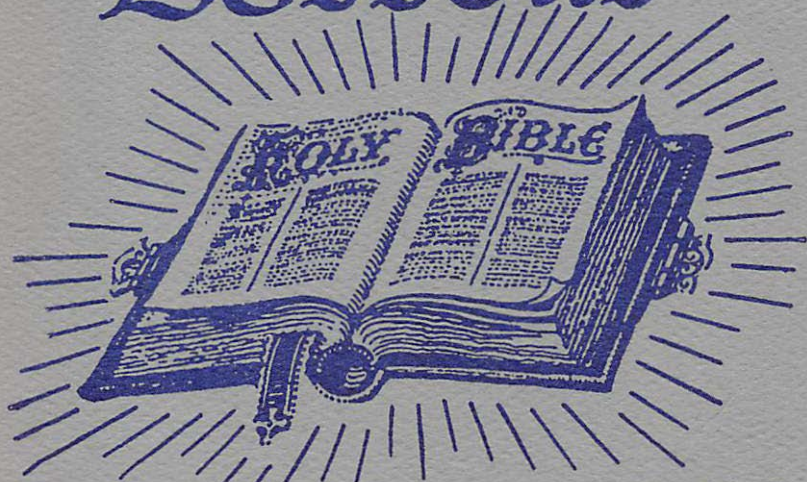


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

**Vol. 22, No. 3
July, Aug., Sept.
1990**

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

Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

(USPS054-680)

Volume 22

July, Aug., Sept.

No. 3

Table of Contents

July 1	Our Rejoicing in Christ Undimmed by Manifold Temptations	1
8	Born Again by the Word of God and Called Unto Holiness and Obedience to Him	6
15	A Spiritual House Built upon the Precious Corner Stone	10
22	Called to follow the Steps of the Saviour	14
29	The Inner Man Adorned Rather than the Outward Man	19
Aug. 5	A Triumphant Life in the Face of Opposition	23
12	Living a Life unto God that will Stand the Judgment Shock	28
19	Sufferings in the Christian Life Help to Prepare for the Judgment	32
26	Submission, Humility, Trust, and Steadfastness in the Faith	37
Sept. 2	Making Our Calling and Election in Christ Sure	42
9	Parting Admonitions from an Eye Witness of the Majesty of Christ	46
16	The Danger and Judgment of False Prophets	51
23	Christ Jesus will Keep His Promise and Come Again	56
30	Test on I and II Peter	61

**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church**
Edited by Leslie C. Busbee and Wayne Murphey

**Subscription Price-50¢ a copy for quarter of year, or
\$2.00 per year, issued quarterly.**
Second class postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma

Published Quarterly By:

FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
920 W. Mansur Ave.
Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044

**Postmaster: Please send address corrections
to above address.**

Theme for Third Quarter, 1990

We feel inspired this quarter to set forth a series of lessons taken from the writings of Simon Peter, an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose writings we are blessed to have in the Holy Scriptures, entitled in the New Testament as The First and Second Epistles of Peter. Much soul food is found in these two epistles with counsel, enlightenment, consolation, and a vivid portrayal of our dear Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Beginning with praises to God and to Jesus and great rejoicing in the great plan of salvation we will study through both of these epistles, ending with the dire warning concerning false teachers and the surety of the return of the Saviour to destroy the world, punish the wicked, and to give reward to the righteous. It is our sincere desire and prayer to God that everyone who uses this humble means of Bible study will receive much spiritual edification therefrom. —Brother Leslie C. Busbee



July 1, 1990

OUR REJOICING IN CHRIST UNDIMMED BY MANIFOLD TEMPTATIONS

1 Peter 1:1 Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia,

2 Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

6 Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:

7 That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

9 Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

Memory Verse: Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long. For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off. Prov. 23:17-18.

Central Thought: Salvation of the soul in Christ is the fulfillment of the prophetic desires of men of olden times, a spiritual treasure of God's loving favor here, and the hope of partaking of eternal life with Christ when He comes again.

Word Definitions: "*Strangers scattered*": The Greek text reads at this point: "to chosen ones, sojourners of a dispersion." The children of God through the grace of our Lord, had been dispersed, or scattered throughout many sections of the Roman empire. They were sojourners, pilgrims who had here no continuing city, but were seeking one to come. (Hebrews

13:14.) *Elect*: Chosen of God because of their faith and loving obedience to Christ. *"Manifold temptations"*: Various kinds of trials. *"The end of your faith"*: The purpose of your faith. *"Which things the angels desire to look into"*: Into which things the angels earnestly desire to look attentively. *"Foreknowledge of God"*: The plan of God for the good and benefit of mankind that He had in mind when he created the world.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Peter was a close disciple of the Lord Jesus. It is wonderful and a great privilege to have on record the message that He wrote back there to the saints of God. He preached the gospel of his Lord and Saviour in many regions of the world, even at Rome, where tradition tells us he suffered martyrdom in about A. D. 64 or 65. Jesus had given Peter a charge to strengthen the brethren (Luke 22:32), and to feed His sheep and lambs. (John 21:15-17.) Beyond all doubt Peter fed the Lord's sheep by way of these two epistles more than in any other way. Notice Peter's address in our lesson today. He glorifies the Father for what He had provided for those who believe in His Son, declaring that this salvation had been the object of many a loving heart in ages past. Not only had it been the wonderment of those who had prophesied by the Spirit, but the angels in heaven beheld it all with wonder, too. What a great inheritance we come into when we become believers and are willing to follow Christ all the way!

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What did Peter want multiplied to the saints?
2. What has God in His mercy begotten us unto?
3. By what means are we begotten unto this lively hope?
4. What kind of inheritance are we brought to in Christ?
5. Where is this inheritance now?
6. Who is this inheritance reserved for?
7. How are we kept from sin and losing out with God?
8. What does God allow us to suffer for a season?
9. What is the value of the trial of faith, and what will it be found unto?

10. What is our relationship with Christ although we have not seen Him?
11. What is the end, or purpose, of our faith?
12. What interest did the Old Testament saints have in the salvation we now enjoy?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

What we receive and enjoy in the salvation of our souls in Christ was planned and purposed of God before the world began. His eternal purpose provided a plan for His created souls, and it all worked out according to this plan. When man sinned against His Maker and fell from the heights of grace, God had a plan and a way to redeem him back to Himself. Through the power He exerted and made available in Christ we can be begotten, or born, again. The first birth brings us into a life that is corruptible and will end in death. But the new birth in Christ brings us into a life that is eternal, never to fade away. It is not tarnished and contaminated like the treasures of this world so often are found to be. God puts life and blessings down in the soul of man that never get old or worn out. The soul who finds the wonderful experience of Bible salvation is full of joy and gladness. We rejoiced in the richness and steadfast hope that shines within us. We go forth with a singing heart. How wonderful it is to be saved! But then the trials and pressures of life begin to come our way. It brings our soul into heaviness and we taste sorrow, pain and adversity. We are under stress and pressure from those who contest our stand for the Lord. We are tempted to wonder or doubt, or even to give up. Then we remember the words of our elder brother Peter that the trial of our faith is very valuable to us. Even though the adversity is fiery and seemingly destructive, we hold fast, knowing that the trial of our faith will be worth more than all that mortal man could ever afford. We have not seen Christ with our natural eyes, but through the gospel comes a revelation of Christ to the soul. Oh, how precious He is to us! How we love Him, even though we have not seen Him with our natural eyes. The eye of faith is stronger than human sight. He has been revealed to our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We hold on

to our faith, determined never to let Him go. And we know that if we hold fast our faith and trust in Him unto the end, we will save our precious souls and live forever with Christ, our beloved Saviour.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Apostle Peter tells us that we have an inheritance that is incorruptible, undefiled and that fadeth not away. It is our belief in this, mixed with our love for God, that causes us to rejoice and willingly endure manifold temptations. The enemy of our soul means for trials to separate us from God and to blot our name from the book of eternal life, but in effect, trials only refine the faith of the believer and cause the glory of God to shine.

A story that fittingly illustrates the thought was told by William Dawson, a minister of Yorkshire, England. He was giving out a hymn in a worship service when he suddenly stopped and said, "I was coming once through the town of Leeds and saw a poor little half-witted lad rubbing at a brass plate, trying to rub out the name. But the poor lad did not know that the harder he rubbed, the brighter it shone. Now friends, sing: 'Engraved as in eternal brass, The mighty promise shines; Nor can the powers of darkness 'rase, Those everlasting lines.' "

The Christian's inheritance, which is founded upon the Word of God, is ever before them and as victories are won the brighter it appears.

--Wayne Murphey



July 8, 1990

**BORN AGAIN BY THE WORD OF GOD AND CALLED
UNTO HOLINESS AND OBEDIENCE TO HIM**

I Peter 1:13 Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

14 As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance:

15 But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation;

16 Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

17 And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear:

18 Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers;

19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

20 Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you,

21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

22 Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:

23 Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

24 For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

25 But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.

Memory Verse: Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be

well with them that fear God, which fear before him: Eccles. 8:12.

Central Thought: The precious blood of Jesus, the Lamb of God, purchased for us deliverance from sinful lusts, and makes it possible for us to live holy in pure brotherly love, which is to live forever just as surely as God and His Word abides forever.

