daily previews of some of those blessings while we are not able yet to grasp the whole of them. He has provided the Un-speakable Gift for us and eagerly awaits the time when He can bestow it on our penitent hearts.

How useless it is for us to try to erase our own sins! Though some scars may remain as reminders to us, our Heavenly Father forgives and forgets them and restores us to His confidence and trust. All praise to His matchless name! And a special thank-you for the Christian fathers in this world who help us to better understand the love of the Heavenly Father!

—Selected by H. P. Huskey

### **A FALSE TEACHING**

There is no greater false teaching than the teaching of joining the church of your choice. There is but one true church, and you are born into it (Psa. 87:6; Eph. 5:25-27). When you repent with godly sorrow, you are "born again." —M. Miles

**June 30, 1974**

**OBSERVING THE ORDINANCES**

**Matt. 28:20a; John 13:4, 5, 12-15; 1 Cor. 11:23-29.**

**Matt. 28:20a** [Jesus said] Teaching them [believers] to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you.

**John 13:4** He [Jesus] riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

**5** After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded.

**12** So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

**13** Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

**14** If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

**15** For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

**1 Cor. 11:23** For I [Paul] have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

**24** And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

**25** After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

**26** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death until he come.

**27** Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

**28** But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

**29** For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.



**Memory Verse:** Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things, and keep the ordinances, as I delivered them to you. 1 Cor. 11:2.

**Central Thought:** The gospel, which is the grandest of all institutions, has not left us without its memorial days and observances.

**Word Definitions:** Ordinance means "an observance commanded." Remembrance means "keeping in mind; recollection; memorial, token." Example means "a person or thing to be imitated; model." Ought means "to be held or bound in duty or moral obligation." Should means "obligation or duty." "Ought, ophello—"To owe; to be indebted; to be bound to the performance of some duty; to be obliged; to be under obligation." —Greenfield"

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Family, national, or universal customs and observances are optional because they are non-essentials. But all ordinances of God are established either by positive precept or by example. Thus, we find that feet-washing and The Lord's Supper are very essential to keep. To disregard them would be to disobey a commandment.

The ordinance of feet-washing recorded in the 13th chapter of John is a new institution. There is positively no identity between it and anything else ever practised before. People washed their feet for cleanliness before entering a tent or house, but this was different.

In all the Christian nations religion has established its memorial days. "The Lord's Day" is the greatest memorial day of the gospel, in honor of the resurrection of our glorious Lord. "The Lord's Supper" is in commemoration of His solemn death.

Our lesson in 1 Corinthians was written 26 years after the old Passover service had ended. The early church was still commanded to keep this ordinance. The four gospel writers have delivered to us accounts of the Lord's supper being instituted. Matthew was an eye-witness, while Mark and Luke were apostolic men and received the account from the apostles themselves. Paul declared that he received this ordinance direct from the Lord.

—M. Miles

### QUESTIONS:

1. Are we to do just part of the things that Jesus commanded us to do? 2. What ordinances does the church keep today that Jesus instituted? 3. What blessing is derived from observ-

ing the ordinance of feet-washing? 4. Tell why it is not a non-essential as many who fight these ordinances say that it is. 5. What is the blessing derived from the ordinance of the Lord's Supper?

### ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

We are sure that pride and vanity are the main reasons that many who have carnal minds oppose the ordinances of feet-washing and the keeping of the communion or Lord's Supper. We read in Romans 8:7 about the carnal mind which "is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be."

We who are lovers of our Lord and Saviour are happy to keep His commandments. When we obey, it brings joy to our hearts. "He [Christ] became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him." Heb. 5:9. Thank God for salvation! We are among those who have a blessing resting upon them. "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." Revelation 22:14.

Our first verse tells us to "observe all things" that Jesus commands us to do. Observing feet-washing is one of those "all things." The command was "ye also ought to wash one another's feet." (Notice our word definition of ought.) We obey the command that "men ought always to pray" Luke 18:1, but many feel that this "ought" is a non-essential. We are sure that our Lord and Saviour would not have any part in a non-essential act when He was nearing the solemn hour of His death. He knew that on that very night He was to be betrayed into the hands of sinners and be soon put to death.

In the early church, we read about the qualification of widows in the church that were to be cared for and one of them was, "if she have washed the saints' feet." Many duties are to be done to care for others, but this is a command for one saint to wash another saint's feet. If they were not referring to the ordinance of feet-washing they would not have just mentioned that it should be saints' feet.

