

Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

Vol. 23, No. 1
Jan., Feb., March
1991

Faith Pub. House
Guthrie, Okla.
73044

Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People
(USPS054-680)

Volume 23

Jan., Feb., March

No. 1

Table of Contents

	Page
Jan. 6 The Fullness that is in Jesus Christ	1
13 Benefits from the Fullness that is in Christ	8
20 Warnings Against Elements Opposing the Truth of Christ	12
27 The Beautiful Life Springing from Christ's Fullness	17
Feb. 3 The Quickening Power of the Fullness in Christ	22
10 The Jew and the Gentile United Through Christ	26
17 The Fullness of Christ Filling His Church Like a Body	31
24 The Fullness of Christ Reflected in One's Behavior	35
Mar. 3 The Bright Shining Light of the Dear Children of God	39
10 A Glorious Church, the Bride of Christ	44
17 The Fullness of Christ Affecting Domestic Relations	49
24 The Crucifixion of our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ	53
31 The Glorious Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ	58

**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 First Quarter, 1991

We feel greatly inspired to set forth a series of studies and lessons having to do with the fullness of grace and blessings that are in Christ Jesus, and the benefits of such completeness. We will draw our lessons from the two epistles of the Apostle Paul to the Colossians and to the Ephesians. Written to these two different Gentile churches, the instructions in these two letters contain much soul food and encouragement in living the life of Christ. Since the last two Sundays of this quarter fall on Easter Sunday and the Sunday before, we will have studies corresponding with the seasonal commemoration of the death, burial, and resurrection of our Saviour.

—Brother Leslie Busbee



January 6, 1991

THE FULLNESS THAT IS IN JESUS CHRIST

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

16 And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace.

17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;

11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;

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

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

14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even

the forgiveness of sins:

15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible, and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

17 And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

19 For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell.

2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

Memory Verse: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 1 Cor. 1:30.

Central Thought: God has put in Jesus Christ, His Son, the fullness and completeness of all mercy, grace, truth, righteousness, holiness, wisdom, strength, and all else that we need to be saved from the power of sin unto a life of victory and success. It is for us by humility, faith, and obedience, to receive of this fullness for the sake of our eternal welfare.

Word Definitions: *Fulness:* Being filled to perfection, completeness, and denoting abundance, entirety, accomplishment, filling and satisfying every need that exists. *"Grace for grace":* Favor upon favor, blessing after blessing, benefits and help of a never-ending supply. *"Walk worthy of the Lord":* Conduct ourselves after a manner that is appropriate, suit-

able, and deserving of the Lord Jesus. *"Meet to be partakers"*: Enabled or qualified. *Image*: Resemblance or representation. *"Firstborn of every creature"*: First and foremost of all. The Greek word "prototokos" is comparable to our word "prototype" which is used to identify the first of any product made or constructed. Christ is the firstborn of every creature, because by Him were all things created, etc. *"By him all things consist"*: By Christ all things are held together. *Preeminence*: First in rank or influence. *"Fullness of the Godhead bodily"*: The fullness of the Almighty God brought down into a human body.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the first chapter of the Gospel of John, we find him speaking of the Word which was in the beginning, by whom all things were made. He stated that the life that was in the Word was the Light of men. But the greatest wonder of all was that of this Word becoming flesh and dwelling among men. John declares that this Word in the flesh, the only begotten Son of the Father in heaven, was full of grace and truth. And he joyfully says that of this fullness have we all received. John was rejoicing in what he had found in His Saviour. Jesus brought help and strength to mankind, which the law of Moses couldn't do. When this Word and authority from heaven was brought down into a human body, this made access to Him by us possible and readily available. We can all make contact and receive a bountiful supply. From the Apostle Paul's writings to the Colossian brethren, we find very rich, descriptive expressions of the great fullness that was contained in Christ. All the things he was praying for these dear brethren to have were abundantly available to them through the supply of the bounty that was so richly invested by God in Christ. It was brought down to human flesh. And Christ was so faithful to the Heavenly Father and obedient to His will, that He has been exalted to power and supremacy that far surpasses anyone else. In Christ is a fullness that affords satisfaction for every need of the human race. Every living soul can come to Christ and find fulfillment for every need they might have before God. A warning is given concerning the many other influences in this world that will seek to spoil or ruin our lives from receiving