Word Definitions: *"Gird up the loins of your mind":* Do not allow your thoughts and desires to be loose and uncontrolled, but rather discipline yourself with the love and fear of God. *"At the revelation of Jesus Christ":* At His second coming to judge the world in righteousness. *"Tradition from your fathers":* Many ways of life, ideas, opinions, beliefs, manners, and dispositions have been passed on and handed down to us through the influence of those who were before us. This also refers to the moral depravity and inbred sin that comes to all through the fall of Adam, our first parent. Christ can save and cleanse us from it all. *"The flesh as grass, and the glory of man as the flower of grass":* Some people have extra abilities to rise high in human favor and praise and also in the riches of this life. The Word of God terms it all as grass to wither and fade away. The gospel is the Word of God that will never pass away, and by the gospel of Christ is the eternal Word given that we might be more than grass and flesh.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Peter has spoken in the first part of this chapter concerning the eternal inheritance we receive from God in Christ, preserved in heaven to be given to the faithful at the appearing of Jesus Christ. He stated that this salvation had been foretold by men of old who possessed the Spirit of Christ and how they had inquired and searched diligently concerning it. He said that even the angels, the ministering spirits sent forth to minister to the heirs of salvation, desire to look into it. This is a great salvation. In our lesson today he exhorts us to employ every means that God is calling us to have in pursuit of obtaining the ultimate goal of such a life and experience. He

stresses obedience and holiness as being indispensable in attaining to the joys of real fellowship with God. Reverence and fear are to be always a vital principle of our lives. He reminds us that the price for such a blessing was not of carnal and material values, but rather the priceless blood of the Saviour. All of this is not incidental, but was purposed and planned before the world was created. Love for one another and for all men is also enjoined. He joins with Christ's emphatic charge to be born again. He describes farther this new birth as being of incorruptible seed, by the Word of God, which by the gospel has been preached among the nations. He quoted from Isaiah 40:6 that the realm of human flesh is likened unto grass, the goodness and glory of man being like the flower of the grass. It is all to perish and wither away. Through the Word of the gospel and being born again of that Word we can live the life that is everlasting.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can a person live a satisfying Christian life without being sober-minded and diligent to keep his thoughts and desires in the bounds of God's will?
2. What are we hoping will come to us at the end of life's journey?
3. Is it possible for a person to receive Christ as Saviour, and then fail to be obedient?
4. Is holiness an item of preference, or is it a strict necessity?
5. What happens when a person fails to fear and reverence God as they should?
6. Is there any danger in putting too much stress and importance on corruptible things?
7. What are some of the vanities we receive from others that we need to be redeemed from?
8. What will happen to a soul who refuses to turn loose of the things Christ died to save from?
9. What does obedience to the truth of the gospel of Christ by a loving heart do for a person?

10. Why is it so vital and needful to be born again?
11. What is all mankind likened unto?
12. What is the Word of the Lord by the gospel meant to do for a person?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Living for God and following Christ is a full-time vocation. It takes utmost diligence and earnestness of heart to really and wholly follow the Lord. It takes fear, reverence, and deep humility to really make a go of the Christian life. There are things you have to absolutely quit doing. Things that we carried on with while we were unsaved and in the dark and ignorant world of sin are not profitable, but rather are detrimental. The Christian life is an obedient life to God and His precious Word. It ought not to be a hard and galling yoke to follow holiness and its beautiful way. When we remember how much the Lord loved us, and how He gave His only Son to die on the cross for our sins, we want to please Him. We reverence and hold Him in deep loving respect and honor. God gave His very best for us that we might be redeemed from the vain and empty way of life that we had handed down to us from those before us. We ought to gladly change any mode of life we learn is not pleasing to the Lord. His ways are so much better than the ways of sin and self. He wants us to be of incorruptible seed. He does not want us to continue on in the ways of the flesh and sinful man. He knows it will bring us to destruction. He wants us to live and abide forever, so He sent the gospel of Christ, preached by holy people who have tasted and seen that the Lord and His ways are good. Oh, let us receive the Word of God deep into our hearts and let us live out the life of Christ that will live forever.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The catalyst for a holy life of obedience to God is being born again by the word of God. There are many testimonials of people who have tried to reform their unholy ways and failed. We even have correctional institutions which try to help people change their lives of rebellion but which have little success.

How different it is when the blood of Christ cleanses a heart and God's word is written in it. One individual wrote, "The New Testament is a wonderful instrument for purity and for holiness. When you start a Bible movement it means revolution, a quiet revolution against darkness and crime."

When Paul and Silas reasoned out of the scriptures with the people at Thessalonica, some believed. There were also unbelievers, and they unwittingly testified to the power of God by saying, "These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also." Acts 17:6. There is a great need in society today to have wickedness turned upside down into holiness.

Many oppose holiness because it condemns the life of sin. They would like to stamp it out, but the word of God will endure forever. And as long as it exists there will be those who are experiencing and living the transformation of holiness.

--Wayne Murphey



July 15, 1990

A SPIRITUAL HOUSE BUILT UPON THE PRECIOUS CORNER STONE

1 Peter 2:1 Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

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, and 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.

9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

10 Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

11 Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;

12 Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

Memory Verse: The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. Ps. 118:22-23.

Central Thought: Unto every one who truly believes and builds their faith and hope on Christ He is a precious corner stone, but to those who are unwilling to obey and follow Christ He becomes a stumbling stone and a rock of offense.

Word Definitions: *Malice:* Badness, evil, ill will. *"Evil speakings":* Back bitings, speaking words to run down or defame another. *"Sincere milk of the word":* The rational (sensible and reasonable) unadulterated (true, without pretense) milk. Milk is the food for the infant. This means the pure doctrines of the gospel, as delivered in the writings and the preaching of the apostles of Christ and those who followed them. Every newlyborn-again child of God needs to feed on the spiritual milk. *Gracious:* Beneficial, useful, easy, good, kind. *Precious:* Of great price, costly, valuable, honorable, dear, beloved. *Elect:* Choice, favorite. *Confounded:* Ashamed. *Disallowed:* Rejected or refused. *"Whereunto also they were appointed":* This does not mean that anyone is predestinated to disbelieve or stumble at the gospel. It rather, in harmony with the prophecies, indicates that the disobedient and rebel-

lious will be of a nature to stumble and be offended at the Word of God. The gospel is given by God in such a way that will be offensive to the proud and scornful of heart. "*Peculiar people*": A special people acquired and purchased with a great price.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Peter, in speaking to these newly born Christians, calls them lively, or living stones, built up as a spiritual house. A stable house must have a foundation, so he referred to the Scripture in Isaiah 28:16 as a prophecy of Jesus who is surely a solid Rock for the soul to build upon. He also, in connection with this thought of Christ being the foundation, refers to Psalm 118:22, (which is part of our memory verse today) inserting the thought that while Christ is meant to be a Rock for us to build upon, to some He would be a stumbling stone to be rejected and cast aside. Those who refuse to take Christ's way of purity and humility will take offense at His teachings. They do it, of course, to their own hurt and destruction. But to everyone who will take Christ's way and build their lives on His Word and Spirit, He will be so gracious and precious. Peter wanted only that these new converts to the Christian faith would prosper and progress in their relationship with God and Christ in the Spirit. They must be nourished, well founded, and safeguarded against the influences and attractions of the carnal world around them, letting their light shine out to their fellow man.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Can a person prosper in the Christian life if he fails to clear his soul?
2. What Scriptures would you use to counsel a newborn Christian to diligently read and study?
3. Is it possible for a person to have **not** tasted that the Lord is gracious?
4. In what way was Christ a living stone?
5. What are some of the reasons why Christ is rejected by so many?
6. To whom is Christ really precious and dear to?

7. Who stumbles and is offended at the Word of God?
8. How does the Lord want our lives to bear upon others?
9. What is the danger of fleshly lusts, and why are we to abstain from them?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Man needs a foundation for his life. He needs something solid and unmovable to build upon. All the troubles and disappointments in life arise because someone is not building on the right foundation. Perhaps a person is building on Christ himself, but while others around him are not building on Christ, he will experience the effects of their folly weighing against him. To be able to build on the right foundation one must cast off all the rubbish that has collected in his heart and life. Things mentioned in our lesson to be laid aside will hinder and do us damage if they are not. Malice, guile, and all these evils will render us unfit for the foundation of Christ to be laid in our lives. Christ is the living stone. He is a stone in the sense of strength, stability, and value. The soul who builds their life upon Christ finds Him and His gracious way to be very dear and precious; but it goes against the grain of the selfish, vain, and proud. The very Christ who came down from heaven to be a Rock for our souls to hide in and to build upon becomes a rock that men will stumble at, be offended at, and reject. And it is all because the spirit of disobedience is maintained in the soul. A person who has been used to being disobedient and unsubmitive to authority will naturally recoil at the discipline of Christ unless he or she is willing to renounce their pride and become humble and meek. God can help us if we are willing to let Him. For we all were proud and vain and rebellious. The life of Christ has tamed us and shown us a better way. Oh, how wonderful that we have come to Christ and found Him to be so gracious and precious to our souls! We want to press closer to Him every day, abstain from those things that are offensive to Him, and go with Him all the way.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." I Peter 2:12. It is possible that Peter was speaking here of a particular time, using the term "day of visitation," for when Jerusalem would be destroyed. But it still stands that everyone will have a visitation in their lives when God will offer them salvation. If the person is hardened by sin, God's call may be forceful. He may have to remove one's most cherished possessions or bring a person to a total stop on a bed of affliction. But Peter, in speaking of this subject, is exhorting the saints to be in a proper place with God when He visits the sinner. How many sinners would seek you out when they are in need? I am speaking of those who may not have been at church to hear your testimony of how close you feel to God, but who know you through daily contact. It is glorifying to God when sinners turn to Him and we can cause that to happen by being honest in our dealings with others. Our honest conduct may not be coveted by others for whom everything is going well, but in the day of adversity it may have exactly the appeal that they desire.

—Wayne Murphey



July 22, 1990

CALLED TO FOLLOW THE STEPS OF THE SAVIOUR

I Peter 2:13 Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

14 Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.

15 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

16 As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

17 Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.

18 Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also to the froward.

19 For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully.

20 For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God.

21 For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:

22 Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:

23 Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:

24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

Memory Verse: If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour. John 12:26.

Central Thought: Being willing to be humble and to suffer for well doing is walking in the steps of Jesus, who bore the punishment for our sins in His body on the cross.