Jesus knew man's frailty and that with the cares of life they might forget. In His wisdom He left us the memorial of the Lord's Supper so that we would take time to reflect and remember what Jesus did for us. As we partake of the Lord's Supper we think of Gethsemane and hear His groans and pleadings that the cup of death would pass and then we hear Him saying, "Not my will, but thine be done." As He is put on the cross and in our mind's eye we see them drive the nails into His hands and feet, our hearts melt with love for such love shown to us. He

took our punishment. He was innocent, but we were guilty. How we do love Him when we think of the great cost and sacrifice that He paid for our salvation! Together the saints send up their praises unto that lovely Saviour to whom all praise and honor are due. It brings such humility and draws the saints together into one bond of fellowship as they do this "in remembrance" of our Lord.

—M. Miles

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is very necessary concerning the Bible teachings on ordinances (as well as concerning any other Bible doctrine) to be careful not to be unbalanced in either direction. A man uninspired by the Spirit of God can easily drift to the right hand or to the left. There have been those who, in their effort to steer clear of formality and rituals, have rejected all ordinances. Then there are those whose religion is chiefly made up of the observance of ordinances such as these in our lesson, who are void of the real essence of what they stand for. Let us be balanced and know that these ordinances are instituted of God for the saints of God to keep faithfully, but let us also know that the keeping of these ordinances without the Spirit and purpose of the Maker who gave them will not avail to give the intended blessing to the soul.

The brazen serpent was fashioned by Moses in obedience to God for use in a time when the children of Israel were being bitten by serpents. It was good to be used in its time, but later when Israel found this serpent and began to worship it, God was sorely displeased. Hezekiah destroyed this brazen serpent and pointed the people to the one true worship of God. When God was dealing with Israel as a literal nation, He instituted various ordinances that they were to keep, such as the Feast of the Passover, Tabernacles, Pentecost, and others. But when Christ came and fulfilled all these things by His death and resurrection from the dead, they were no longer needed. From then on, the saints were given new and better ordinances to remember and keep.

But in keeping these new ordinances, we must endeavor to keep in mind their true purpose and the spirit back of their giving. In feet-washing, the truth manifested in carrying it out has to do with true brotherhood and humility one to another. This brotherly attitude is the very nature of the Spirit that Christ possessed. It must reign in the human heart toward all men, even toward enemies and those who are not right. In considering the setting of the feet-washing ordinance, it is very likely that Judas Iscariot was there, and it is also very likely that Jesus washed his feet. It seems rather that Judas made his exit before the Lord instituted the Lord's supper, however.

Be that as it may, and be what the other person may be in his own heart, the instruction is for us: Let a man examine himself. It is not for me to say you are unworthy, or for another to make such a judgment on me. We are for our own profit counselled to judge ourselves. It is very evident that if we partake of these ordinances without the real experiences that they call for in our very heart and life, we are doing it to our own damnation. We are thus guilty of the body and blood of the Lord, for we have not allowed His Spirit to work these graces into our souls.

—L. Busbee

### A WISE FOOL

During a series of services held in a Pennsylvania town, a half-witted boy gave his heart to Christ. A few days later an infidel by the name of Belcher sought to make sport for the crowd of loungers at the village store by making light of the boy's conversion.

"Billy," said the infidel, "I hear you've got religion and are on the way to heaven."

"Yes, Mr. Belcher," quickly replied the boy.

"But don't you know there isn't any heaven, and that this talk about hell is all bosh?"

"I don't know about that, Mr. Belcher, but I figure it out this way: if there isn't any heaven or hell, I'm just about where I was before, and no harm done. But if the preacher's right and there is a heaven and there is a hell, then I'm going to heaven and you are going to hell and I've got two chances to your one. Do you take me for a fool?"

The infidel was taken unawares, and when the laughter at his expense subsided he hurriedly left the store and returned to his work. But the boy's words kept ringing in his ears, "I've got two chances to your one." At last its truth sank into his heart and he cried out: "The boy is right and I am the fool, and I have the manhood to acknowledge it." Then and there he yielded his heart to God. That night he came to the services and told the story of his conversion.

—Selected

### CROWNED OR CRUCIFIED?

"I stood alone at the bar of God,  
In the hush of the twilight dim,  
And faced the question that pierced my heart:  
'What will you do with Him?'  
'Crowned or crucified? Which shall it be?'

"I looked on the face so marred with tears  
That were shed in His agony,  
The look in His kind eyes broke my heart,  
'Twas full of love for me.  
'The crown or the cross' it seemed to say;  
'For or against me—choose thou today.'

"He held out His loving hands to me,  
While He pleadingly said, 'Obey!  
Make Me thy choice, for I love thee so'—  
And I could not tell Him, 'Nay.'  
Crowned, not crucified—this must it be;  
No other way was open to me.

"I knelt in tears at the feet of Christ,  
In the hush of the twilight dim,  
And all that I was, or hoped, or sought,  
Surrendered unto Him.  
Crowned, not crucified—my heart shall know  
No King but Christ who loved me so."

—Florence E. Johnson

**(Teacher: Have you ordered lessons for the third quarter  
which will begin on Sunday, July 7, 1974?)**