the real blessings of God. Only in Christ can the soul of man be truly and fully satisfied.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. In what way was the Word made flesh?
2. How did God coming down to dwell in a human body benefit us?
3. In what way was the grace and truth in Christ far superior to the law of Moses?
4. Can you list some benefits and blessings found in the fullness of Christ?
5. Did Christ exist before the earth and the heavens were created?
6. How can we be sure that we are connected to Christ's bountiful supply of blessings?
7. Will Christ be of any help to the person who is unaware of their need of Him?
8. Why does Christ desire to have the preeminence in our lives?
9. Is there any authority or power in this world that can withstand that of Christ's?
10. What is the most important help we can receive from Jesus?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

I remember a time when a man showed up at a camp meeting seeking to persuade us that God had shown him in the Scripture that the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit were all one in Christ. His main Scripture was the one in our lesson, Col. 2:9: "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." I must say that he had me a little puzzled. But since then I have been able to grasp the real meaning of this text. The fullness of the Almighty God was brought down into a human body. That is the real sense of this Scripture. How sad it is that people get such far-fetched ideas concerning the Scriptures! That poor man missed the real meaning because he had his mind on proving that the Holy Spirit and the Father were both Jesus. And, sad to say, when this poor man saw that he availed

nothing, he left and went his way. So it is with so many, overlooking the simple truths in pursuit of their far-out ideas. We need to get to the real sense of the Scriptures. Our lesson today is telling us that we have the privilege of receiving of Christ's fullness and bountiful supply of grace and help. The help that He affords will make it possible for us to overcome and be victorious over sin and all the forces of Satan. We can walk in a way that is consistent with our profession. We can know what His will is, and we can be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. How blessed it is to be delivered from the powers of darkness and to be translated into the kingdom of God's well beloved Son! How precious to know that Christ came to us out of eternity! He is our Comforter, Counselor, and Leader over the uneven journey of life. Let us beware of man in his deceitful ways. Let us seek always to be led by Jesus only. In Him we can find maturity and strength to overcome Satan and to quench all of the fiery darts of the wicked.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us." John 1:14. We must notice that this is the same Person who was in the beginning, who was God, and who made all things, and is here said to have become flesh. The Jesus of the gospel story is the God of eternity, the Jehovah of the Old Testament. The reason for the incarnation was the salvation of man. The Good Shepherd came to seek and to save his sheep which were lost. He came in human form that he might get nearer to the sinner. A Moravian missionary went to preach the gospel to the slaves in the West Indies. Failing as a free man to reach them, he became a slave himself, and went with them to their toils in the field and into all their hardships and sufferings, thus getting close to them. Then they listened to him. This illustrates Christ's condescension to save the world. We could not understand God in his invisible glory; and Emmanuel came, and in human form lived out the divine life, showing us God's thoughts and character and feelings, especially God's grace and His love for sinners. This was one object of the incarnation, - it revealed in a way which men could understand the

invisible things of God.

-Taken from *Come Ye Apart* by J. R. Miller

"The consciousness of the presence of God has come to millions of men and women through Jesus. . . . He is still the living comrade of countless lives. No Moslem ever sings, 'Mohammed, lover of my soul,' nor does an Jew say of Moses, the teacher, 'I need thee every hour.' . . . He brought God near to men through his presence. He made the Divine personal for myriads of worshipers."

—Solomon B. Freehof

"Always Christians had thought, and hoped, and dreamed, and wondered about God. If only He were this, and ah, if He were really that! But at the cross He breaks silence, the veil is rent from top to bottom, and they find themselves looking up into God's very face, seeing Him as He really is, hearing Him speaking, as it were, with His very own voice to even them. And what a wonderful message it is that comes through!"