Word Definitions: *Froward:* Crooked, perverse, against what is right. *"Our sins in his own body on the tree":* The Greek rendering of this phrase reads: Christ, who Himself carried in His own body our sins up to the tree. This indicates that Christ in all of His suffering and sorrow was bearing our sins even before they hung Him on the cross. *"Bishop of our souls":* Overseer or caretaker of our spiritual lives and welfare.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Peter had just instructed us in verses 11 and 12 to abstain from fleshly lusts and to have our conversation honest and upright among the Gentiles. The newly formed Church of God was the object of much ridicule and persecution in its infant days. God would have us to live and conduct ourselves before

men in such a way that they cannot put a finger on any part of our lives. He uses this thought in different applications in our lesson. We are to be submissive to laws, rulers, and those who have jurisdiction over us. One minister hurrying down the highway on his way to camp meeting was pulled over by the highway patrol and given a ticket for speeding. He was somewhat embarrassed and ashamed to answer the officer when he was asked where he was going. We do need to be careful to respect and obey the laws of our land. When we are caught neglecting to obey the ordinances of our society, we place ourselves in jeopardy of being witnesses for Christ of no effect. There may be times when we have to break human laws in order to live up to God's requirements, but great and diligent care should be employed that such actions are really wise and necessary. I heard about one brother on an airplane flight who had to be told twice to get his seat belt on. Sometimes we get the idea and attitude that we are free and do not have to be so careful with these things. But let us consider what Peter is trying to get to us here. We are to let our light shine out to others, remembering our lamp can be dimmed by our careless regard for the established laws of society. As much as we possibly and conscientiously can, we need to respect the law and code of the land. History tells us that the Jews were constantly rebelling and resenting the Roman overlords. Christians were taught not to be that way, but rather to count the ruling powers as ordained by God and to be respected and obeyed. We must remember this today. Much is expected of the person who professes to be a follower of Jesus. If we suffer because of our being diligent to be honest and to keep the law, then we will be richly rewarded by God. And if we do well and take it patiently, we are walking in the same steps that our Saviour walked in. Jesus was crucified, not because He had done wrong, but because of the envy His murderers had for Him. They had no legal and rightful case against Jesus. Jesus suffered because He was taking the blame for our sins. He loved our souls so much that He was willing to bear our sins in His own body on the cross. We had gone astray, but His love has brought us back to His precious fold. Here, under His

watchful eye of protection and care, we are secure in our life for Him. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is disrespect for established laws a means of bringing a blot on a person's profession of being a Christian?
2. What does Peter say that governors are sent by God to do?
3. In what way can we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men?
4. Does Christ set a person free so that he can do whatever he wants?
5. How would God look upon a person who is submissive to a hurtful employer who constantly takes advantage of him?
6. Is it a worthy thing to take patiently the consequences of any misdeed we might do?
7. What would be the real Christian attitude when one is reviled and taken advantage of?
8. Although Christ had done no wrong, what did He allow to be put upon Him?
9. Where would we be today if Christ had stood up for His rights?
10. What is Jesus Christ to our souls today?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God wants the Christian life to be a beautiful life before the world. To walk in humility before our fellowman and to be meek and gracious to them is one way of letting our light shine. Being honest and conscientious in our work and manners of conduct has a great bearing upon other people's minds. Sometimes laws that are passed are not all that convenient, and many are not just and for the best interests of all concerned. In such cases it is not for the child of God to be militant in defiance of the law. More things are done through prayer than all of man's strife put together. We should honor all men. This does not mean that we have to condone what they are doing, but we can show them honor as being a fellow human being. We can fear God and honor the king, (or president) also. We do not worship rulers, but we must show

them respect, honor, and appreciation; and above all, we should earnestly pray for them. Watch your attitudes toward the agents of law enforcement. If you should get stopped by an officer of the law for reproof of some neglect that he found in you, be humble and respectful. He may not be a righteous person before God, but his office and position is worthy of your respect. Answer his questions meekly and do not talk back. Be apologetic for your failure to abide by the law. Show a meek spirit and God will be on your side. He was with Christ, and He will be with us if we walk in the footsteps of our Saviour.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If the precepts expounded in our lesson were followed, many lives would be more peaceful. Think of the great harm wrought in homes, churches, neighborhoods and nations by slander. We are given the example of the reviling that Christ suffered. He was human and the false accusations cut deeply. He could have responded harshly and truthfully to the soldiers and hypocritical Jews, but He said not a word. There are times when total silence is required. In a heated situation just a few words can erupt into a monumental argument.

If we are unable to overcome personal affronts we will be in a constant turmoil. There are some who get to the place where every law which is passed is perceived as an individual offense to them. When we can broaden our view to consider what is best for all it will be much easier to show proper respect for the laws of the land.

There are times when man's laws go against God's laws. What should our attitude be then? We should not be as the Jews of Christ's time, who gloried in opposing Roman law. If we have proper honor for those in authority we will be grieved about our differences. Even in this, when God gives us liberty, we should be humble and not heady about the matter.

--Wayne Murphey



July 29, 1990

**THE INNER MAN ADORNED RATHER THAN THE OUT-
WARD MAN**

1 Peter 3:1 Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

2 While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear.

3 Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;

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

5 For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:

6 Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.

7 Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

8 Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

9 Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing.

10 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

11 Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.

12 For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.

Memory Verse: As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. Prov. 11:22

Central Thought: The priceless ornament of a meek and quiet spirit when worn in the inner man will shine out of a person's life in such beauty toward God and man that it will make the Christian a great blessing and benefit to everyone.

Word Definitions: *Conversation:* Conduct or behavior. *Chaste:* Clean, pure, holy. *"Plaiting the hair":* Elaborate braiding or decorating the hair. *"Hidden man of the heart":* The inward beauty of a pure heart. *Amazement:* Alarm; fear of harm or of being discovered and caught. *"Husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge":* Be enlightened as to what God planned for a husband to be to his wife. *"Be pitiful, be courteous":* Be compassionate, be friendly of mind. *Eschew:* To shun, avoid, decline, turn away from. *Ensue:* To pursue or follow earnestly after. *Discretion:* Good perception, intelligence, and understanding.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We continue in this First Epistle of Simon Peter. In our previous lesson we see the need of being subject to the laws of the land and keeping our lives beautiful with conscientious living. In our lesson today he continues this thought, applying it first to the women and wives, and then to all the rest of us. This world would be a much better and happier place to live if men would be the men God planned them to be, and if women would be in the proper relationship with the man that God designed. The conduct of a godly and faithful woman goes far in the influence for right. Just as we are enjoined to be subject to the laws of the land and to be subject to our employers, regardless of how we are treated, even so women should take heed to this counsel, and discipline themselves to be subject to their husbands. He speaks about Sarah obeying Abraham and calling him lord. Sarah learned the value of this submission the hard way. In Genesis 16 we find where Sarah influenced Abraham to take her handmaid, Hagar, to wife. Later when the situation developed difficulties, she put her

wrong upon Abraham. She certainly was not calling him lord in that incident! But she evidently took lessons from this, and became more subject to her wise and faithful husband, calling him lord in Genesis 18:12. The husbands are not without responsibility in this matter. If God is calling upon the wife to be subject to the husband, then let the husband's attitude be kind, gracious, and gentle, knowing that she is the weaker vessel. Note that failure to assume the proper attitude towards one's wife will hinder prayer. Peter quotes from Psalm 34:12-14 in the last three verses of our lesson. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. How are wives to be to their own husbands?
2. What is to be on exhibition in the life of a godly person?
3. How can outward adorning hinder true beauty from being in the heart?
4. What is the ornament that is so precious in God's sight?
5. Would there be any separations and divorces in marriages if these instructions were heeded?
6. Can a wife expect God to bless her if she is not submissive and true to her husband?
7. Can a husband expect God's blessings if he mistreats his wife and fails to honor her as the weaker vessel?
8. What attitude should we maintain for one another in the family, church, and the community?
9. Is it wrong to love life and desire to see good days?
10. What is the recipe to assure us of having life and good days?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Enough cannot be said about the value of the incorruptible ornament mentioned in our lesson that we all should wear! This meek and quiet spirit is such a treasure in the sight of God that it ought to overwhelm our hearts with desire to truly possess it. In our society, so much is done to adorn and beautify the outward form and surface of a person. The physical appeal is so shallow. Most marriages executed today consist principally upon fleshly attraction and bodily contact.

There is no real substantial bond to hold man and wife together in the shifts and changes of life. This inward beauty that Peter prescribes here will hold man and wife in the sacred bonds of marriage throughout all the years they both shall live. There is a spiritual tie as well as a union of two into one flesh. Not only the wife, but the husband also must have this inward ornament of a meek and quiet spirit. It is God's plan for the woman to be in subjection to the husband. But it is also required of the husband that he be kind, gracious, and very tender towards his wife, not exacting more of her than what love will dictate. We are called to have this sweet spirit of humility and tenderness for our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as all of our fellow men. Compassion, pity, and courtesy are the laws of the Christian life. Strife, coldness, inconsideration, and unthoughtfulness should have no place in our attitudes and actions. We are not to get back at people when they treat us unfavorably. Instead, we should have a desire to be a blessing to them. We are called to receive great blessings from God, but these blessings can be cut off if we fail to have the blessing-attitude toward others. How we treat our fellow man has much to do with how God will treat us. And, let us remember that all the outward beauty that we might make up for people to admire: that unkind word, or that haughty and hasty action will render all of that outward beauty as nothing.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One of the outstanding admonitions of our lesson is "be courteous". This is a part of Christianity that is easily overlooked. We should overcome the big hindrances in our lives such as wrath and malice so that we can pay attention to such qualities as courtesy.

Peter didn't specify who to be courteous to, so we can accept it that we should be courteous to all, even to those whose station in life is very humble. "Honor all men," the scripture says in one place. King Henry the Fourth, of France, once taken to task for returning the salute of a poor man as he passed through a village, said, "Would you have your king

exceeded in politeness by one of his meanest subjects?"