—Robert Gossip

— — — — —

U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION <i>Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685</i>		
1A. TITLE OF PUBLICATION BIBLE LESSONS	1B. PUBLICATION NO. 0 5 4 - 6 8 0	2. DATE OF FILING Sept. 19, 1990
3. FREQUENCY OF ISSUE Quarterly	3A. NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY 4	3B. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE \$2.00/Year
4. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION (Street, City, County, State and ZIP+4 Code) (Not printers)		
Faith Publishing House, Inc.; 920 W. Mansur; Guthrie; Logan, Oklahoma 73044		
5. COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF THE HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICES OF THE PUBLISHER (Not printer)		
Same As Line #4		
6. FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR, AND MANAGING EDITOR (This item MUST NOT be blank)		
PUBLISHER (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Same As Line #4		
EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Leslie Busbee; Faith Publishing House, Inc.; 920 W. Mansur; Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044		
MANAGING EDITOR (Name and Complete Mailing Address)		
Wayne Murphy; Faith Publishing House, Inc.; 920 W. Mansur; Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044		
7. OWNER (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual must be given. If the publication is published by a non-profit organization, its name and address must be stated.) (Item must be completed.)		
FULLNAME		
COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS		
Faith Publishing House, Inc.		
920 W. Mansur; Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044		
NONE		
(This is a non-stock, non-profit religious and charitable corporation)		
8. FOR COMPLETION BY NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS AUTHORIZED TO MAIL AT SPECIAL RATES (Section 4312 (a)(2) (B)(i) only) The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal income tax purposes (check one)		
(1) HAS NOT CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> (2) HAS CHANGED DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS <input type="checkbox"/> (If changed, publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement.)		
10. EXTENT AND NATURE OF CIRCULATION (See instructions on reverse side)	AVERAGE NO. COPIES EACH ISSUE DURING PRECEDING 12 MONTHS	ACTUAL NO. COPIES OF SINGLE ISSUE PUBLISHED NEAREST TO FILING DATE
A. TOTAL NO. COPIES (Net Press Run)	1,639	1,699
B. PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION 1. Sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors and counter sales	15	8
2. Mail Subscription (Paid and/or requested)	1,491	1,528
C. TOTAL PAID AND/OR REQUESTED CIRCULATION (Sum of B1 and B2)	1,508	1,536
D. FREE DISTRIBUTION BY MAIL, CARRIER OR OTHER MEANS SAMPLES, COMPLIMENTARY, AND OTHER FREE COPIES	0	0
E. TOTAL DISTRIBUTION (Sum of C and D)	1,508	1,536
F. COPIES NOT DISTRIBUTED 1. Office use, left over, unsolicited, spoiled after printing	131	163
2. Return from News Agents	0	0
G. TOTAL (Sum of E, F1 and 2—should equal net press run shown in A)	1,639	1,699
11. I certify that the statements made by me above are correct and complete	SIGNATURE AND TITLE OF EDITOR, PUBLISHER, BUSINESS MANAGER, OR OWNER Wayne S. Murphy Managing Editor	

January 13, 1991

BENEFITS FROM THE FULLNESS THAT IS IN CHRIST

Colossians 1:20 And having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

21 And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled

22 In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unreprouable in his sight:

23 If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;

24 Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:

25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God;

26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:

27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:

28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:

29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.

2:2 That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ;

3 In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

4 And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.

5 For though I be absent in the flesh, yet am I with you in the spirit, joying and beholding your order, and the steadfastness of your faith in Christ.

Memory Verse: Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. (Rev. 5:12).

Central Thought: Through the blessings and benefits of the fullness in Christ, we can enjoy peace and victory over sin as we continue steadfastly in the faith of the gospel, not only for ourselves, but for others also.

Word Definitions: *"Reconcile all things unto himself":* To completely unite everyone in Him. *"Fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ":* As Christ suffered for the sake of precious souls, so Paul was willing to continue this pattern in his life. God has chosen that His ministers give of themselves for the sake of those they minister to. *"The dispensation of God":* The stewardship of the gospel.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our last week's lesson we introduced the thought of the fullness that is in Christ. Today we want to continue Paul's writings concerning some of the benefits and responsibilities that we can enjoy and bear for the name of our Lord. Jesus has suffered in the flesh by shedding His precious blood which meant reconciliation with God for us. We are to enter into that same exercise of heart and mind, being willing to endure the hardships, dangers, and sore troubles that attend the ministry of Christ. We can rejoice in suffering in the flesh for the sake of those we minister to, for we can see it working life and spiritual prosperity in them. We are to esteem the ministry that God has given us and the work of the Lord very highly. It is a high and holy calling. We preach, we warn, we teach with a desire to see every person pressing forward toward the goal of life. Along with the sufferings and tribulations that are borne, we see hearts knit together in the love of Jesus. We see precious souls filled with the riches of the full assurance of