If we display such character there is a reward that accompanies it. "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." Once a boy who feared the Lord and lived a righteous life, was taken, along with eight other school boys, to be unjustly punished. Naturally, he began praying immediately that he might be spared the humiliation. Before the whippings were given, the teacher said, to the great bewilderment of the whole class, "Little boy, I excuse you; I have particular reasons for it." The teacher realized that it was out of character for the boy to do what he was accused of. His carefulness of life was a testimony to the others and God rewarded him for it. —Wayne Murphey



August 5, 1990

A TRIUMPHANT LIFE IN THE FACE OF OPPOSITION

I Peter 3:13 And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?

14 But and if ye suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye: and be not afraid of their terror, neither be troubled;

15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:

16 Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.

17 For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing.

18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

19 By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison;

20 Which sometime were disobedient, when 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:

22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Memory Verse: Sanctify the Lord of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread. Isa. 8:13.

Central Thought: Because of the darkened sinful condition of society around us, we will meet with the displeasure of people, often bringing grief and harm. But, if we continue to follow Christ we will come out victorious in Him.

Word Definitions: *"Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts":* Praise and sanction God and His way and doings, justify His methods and hold everything about Him and His Providence sacred and holy in your hearts. *"By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah":* This passage of Scripture has been taken wrong and misunderstood by many. It is taught that this Scripture tells us that after Jesus died on the cross and while He was in the state of being physically dead, He went down into the lower regions of hell and preached to the souls who were imprisoned there, souls who were in Noah's time and who rejected the refuge of the ark. This notion is clearly a gross error. The spirits in prison here spoken of are the souls of men in the prison house of sin and unbelief. Noah preached to the captive people in his day. These disobedient inhabitants of the world before the flood were convicted of God of their terrible transgressions, and sentenced to destruction. The longsuffering of God held back the execution of their punishment and used Noah, a preacher of righteousness, to warn them and to give them a chance to escape. Christ, through Noah, preached to these spirits in the prison house of sin, just as He works through His ministers today to offer deliverance to souls bound by Satan

in their woeful bondage. *"Saved by water"*: Carried safely through water.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the final three verses of our previous lesson Peter quoted from Psalm 34:12-14 in which was a promise that the eyes of the Lord would be over the righteous, and His ears open unto their prayers, His face being against them that do evil. With this thought in mind we continue today's lesson with the encouraging truth that if we follow that which is good, we do not need to fear what sinful man may try to do to us. And even if we have to suffer for righteousness' sake, we will still come out victorious by the blessings of God. Peter quoted from Isaiah 8:12-13 in verses 14 and 15 of our lesson today. We have used part of the text in Isaiah for our memory verse today. When we are on the Lord's side then He is on our side, and if God be for us, we do not need to fear what people will do to us. Peter stresses again the thought of the Christian suffering for well doing than for evil doing. He mentions the gospel being preached unto the spirits in prison, using Noah and his ministry as an example of such. The account of Noah has similar things to what we face today in preaching the gospel as we warn people of the coming destruction of the world. Noah and those with him in the ark were carried safely through the flood that destroyed all of the unbelievers. He says that baptism is a like figure (or representation) of this in that it illustrates us being saved by the resurrection of Christ from sin and death. Baptism is the answer of a good conscience toward God, not a cleansing. We are baptized to show that we have confidence in God that we will be resurrected from the grave just as Jesus was resurrected from the grave. Jesus has gone into heaven to the right hand of God, triumphant over all powers, and through His grace we have hope of sharing with Him His eternal glory.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1.If we be followers of that which is good, can anyone really harm us?

2. If we are abused or injured for righteousness' sake, will we really be harmed?
3. How are we to look at dangers and threats from those who seek our hurt?
4. What are we to be ready to give an answer concerning?
5. With what kind of spirit should we answer people concerning our faith and hope?
6. How does good conversation and a good conscience go hand in hand?
7. Where would we all be if justice from God toward us would have been executed?
8. What kind of gospel do spirits in the prison house of sin need to hear?
9. Why do the spirits in prison so many times refuse to hear the message of Christ?
10. In the light of these last three Scriptures can you explain what baptism really refers to?

ADULT'S AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The grace of God and being a person saved from sin and condemnation is such a blessed experience, it would seem that everyone would be interested in obtaining such a state. But it is very evident from what we see in the account of Christ's life and in the history of the Church of God that this is not the case. The gospel only is effective in obedient and humble people who are willing to bear the responsibilities of such a life. How blessed is a person who actually experiences the call and conviction of the Lord and responds with faith and obedience and receives the gift of salvation! Oh, what benefits are derived from really being born again! But it is hid from the proud and those who are wise in their own minds. Not everyone is blessed with this wonderful relationship with God. Why? It is because not everyone is prepared in heart to receive the gift of God. People's eyes are blinded by pride and sin and dishonesty. People are so prone to be self-sufficient and unable to recognize their real need. Take the people who were back in Noah's time. How many souls were carried safely through the water in the ark? Jesus said once that many were

called, but few are chosen. (Matt. 20: 16). There were but eight saved and they were the members of Noah's immediate family. A person does well if he can see his own children saved. Noah had a lot to be thankful for. The thought of all of those people perishing in the flood was horrible, but he knew that they had had their chance. His own family had accepted the message to come with him in the ark. And we know that not everyone who hears the message today will accept it. Let us not be down-hearted, but take faith, save ourselves, and God will work faithfully with every soul.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is good to have Christian convictions and not just be religiously opinionated. You have probably met those who are always ready to give an answer, whether the answer is right or not. These are the type who have an opinion about everything. The Apostle Peter exhorted that Christians should be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh, but he qualified how the answer should be given—with meekness and fear. It is easy to ignite an argument with an opinionated person but it should not be so with a Christian. A Godly conviction is obtained through a personal contact with God. It is done in humility, carefulness and respect. What we learn in this manner should be given out in the same way. It is hard to argue with someone who humbly and carefully submits what God has revealed to them.

This should not only be done to friends, but our enemies should also be shown equal respect. This then is living a triumphant life in the face of opposition. One thought to consider; it can only be done as we maintain a good conscience toward God and towards man. Otherwise we will be irritable in our answers.

There may be but few who will listen to us, but that should not discourage us or be reason to keep this gospel to ourselves. Noah was only successful in saving seven souls besides himself, yet he was faithful in telling what God had witnessed to him. And as we have the power of the Holy Spirit working today, who can say what great things might be accomplished?

—Wayne Murphey



August 12, 1990

**LIVING A LIFE UNTO GOD THAT WILL STAND THE
JUDGMENT SHOCK**

1 Peter 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;

2 That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God.

3 For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries:

4 Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:

5 Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead.

6 For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

7 But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.

8 And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.

9 Use hospitality one to another without grudging.

10 As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Memory Verse: For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil. Eccles. 12:14

Central Thought: Every person shall one day stand before God in judgment. Therefore we should live our lives to the will

of God, be sober, watchful, and prayerful, with fervent charity in our hearts for everyone.

Word Definitions: *"He that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin"*: An expression covering general conditions of life. Suffering in the flesh helps a man to loathe and be very conscientious of any sin that would bring a breach upon his conscience. Christ suffered in the flesh to atone for our sins, and it is often through infirmities and sufferings of the body that we are made aware of our need of His saving grace. *Lasciviousness*: Looseness of morals in gratification of the appetites of the lower nature with no control nor discipline. *Revellings*: Immoral feastings and celebrations with obscene music and behavior. *Banquetings*: Sumptuous feasts and wine parties. These things along with many other abominable practices were very much prevalent in the Gentile world to which the gospel of Christ was preached. *"The quick and the dead"*: The living and the dead. *"Watch unto prayer"*: Be watchful and also prayerful. *"Fervent love"*: Intense love. *"Manifold grace of God"*: The many various benefits of God's favor. *"Speak as the oracles of God"*: Speak as being inspired by the Holy Spirit.

LESSON BACKGROUND

These are very important instructions we have in our lesson today! The apostle seeks to impress upon us the indispensable need of real reform and conformity to Christ in the life of the believer. The Gentile world was steeped in immorality and lustful practices. The appetites of the body were indulged with no governing discipline. Even their religious ceremonies were stained with lust and bodily indulgence. Christ suffered in the flesh to help arm us with determination and decision against the tide of evil and sin. When the people of the world behold a child of God abstaining from such practices, they are amazed and often infuriated. We must not let their indignation move us from our convictions. Let us remember that we are facing the judgment. It will mean much for us to escape the wrath of God that is soon to be poured upon this wicked world! Being watchful, prayerful,

and keeping filled with fervent love from God will enable us to be ready.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What does the unsaved person live to?
2. What does seeing Christ's sufferings in the flesh cause us to be willing to do?
3. What does the real born-again child of God live his life to?
4. Is it very probable that a person will give up his sinful ways when he fails to see their useless value?
5. How do worldly-minded people feel about someone who does not join with them in their vain ways?
6. What do such people fail to remember concerning their evil ways?
7. What kind of dead people is the gospel preached to?
8. How close to the end of time should a Christian feel that he is?
9. What happens in a congregation when love grows cold?
10. What does fervent charity do?
11. What should a person do with a gift or blessing he receives from the Lord?
12. Who do we desire to glorify in our lives?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

There is a vanity and useless feeling that goes along with the sinful way of life. If a person will be honest with themselves they will have to acknowledge that the ways of sin and of the world do not bring happiness and satisfaction. But there is a stubbornness in man, and this hardness coupled with Satan's power to blind the mind and fill it with adverse thoughts tend to make it very difficult to touch men with the gospel of Christ. But blessed is the man who will acknowledge the truth about his sinful condition, and behold the beauty of Christ to the point that he becomes willing to give up his ways and accept the Lord and His way. When a person gets sick and tired of sin and its ridiculous ways of vanity, then he or she is good potential for the Kingdom of God. The voice of wisdom speaks to men everywhere concerning these things. The Spirit of God

will convict the heart and help a person to see the folly of the worldly way of life. The Spirit of God can work a hungering for righteousness in a troubled soul. It seems that not everyone will be affected thus, for man is a free-moral agent with the power to think and decide for himself. But there are some souls who are touched by the love of Christ, and who will respond and willingly give themselves to the Lord. When one thinks of the great judgment and of his life and ways being judged by the all-seeing and all-knowing God, it will cause that soul to become very concerned about their welfare. And we, as followers of the Lord should live always with the feeling that the end of time may not be very far off. Let us keep fervent love in our hearts for all, labor in the will of God seeking His anointing and guidance in all we say and do for Him, and seek ever to glorify God alone.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It is awe-inspiring to think of the last great Judgment Day! People of all ages will be present. There will be no frivolity or light-heartedness. "As I live saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue confess to God." Rom. 14:11. "For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil." Eccl. 12:14. There will be such a sense of divine authority as people stand before the omnipotent God that it won't be necessary to accuse and drag the truth out of them. Those who have not been washed in the blood of the Lamb will by their own ready admission be guilty. People may lie to cover secret sins now, but at that hour the truth will be known.

"But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." There is something we can do to prepare for that time of accountability. We need to be sober now. Think now of the worth of your soul and watch unto prayer. Get accustomed to bowing before God. Let His searching eyes judge you in this present world. Then there will be no great devastation when we are called before Him on that momentous day.

—Wayne Murphey



August 19, 1990

**SUFFERINGS IN THE CHRISTIAN LIFE HELP TO PRE-
PARE FOR THE JUDGMENT**

I Peter 4:12 Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye, for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busy body in other men's matters.

16 Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.

17 For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?

18 And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?

19 Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator.

Proverbs 11:3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

17 The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

Memory Verse: Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner. Prov. 11:31.

Central Thought: The things that we suffer as a follower of Jesus because of our faith and integrity in Him helps to

make proof of us and to prepare us for the day of the Lord when Christ will recompense to every man righteously.

Word Definitions: *"Judgment must begin at the house of God":* It was an old Jewish maxim that when God was about to pour down some general judgment, He began with afflicting His own people in order to correct and amend them, that they might be prepared for the overflowing scourge. —Adam Clarke. *"Scarcely be saved":* Be saved with difficulty and adversity.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We find in our lesson today that Peter still is stressing the importance of keeping in the will of God and "well doing." He instructs us that the fierce opposition and the trying of our faith by fire is a great blessing to us. Many people bring sorrow and woe upon themselves because of unwise moves and foolish ways. But, if while a person is wholly following the Lord and standing for the truth persecutions and difficulties with other people arise, joy and gladness can be in the heart to know that they are suffering for righteousness' sake. This is God's way of preparing us for the judgment. Of course, this is in conjunction with really being born again and being led by the Spirit of God. Judgment must begin at the house of God. It is interesting to learn that verse 18 in our lesson is the Greek Septuagint version of Proverbs 11:31 which we have chosen for our memory verse. Compare the two Scriptures. Both are saying the same thing, only each in a different way. The trials we suffer in the Christian life are really the making of us. It is the preparing of our hearts for the main trial yet to come. We will all be at the judgment seat of Christ. We will have to stand before Him. We want to be glad with exceeding joy in that day. And we will be if we have borne His sufferings in the thorns and burdens of life. It will be through much tribulation that we will enter the Kingdom of God and endure unto the end. We have added a few Scriptures from the Proverbs that go along with our lesson. These Scriptures stress that it is the integrity and righteousness of the upright that will keep them from falling; the perverseness, wickedness and naughtiness of the wicked will be their downfall.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why does it seem to be strange and uncalled for when adversity strikes us?
2. What are we tempted to do when these fiery trials come?
3. But what does the Lord want us to do, and how does He want us to feel about it?
4. What are some of the ways that a person who is spiritual and led by the Spirit of God will suffer persecution and hardship today?
5. How can suffering as a Christian help to prepare us for the end of time and the great judgment day?
6. What will the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?
7. What can we do when we suffer according to the will of God?
8. What will be the guideline and stability of the righteous?
9. What will be the downfall of the wicked and the transgressors?
10. How should we react to things we suffer in the Christian life?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The Christian life is a wonderful and happy life. But because we are in a society so adverse to the Christian standard of living, we meet with opposition, criticism, and many times we are hated, despised, and persecuted. The apostles rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for the name of Christ. (Acts 5:41). We have known of numbers of good and sincere children of God who suffered at the hands of loved ones, neighbors, and their society. Their lives were spotless and pure, and yet they were defamed and persecuted and rejected. There have been many precious saint women who have suffered at the hand of an unsaved husband who let it work for their spiritual good. It is sad that the unrighteous and the wicked are the way they are. They do not have to be that way. It is not because there is no remedy or means for them to change. It is because of the hardness and

stubbornness of their hearts, and this is what is going to cause them to be lost forever in eternity's night. Just think what judgment a man or woman is going to meet who has lived with a saved companion for years and years and hardened their hearts against them and gave them a hard time over and over again! The precious saint endured the sorrow and let it work for their spiritual good, and they finally are taken on to be with the Lord. But the sinner goes on in his darkness, and is soon taken out into eternity to meet the deeds that he has done. If a person will make a clear and clean-cut decision for God and stay with it all of this journey here below, there will be a great reward enjoyed at the end of the way. Let us be faithful to the Lord regardless of how others behave. The judgment is coming and we want Christ to be with us in that day.

-- Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"When the apostle uses the phrase, 'If the righteous scarcely be saved,' he does not, assuredly, mean that there is any doubt about the absolute and infinite sufficiency of the ground of their salvation; or that there is any uncertainty in the result; or that there is any stintedness or imperfection in the final enjoyment; or that, when believers come to stand before the judgment seat at last, it will go hard with them, so that they may barely come off with acquittal, the poised balance vibrating in long uncertainty, and barely turning on the favourable side, the justifying righteousness of their Lord forming no more than a counterpoise, and hardly that, to their demerits. He means none of these things. His language refers to the difficulty of bringing them through to their final salvation; to the necessity of employing the rod and furnace; the process, in many instances severe, of correction and purification; of bringing them 'to the wealthy place through the fire and the water'; of their being 'chastened of the Lord, that they might not be condemned with the world.' If 'fiery trial' be required, and his hatred of sin and his love to his children will not allow him to withhold it, to purge out the remaining alloy of their holiness, what must his enemies have to look for from his

abhorrence of evil, in whom sin is not the mere alloy of a better material, but all is sin together!"

—Taken from a writing by Ralph Wardlaw

— — — — —

NOTICE: If your subscription expired with this quarter, please renew at once. It is necessary that your subscription for the fourth quarter of 1990 be in this office by Sept. 1. For your convenience there is an order blank at the end of this book.

August 26, 1990

**SUBMISSION, HUMILITY, TRUST, AND STEADFAST-
NESS IN THE FAITH**

I Peter 5:1 The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed:

2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.

4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

11 To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

12 By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose, I have written briefly, exhorting, and testifying that this is the true grace of God wherein ye stand.

13 The church that is at Babylon, elected together with you, saluteth you; and so doth Marcus my son.

14 Greet ye one another with a kiss of charity. Peace be with you all that are in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Memory Verse: Surely He [the Lord] scorneth the scornors: but he giveth grace unto the lowly. Prov. 3:34.

Central Thought: Every member of Christ's body, both the elder and the younger are to be subject one to another. They should be clothed with humility, trust in God's faithful care, be watchful and steadfast against the devil, and faithful to God who has called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus.

Word Definitions: *Elder:* The Greek word here is "presbuteros" from which the word "presbyter" is derived. It refers to those who are senior members of the Church, those who have spent enough time in the Christian faith to prove their dependability and steadfastness, and who are recognized as spiritually qualified by the Holy Spirit to bear the responsibility of being a leader of God's people. *"Not by constraint":* Not because of necessity nor compulsorily. *"Not for filthy lucre":* Not actuated nor moved by a base desire for gain; not greedy for hire. *Ensample:* A die or stamp from which other products are formed; a model or pattern. *"Casting all your care upon him":* The word "care" here means solicitude which means anxiety or concern. *"He careth for you":* God is interested and concerned about us. *Sober:* To be discreet, circumspect, wise. *Vigilant:* To be awake, on guard, and watchful. *"By Silvanus, a faithful brother unto you, as I suppose":* The word "suppose" here really means counted, reckoned, and esteemed. This Silvanus is generally understood to be the same as Silas, companion to Paul.

LESSON BACKGROUND

This is our final lesson in the First Epistle of Peter. Being an elder, a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory of Christ's resurrection, Peter's heart was yearning for the welfare of the disciples of the Lord. He addresses first the elders, the preachers and ministers who were functioning among the Church to feed and nourish the flock of God. Much lies in his admonition to the younger to be subject to the elder. If a person wants to really prosper in the Lord, he must keep a respectful and submissive attitude

toward those whom God has set to be leaders in the Church. And then he speaks to all, both elders and lay members. We would do well to follow carefully all of the apostle's instructions recorded here. The location of the church at Babylon, mentioned in verse 13, has been the subject of much dispute. Some think it was in Egypt, or that it simply means Jerusalem, or a figurative name for Rome. Others think it means Joppa. But Adam Clarke is of the opinion that it refers to the ancient and celebrated Babylon in Assyria, which was observed to be the metropolis of the eastern dispersion of the Jews. We want to also note that our memory verse for today's lesson is the Old Testament rendering of the latter part of verse five of our lesson.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What three things did Peter have to his credentials to exhort the elders with?
2. What was the first thing that he told the elders to do?
3. What else were they to do in connection with feeding the flock of God?
4. How were they to do this, and how were they **not** to do this?
5. Is there any danger of a preacher becoming a lord over God's heritage?
6. What will happen to those who are faithful stewards when the Chief Shepherd shall appear?
7. What should be the attitude of a child of God to those who are true leaders in the congregation?
8. Is there any possibility of a child of God failing to be subject and to be clothed with humility?
9. What are some of the ways that the mighty hand of God can be upon us?
10. Do we get anywhere by squirming and fretting and trying to get out from under the hand of God?
11. Do you really believe beyond a shadow of a doubt that God cares for you and is interested in your welfare?
12. Is there any comfort in knowing that other brethren are meeting similar trials to your own?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God calls and qualifies His servants to minister the gospel and the Word of God in such a way that it will nourish and provide comfort and help to His children. If we are blessed to be in a congregation where a faithful and spiritual minister is laboring, we need to appreciate them and pray for them. Listen carefully to their messages, and do not be quick to censure or condemn if they seem to fail along the way. They are human, like you, and capable of blunders and lack of judgment. Seek the Lord to help you be a blessing to your pastor rather than a burden or hindrance. If you do not agree with what they preach or teach, do not be quick to oppose them. Pray about it, and hold it before the Lord. While you are weighing their words and praying about it, continue to show love. Many people have erred in their attitudes which can get one into serious trouble with the Lord. The counsel of old, "Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm" is still for us today. (See Psalm 105:15). Not only are we to be respectful to the minister, we are also enjoined to have an humble attitude toward our fellow Christians as well. Do not be quick to defy and argue with your brother and sister in the Lord. If you do not agree with them in a matter, it may be proper to voice your convictions on the subject, but be sure to keep your conversation brotherly. Satan is on the prowl. Watch out for him. He finds a lot of room to work in hurt feelings and indignant attitudes that arise in times of conflict with your brother. Many a soul has gone down in despair because of these things. Keep fervent love in your heart for all. God has called us unto His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, and if we will follow His instructions given here through the apostle, Peter, He will finish His divine work in our lives and cause us to inherit that wonderful inheritance undefiled, and incorruptible, that is now being reserved in heaven for us. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The story is told of a man taking a tour of Palestine. Driving a tour bus one day, the tour guide directed everyone's attention to points of interest. Citing cultural differences, the

guide proudly explained that shepherds in Palestine are different from shepherds in other cultures. In Palestine, shepherds lead their flocks and the sheep trustingly follow the shepherd to safe pasture and restful waters.

As they were driving through the countryside, they came upon a man with a flock of sheep. To everyone's surprise, the man was scrambling along behind the sheep. He was yelling, throwing stones, and driving the sheep over the steep embankments of the road. Embarrassed, the tour guide stopped the bus and got out. Within the hearing of the crowded tour bus the tour guide began shouting to the man, upbraiding him.

"What are you doing?" the tour guide shouted. "I've been telling these tourists that shepherds in Palestine lead their sheep and here you are driving these poor creatures, throwing things at them and cursing. What kind of a shepherd are you?"

The man looked down at the tour guide with contempt and shouted. "I am not a shepherd. I am a butcher!"

The mark of a shepherd who is truly called of God to minister is that he is able, through humility, to lead, feed and pull the flock together. It is the opposite when the overseer is only interested in what he can get out of the sheep for his own benefit, even at the expense of their spiritual lives. Naturally, sheep under this type of constraint will scatter.

We should admire, support and be submissive to the overseer who shows true shepherd qualities, for true shepherds are ordained of God to be a blessing and comfort to the flock.

—Wayne Murphey



September 2, 1990

**MAKING OUR CALLING AND ELECTION
IN CHRIST SURE**

II Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,

3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:

4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

5 And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

6 And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

7 And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

8 For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

9 But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

10 Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:

11 For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Memory Verse: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. Prov. 24:14.

Central Thought: There are certain qualities of character and Christian attributes that we must have if we are to be fruitful in Christ, and only by having these things can we be successful and have entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of the Lord.

Word Definitions: *"Like precious faith with us":* Equally priceless and valuable to you as it is to us. *Virtue:* Fortitude, strength, valor, manliness. Be a valiant man about your faith. *Temperance:* Self-discipline and control. *Patience:* Cheerful or hopeful endurance; constancy. *Godliness:* Pious, reverent, devout with great respect and worship to God. *"Brotherly kindness":* The Greek word is "philadelphia," which means fraternal (brotherly) affection. *Charity:* The Greek word "agape," which is love, affection and benevolence; the love of God.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We now enter into our study of the Second Epistle of Peter. It is a special message of encouragement and warning to the disciples of the Lord whomever or wherever they may be. The instructions and words of wisdom in this epistle are very vital for the spiritual success of every one of us. Peter's main burden in this epistle is that we will not be moved from the work of grace that Christ has accomplished in our souls. He gives us a list of characteristics and attributes that we are to work into our lives through prayer and yielding to the Lord and His workings with us. The word "add" in the Greek means to superadd, or fully furnish and supply. It is the responsibility of every Christian to work diligently on his experience (with the Lord's help) to have these things working abundantly in his heart and life. Let us notice that he started with faith, the precious faith of Jesus Christ. Faith alone is not sufficient. Other things must go along with our faith for it to be effectual and profitable. Each one of these things will complement and benefit the thing it is added to. For example, virtue added to faith will cause it to be strong and valiant. Faith that crumbles before opposition is not the faith that we need. We need a faith that is manly and valiant. Virtue needs knowledge. It needs to be taught the principles of truth and the workings of God.

Knowledge needs temperance; temperance needs patience, and so on down the list. Godliness needs brotherly kindness. So many people have a tendency to lost track of brotherly kindness in their zeal for God. We need to recognize our brothers in Christ. And then to brotherly kindness we need to add the crowning grace, which is charity, or love. These things alive and in good function in our hearts will cause us to be fruitful and successful in our life for God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. To whom is this second epistle of Peter written?
2. Could you say that you personally are included?
3. What has His divine power given to us?
4. Of what do the great and precious promises help us to be partakers?
5. How many things are listed along with faith that we must have if we are to be fruitful in Christ?
6. How can we be sure that we will not be barren or unfruitful in the knowledge of Christ?
7. What is our condition if we lack these things?
8. What will never happen to us if we do these things?
9. How shall we have an abundant entrance into the everlasting Kingdom of Christ?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How wonderful that we have here the authentic words of Peter, one of the disciples of the Lord Jesus! Let us behold the beauty of the standard of holiness and love that he holds before us. Our confidence and assurance of Christ and His risen life is indeed a precious treasure, richer than all the wealth of all this world and ten thousand worlds like it! This precious faith can be shared by everyone; it is within everyone's reach. This faith helps to unite us in a common persuasion. But besides having faith in Christ, we need other ingredients of heart and character that, with our faith, will give us success and lasting fellowship with God. Let us add to our faith fortitude. Let us be men and strongly defensive against the

devil and his works. There will be battles and hard trials. Satan will do all he can to draw you from the ways of the Lord. But we can be vallant for the truth. Let us add knowledge to our experience right along. This is a learning way. There are always lessons to learn, and we need to ever be growing in grace and knowledge of the Lord. Our graduation day from the school of wisdom will be our coronation day, our transport to glory. How we need temperance, or self-control. Without it we will go astray. We need to control our minds, our appetites, and our desires. Every part of our life must be kept under strict control. And how we will need patience, and much of it! Without patience we will burn up in the reverses and upheavals of life. We must have patience with God, with others, and with ourselves. We must continue to draw nearer to God, and be more godly. And, don't neglect the last two things mentioned, which are the most important of all. Without brotherly kindness and charity we will never make it. Let us continually add these things to our lives so that we can be fruitful in the Lord.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Politicians running for public office will go to great lengths, hoping to win. They sometimes go deeply into debt for advertisement and other campaigning expenses. They travel many miles, shake hands with a smile when they don't feel like smiling, and faithfully say what they think the people want to hear. And then all but one fail to get what they labored for. It is not often that winning an election is guaranteed to a particular person.

However, there is a home in heaven assured to each individual who will strive for it lawfully. If, on the judgment day you possess the qualities the Apostle Peter mentions - faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity - then Christ will favor you. Whomever Christ affirms, His Father will also. When that happens no one can turn the tide of that election. You will have an abundant entrance into eternal glory.

It is a comfort to know that everyone is given an invitation to receive eternal life. It is not limited to a selected nationality

or only 144,000, as some teach. There need be no uncertainty, but we can run this race with an assurance of reaching our intended goal.

—Wayne Murphey

— — — — —

September 9, 1990

**PARTING ADMONITIONS FROM AN EYE WITNESS OF
THE MAJESTY OF CHRIST**

II Peter 1:12 Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

13 Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

14 Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.

15 Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

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

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

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

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

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

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

2:1 But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.

3 And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not.

Memory Verse: Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their conversation Heb. 13:7.

Central Thought: Let us not forget the truth that has been brought to us by the followers of the Lord Jesus, for they beheld His glory, and have given a firsthand account of it to us. We must also be on our guard against false teachers who seek to change the gospel to suit their own foolish notions.

Word Definitions: *"These things"*: Referred to in verses 8, 9, 10, 12, and 15. "These things" are namely what is mentioned in verses 5-7: faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, charity. *"Be in you, and abound"*: To be increasing and always present and active. *Tabernacle*: The Greek word means a cloth structure, or tent. Peter here refers to his mortal body to be likened unto a tent, soon to be taken down and discarded with a better structure in view. *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy"*: The Greek expression here is thus: "And we have the prophetic word more firm." Peter had been given a privilege of beholding with his own eyes the glorious majesty of his Saviour. This was wonderful. But along with this he had the prophetic Word confirmed beyond all doubt and question as to what it all was referring. He could see that the prophets foretold of Jesus, and he was able to behold it all fulfilled in Christ, thus confirming the prophetic Scriptures as true and steadfast forever. *"Dark place"*: Dark because of dirt, dust, and filth. *"The day star"*: The Lord Jesus, the Sun of righteousness. *"No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation"*: We should be aware of the fact that no prophecy of the Scripture is of its own loosing. We must be enlightened by the Holy Spirit in order to properly understand the true application of the prophetic

Word. It was given in olden time not by the authorization and dictation of men, but the prophets wrote as they were moved, or inspired by the Holy Spirit. *"But there were false prophets among the people"*: While the Holy Spirit was inspiring His prophets, there were men who were speaking in the name of the Lord who were false and not commissioned of God. Such is still the state that we face in this world, of which Peter is giving us a serious warning in the second chapter of his second epistle. *"Judgment lingereth not, damnation slumbereth not"*: Their punishment will soon be speedily executed.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today ties right in with our previous lesson. The Lord Jesus had told Peter that by his death he would glorify God. (John 21:18-19.) Being aged, he knew that the fulfillment of Christ's prophecy to him could not be far off. Thank the Lord for these precious words of Peter, an eyewitness of the majesty of Christ. He was referring to that day when the Master climbed with him and James and John into a high mountain apart. There at a great distance from the multitudes who ordinarily would have been thronging Him, Jesus gave to these three disciples a sign far beyond anything He had shown them before. There, as the Master poured out His soul in prayer to the Father, His countenance began to shine like the sun. His raiment became white and glistening, whiter than no fuller's soap on earth could make them. Perhaps the disciples had fallen asleep as Jesus was so long in prayer. But they were awakened to behold their beloved Master in the middle of such glory with two men talking to Him concerning His death which He would accomplish soon at Jerusalem. Peter remembers the bright cloud that overshadowed them, and the voice that came out of the cloud, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye Him." Peter saw and heard it all; he saw a lot more later. He was an eyewitness of Christ's majesty and glory. We need to listen to his words, and be on guard against any influence that would try to alter or adulterate this precious truth that is in Christ Jesus.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Is it possible that these attributes Peter stressed as so important for us to have can be overlooked, forgotten, or slip away from us?
2. Why did Peter so earnestly want to put these things before our minds?
3. Why was Peter so certain of the power and coming of the Lord Jesus?
4. Besides being an eyewitness to Christ's majesty, what else did Peter have?
5. What would we do well to do concerning the Word of prophecy?
6. If we will take diligent heed to the gospel of Christ, what will take place in our hearts?
7. Is there any danger of us formulating wrong doctrines from the Holy Scriptures?
8. How can we ever really know the true meaning of the Scriptures?
9. Who else besides men of God were among the people?
10. Are false teachers ever successful in getting people to give heed to them?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

God visited the earth in His Son Jesus Christ. He came to bring life, spiritual and eternal life, to the souls of men. Jesus came forth in the fullness of time and began His work. He chose from among the people certain men whose hearts God had prepared to be His disciples. They left all and followed Him. They were with Him constantly until He was taken from them and condemned to death. They were the ones whom He came and revealed Himself to after He had arisen from the grave. They felt Him, saw Him appear and disappear, and beheld many unfailling proofs of His risen life and power. They were standing out on the Mount of Olives on that day when He was taken up into heaven. They beheld Him as He slowly began to arise from the earth, and ascended into the skies where a cloud received Him out of their sight. They saw and heard the

two angels who appeared and told them that this same Jesus would come again as they saw Him go into heaven. Peter, whose epistles we have been studying, was among that number of eyewitnesses. He had since then sought to follow the Lord Jesus in being led and inspired by the Holy Spirit, preaching and promoting the truths of Christ and the blessed Kingdom of God. Now the years had flown by, and He knew that his time to depart from this fleeting life would soon come. With his heart burning with the love of God, and His soul enlightened by the sweet Holy Spirit who had come upon him at Pentecost, he wrote these two precious letters. He wanted the name and power of the Lord Jesus to continue on unto the end of the world, and we know that it will. Let us catch the glory of the gospel message and let it sink into our innermost being. Let us cherish it and publish it in whatever way the Lord leads and inspires unto the end of our mortal days.

--Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

As much as some would like it to be, there is no private interpretation on the scriptures. There is no certain person who possesses the light and understanding of God's will for man, exclusive of all others. Everyone has the opportunity to see that "light that shineth in a dark place." As long as we are beholding that light for ourselves we will not be led astray by false prophets.

A Mr. Hughes tells an experience which gives insight into how God's Word will illuminate our way to an eternal reward. He started out one winter's night in England to visit a certain place with his friend, Charles Kingsley. Before they reached their destination, they were enveloped in a dense fog. "Both of us," Mr Hughes related, "knew the way well, but we lost it half a dozen times, and Kingsley's spirit seemed to rise as the fog thickened. 'Isn't this like life?' he said, after one of our blunders, 'a deep yellow fog all round, with a dim light here and there shining through. You make your way on from one lamp to another, and you go up wrong streets and back again. But you get home at last - there's always light enough for that.' "

—Wayne Murphey

September 16, 1990

THE DANGER AND JUDGMENT OF FALSE PROPHETS

II Peter 2:4 For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;

5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

6 And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly;

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved forever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Memory Verse: Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. I John 4:1.

Central Thought: Regardless of the many false prophets who have arisen through the ages since Christ and the many unsuspecting souls who have followed after them, God still keeps track of every soul who clings to Him in truth and righteousness, and will preserve them from Satan.

Word Definitions: *"Angels that stirred"*: Various opinions of this phrase have been voiced. Personally, I am persuaded that Peter is referring to the people in the days before Noah's flood who for a time called upon the Lord and sought to walk with Him. These were the sons of Seth (Genesis 4:26) whose lineage reaches down through Enoch the faithful unto Noah and his three sons. It is generally believed that the wicked sons and daughters of Cain finally prevailed upon the descendants of Seth to come down and join them. Whoever they were we do not really know. We are strongly opposed to the notion that these were actual angels in heaven. Let it not be a matter of controversy, however, but rather see Peter's points in mentioning this in conjunction with the thought of not sparing the old world and saving Noah. *Overthrow*: The Greek word is catastrophe. *"Cannot cease from sin"*: Unrestrained from sin.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our previous lesson Peter introduced the thought of false prophets being among the people of old and false

teachers being among the people now. It is interesting to observe the strong and pointed language Peter used here in describing and renouncing the false prophets. He wasted no words in exposing their corruptness and evil. He relates them to Baalam of old who was called upon by the king of Moab to curse Israel. Although Baalam seemed to be sincere at first, it is evident from the Scriptures that he was eyeing the nice piece of wealth that Balac offered to him. He is mentioned in Revelation 2:14 as one who taught Balac (who was the king of Moab) to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel. The account in Numbers 22 and 24 does not reveal the whole story of Balaam. But the Jewish historian, Josephus, says that Balaam told Balac there was no way he could curse Israel because God was with them. He counselled Balac that the only way he could prevail against Israel was to get them to sin against God. He suggested that Moab put out some of their beautiful daughters in view of the men of Israel and get them to take them. This would be displeasing in God's sight and would enable Moab to prevail against Israel. And that is just what happened. Satan still works this way today. The world is full of false prophets and alluring temptations. Let us be strong and hold fast our integrity with Him, remembering Peter's words that God is able and knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What two Bible accounts are mentioned that show how God can deliver the godly?
2. Is it very needful for us to be aware of the fact that there are many false prophets around?
3. Which is worse in the sight of God: to not profess Him at all, or to profess Him and be false?
4. What kind of false religion is the most dangerous and the most deceptive?
5. What was the error of Balaam?
6. Why is a false prophet like a well without water?
7. Is it possible for one who was once a true prophet of the Lord to turn away and become a false prophet?

8. Do false prophets ever lead away people who are saved?
9. What about people who once were escaped from the world and have gone back and become entangled there again?
10. What proverb is true of them?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Oh, what scalding terms Simon Peter uses in his description and denunciation of false prophets! Think of the scene pictured in the first verse of our lesson of those who had fallen from God's favor, being in hell, chained in darkness, waiting for the judgment! Here we have the world of sinners before the flood, wicked and possessed with every evil imaginable, in contrast with Noah, the just and faithful man who had influenced his wife, his sons, and their wives. There are the wicked sinners of Sodom and just Lot. Even though Lot had pitched his tent toward Sodom, and had eventually ended up living in that awful place, he still held on to a righteous way of living. His soul was troubled and greatly distressed to see the awful things done in Sodom in broad daylight. He did not agree with it at all. God had mercy on Lot and got him out of there. He lost his wife in the terrible flight from Sodom because she yielded to the temptation to look back. May the Lord help us today to keep unspotted from this wicked old world! Let us be on our guard against the inroads and temptations of Satan. Jesus told us to beware of false prophets who come to us in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves. We cannot just accept people on what they say. We must weigh their spirits; we must behold the kind of fruit they bear. Not everyone who says, "Lord, Lord," is really a child of God. He that doeth the will of God is accepted of the Lord. It is sad to think of how the powers and influences of the flesh can overpower and seduce a soul who once strove to please the Lord! And once a person goes down and gives over to the devil, it is very difficult to get back with the Lord. It is not impossible, but it is so difficult. It is better to be true to God and not give over to sin. This has been proven over and over. May the Lord deliver us from temptations and allurements of sin and keep us from the evils that densely throng our society. He has

promised to help us if we will be willing to follow Him all the way.
—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Peter had lived many years and experienced many things which happen in the Christian life. Therefore we can accept what he says, knowing that it is not just a fine theory or someone's head knowledge.

One of his most encouraging statements is, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished." An excellent example of this in Peter's life is recorded in the 12th chapter of Acts. King Herod had killed James and since it was a popular move with the people he decided to kill Peter as well. Peter was arrested and put in jail. The chances of his living looked very bleak. But God knew how to deliver him. He sent an angel to Peter who led him to liberty. Herod's end turned out differently. Although things seemed to go well and people praised him as a god, the Lord struck him down and he died a loathsome death.

God's knowledge is all encompassing. He knows the godly when they are in trials of which no one else is aware. He understands them when they are in temptations and when they can hardly discern their own feelings. He knows the unrighteous even in their secret sins. He knows them even when they appear to be pious and blessed with temporal honors.

God's ability to work in the lives of both the godly and the unjust is likewise unsurpassed. He knows how to make a way of escape for those who believe in Him and just when to work it to their advantage. He is able to bring fear and unrest upon the oppressors and to bring them down when their cup of iniquity is full.

God is a God of justice and in the end justice will be meted out to all. Let us watch lest we be brought under any influence which would deprive us of eternal life. —Wayne Murphey



September 23, 1990

**CHRIST JESUS WILL KEEP HIS PROMISE
AND COME AGAIN**

II Peter 3:1 This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:

2 That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour:

3 Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts,

4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

5 For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:

6 Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished:

7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of

God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

13 Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

14 Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.

Memory Verse: But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. II Peter 3:10.

Central Thought: Although time's ages have waxen long, and many scoffers doubt the promise of Christ's second coming, the day of the Lord will come, and it will mean life everlasting for us if we are ready and accounted worthy to dwell with Him in that new world to come.

Word Definitions: *Perdition:* Eternal ruin and loss. *"Melt and be dissolved":* Liquified and loosened. Scientists have acknowledged that there is a mysterious power that holds the elements together. Atomic particles that otherwise would repel each other and fall apart are held together. They are held together by the word of God. In atomic energy when elements are bombarded and the atoms are split, it means they are loosened. And then atoms are thus split or loosened, tremendous energy is released. Can you image what fire and energy will erupt when all the elements are loosened by the word of God, bringing destruction to all things?

LESSON BACKGROUND

Peter's final warning is given in our lesson today. After his earnest warnings concerning the false prophets and teachers who were sure to show up among the people, he proceeds to give warning concerning the unbelief and doubts that many would entertain concerning the promised return of the Saviour. It was probably the sentiment and belief of many of the

early day Christians that Christ would not tarry in the heavens very long, but would soon return as He had promised He would. But as the years passed on, and, one by one, the apostles and church fathers were laid away in death's sleep, doubts and wonderments began to invade upon the ranks of the Church. Is it all a mistake, and have we been deceived into thinking that Jesus is coming again? These are probably some of the questions that were put before their minds. In our lesson today Peter seeks to dispel these doubt and fears, and to strengthen the conviction in our hearts that Jesus will come, and even though it be a prolonged delay stretching over the centuries as it has, Jesus will keep His promise and come again. Centuries have passed since Peter wrote these words. God has allowed time to go on and on. But we still are fully persuaded that Jesus will come. With all of our hearts we desire to be ready, waiting, and to be among that number who will be accepted of Him in that day. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What condition will a person get into if he fails to keep stirred up?
2. What caused doubts to be in many minds concerning the sureness of Christ's coming?
3. Is it possible for us to overlook something because we are not as concerned about it as we should be?
4. Is it a general conviction among the members of our society that Jesus will come soon?
5. What was the power that brought forth the creation and held the earth out of the water?
6. What is the word of God doing with the heavens and earth which are now?
7. How does God and Christ relate to time as we calculate it?
8. Instead of being slack concerning His promise of coming again, why is the Lord waiting so long?
9. What will happen to the literal heavens and earth when the Lord comes as a thief in the night?
10. What effect will a firm persuasion of Christ's coming have upon the heart and life of a person?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The great day of the Lord will soon come. Though the people of our time have but little consideration for this thought, we are persuaded that the promised coming of our Lord and Saviour will soon be fulfilled. We must be ready at all cost. We want to be the kind of people whom Christ is pleased with, walking and living in all holy conversation and godliness. We want to be found of Him in peace, without spot and blameless. We want no grudges or ill-will in our hearts for any one. Even toward the erring we want to be merciful and kind. It should be the daily prayer of every one of us that we will be able to live so that the Lord will account us worthy of escaping all the destruction of the earth, and to be able to stand before the Son of man. The heavens and the earth are now being preserved and guarded against the fires of the anger and wrath of God that are waiting to be poured upon this corrupt world. The perdition of ungodly men is being withheld so that those who are potentials for salvation can have opportunity and a chance to really be saved. Just when the Father will decide that it is enough and it is time for the Lord to come and to bring the world to judgment is all in His own divine power. But we know that it will come. Oh, it will be worth it all if we are ready to meet Him in that day! Try to think what it will be like to have the heavens on fire and the earth all around us melting like wax. And then think of the new heavens and the new earth which the Lord has promised to bring in the place of the earth that is destroyed! In it dwells only righteousness and holiness before the Lord. Let us be of good courage in the Christian life, for it will be worth it all in that great day.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Many have speculated as to the time of Christ's second appearing. Some have been known to quit their jobs, take their children out of school, and hole up to await the coming of Christ. They blindly overlook the Scripture that states that no man knoweth the day nor the hour of the coming of the Son of man.

One particular sect of people believe that Christ returned in 1914. They claim that His return was recognized only by them, through their spiritual eyes. The Bible states that "Every eye shall see him"—not a selected few.

God's timing is perfect; much more so than ours. God alone knows the time when this sin-laden earth will be ripe for the plucking.

God sent His Son in the "fulness of time;" when all was fulfilled and perfected for His coming. Christ came when there was opportunity for Him to reveal the plan of salvation to a few honest-hearted souls. God will also know the proper hour in which to have Jesus return for the harvest of souls.

Many have heard all their lives that Jesus is coming to take vengeance on the wicked. They think that because He has delayed His coming, it will never occur. These people are like those in Jeremiah's day. Jeremiah had prophesied unto them that unless they turned from their idols and served God, destruction would fall and they would be carried away into captivity. Notice the attitude of the people. "Behold they say unto me, Where is the word of the Lord? let it come now." Did their unbelief alter the truthfulness of the prophecy? The destruction of Jerusalem was imminent and severe. Neither will the scoffers of today prevent the second coming of Christ.

A gentleman traveling in a stage coach attempted to divert the company by ridiculing the Scriptures. "As to the prophecies," said he, "in particular, they were all written after the events took place. A minister in the coach, who had hitherto been silent, replied, "Sir, I beg leave to mention one particular prophecy as an exception, 'Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers.' Now, sir, whether the event be not long after the prediction, I leave the company to judge.' The mouth of the scorner was stopped. —Wayne Murphey



September 30, 1990

TEST ON I AND II PETER

This test will see how well you have been able to understand and comprehend the material in these two precious epistles from Peter. This test can be taken orally as a group, or it can be administered on an individual basis during the Sunday school class, each one with a pen or pencil filling in the blanks with the correct word. This will show how well you have remembered the lessons you have studied. We need to remember these things. May God bless you all.

--Bro. Leslie Busbee

1. God according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively _____.

2. In Christ we have an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in _____ for us who are kept by the _____ of God through faith.

3. The trial of your faith is more precious than _____ that perisheth.

4. Though we have not seen Christ, yet believing, we rejoice with _____ unspeakable.

5. The end (or purpose) of our faith is the _____ of our souls.

6. The Spirit of Christ in the prophets of old testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the _____ that should follow.

7. As obedient children we must be _____ in all manner of conversation.

8. We were not redeemed with corruptible things, but with the precious _____ of Christ.

9. We are born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the _____ of God.

10. As newborn babes, we should desire the sincere _____ of the word, that we may _____ thereby.

11. Christ is a living stone, disallowed indeed of _____ but chosen of _____, and precious.

12. Unto us which believe He is _____, but to the disobedient he is a stone of _____.
13. As pilgrims and strangers we are to abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the _____.
14. It is the will of God, that with _____ we may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men.
15. If we do well, and suffer for it, and take it patiently, this is _____ with God.
16. Christ suffered for us, leaving us an example that we should follow His _____.
17. Christ His own self bare our sins in his own _____ on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes we were _____.
18. The adorning of the Christian is to be the _____ man of the heart, even the ornament of a _____ and _____ spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price.
19. Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise _____; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a _____.
20. As Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same _____.
21. The end of all things is a hand: be ye therefore _____, and watch unto _____.
22. Have fervent charity among yourselves, for charity shall _____ the multitude of _____.
23. Think it not _____ concerning the fiery trial, as though some _____ thing happened to you.
24. If any man suffer as a _____, let him not be ashamed.
25. The time is come that judgment must begin at the _____ of _____.
26. If the righteous _____ be saved, where shall the ungodly and the _____ appear?
27. Let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their _____ to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful _____.
28. To the elders: _____ the flock of God, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but _____; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready _____.

29. Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being _____ to the flock.
30. God resisteth the _____, and giveth _____ to the humble.
31. Casting all your _____ upon him; for He _____ for you.
32. Unto us are given exceeding great and precious _____: that by these we might be partakers of the _____ nature.
33. We have not followed cunningly devised _____, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were _____ of His majesty.
34. We have also a more _____ word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn and the _____ arise in your hearts.
35. The prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were _____ by the Holy Ghost.
36. But there were _____ prophets also among the people, even as there shall be _____ teachers among you.
37. Of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in _____.
38. For this they _____ are ignorant of, that by the _____ of God the heavens were of old.
39. The day of the Lord will come as a _____ in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great _____, and the elements shall _____ with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be _____.
40. Seeing then that all these things shall be _____, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all _____ conversation and godliness.
41. We, according to His promise, look for _____ heavens and a _____ earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

(The answers are on the next page.)

Answers to summary test:

1. hope. 2. heaven, power. 3. gold. 4. joy. 5. salvation. 6. glory.
7. holy. 8. blood. 9. Word. 10. milk, grow. 11. men, God. 12.
precious, stumbling. 13. soul. 14. well, doing. 15. acceptable.
16. steps. 17. body, healed. 18. hidden, meek, quiet. 19.
blessing, blessing. 20. mind. 21. sober, prayer. 22. cover, sins.
23. strange, strange. 24. Christian. 25. house, God. 26.
scarcely, sinner. 27. souls, Creator. 28. Feed, willingly, mind.
29. ensamples. 30. proud, grace. 31. care, careth. 32. prom-
ises, divine. 33. fables. eye witness, 34. sure, day, star. 35.
moved. 36. false, false. 37. bondage. 38. willingly, word.
39. thief, noise, melt, burned up. 40. dissolved, holy. 41. new,
new.

Subscription Order

Please send _____ copy/ies of the *Bible Lessons* quarterly
to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Subscription rate: 50¢ per copy per quarter; or \$2.00 per
copy for one year (issued quarterly).

Please find enclosed payment in the amount of
\$ _____.

Mail to:
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE
P. O. Box 518
Guthrie, OK 73044