understanding as Christ is constantly being revealed to them. Oh, the spiritual treasures that are so real to those whom God has enlightened by His Spirit! How vain and fleeting seem the frivolous things of time! To know Christ and to experience the gracious help that He gives us as we seek Him earnestly, is the greatest joy one can ever experience in this short life.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did mankind need to be reconciled to things in heaven?
2. How can we hope to be presented holy and unblameable and unprovable in God's sight?
3. How does it affect us to realize that what we have in Christ was purchased by His sufferings?
4. Is it very likely that we will be called upon to suffer for the sake of others as Christ did?
5. What helps us to bear sufferings so bravely?
6. What did Paul say that Christ in us is?
7. What was working in Paul mightily?
8. Does being knit together in love have anything to do with the riches of the full assurance of understanding?
9. To whom are the treasures of wisdom and knowledge revealed?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Christ has shed His precious blood to reconcile the lost to God, and without that atonement for the sins of mankind, all is vain and lost. But there is a part we must have and fill in this plan of salvation. We must turn loose of our wicked works and believe with all of our hearts in the Lord Jesus and his precious blood. Then we must continue in the faith for the remainder of our lives, never departing from His precious truths. If God calls anyone to be a minister of the gospel, let him or her take hold with courage and steadfast determination to let God's will be done. It is a sacred honor to be chosen a mouthpiece for the Lord. We do not have to be afraid. The Lord will help us. We learn to labor as God inspires and leads us. We do not want to

get ahead of Him and be dominated by zeal and self motivation. We must labor according to His working within us. We might be inclined to think that since God has so wonderfully blessed us, that we need to go out and try to get others to do the same. It is wise, rather, to let God lead you. There is much zeal in the world today, religious zeal, if you please. But unless the Spirit of God is leading, and the love of God is prompting the activity, it will do more harm than good. And let us not forget to let God knit our hearts to one another. This knitting together helps to bring to us the riches of the full assurance of understanding. The truth of Christ cannot be told to just anyone and that person be expected to take it in right away. No, it has to be revealed; it is a mystery. And though it is known by the souls who are transformed by the gospel, let us remember that it is still a mystery to the unsaved. Let us keep good order and discipline in our lives so that God may be glorified in all we say and do.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are many things in this life which we hope in. This involves our affections, and though we are remiss to allow our affections to go out to things that cause a rift in our bond to God, there are things in life that it is only natural to view with anticipation. Most people have hope of obtaining material gain in order to sustain life. We all hope for good health so that we can enjoy life. Family ties in God's plan for mankind and the person who doesn't wish for any is an exception. These, as well as others, God gives us a reasonable amount to savor, but it is common understanding that there is a winding down in death when these things will lose their meaning and our hope of them will be gone. How blessed it is if in that hour we have experienced the hope which is in the fullness of Christ, which reaches into the eternal.

In every successful relationship, there is a give and take. Both parties of an agreement expect to profit from it, and the ideal arrangement is when both parties are happy to fulfill their duty of giving. Our interrelationship with God is constructed in the purest form of perfection, and can be ours if we enter into the fullness that is in Christ. We give of ourselves in

sharing the Gospel with others and by living holy. And we do not mind the sacrifice, for the Gospel is a beautiful gospel which is a joy to show to others and to live ourselves. As we give, Christ gives us favor which is ample reward. In lifting up Christ to others, He is glorified and His sacrifice on the cross becomes little in His mind. It is well worth it to enter wholeheartedly into the fullness of Christ. —Wayne Murphey



January 20, 1991

**WARNINGS AGAINST ELEMENTS OPPOSING
THE TRUTH OF CHRIST**

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

9 . For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.

10 And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:

11 In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:

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

13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

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

15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.

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

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

18 Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,

19 And not holding the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.

20 Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances,

21 (Touch not; taste not; handle not;

22 Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?

23 Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body; not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh.

Memory Verse: Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. Col. 2:8.

Central Thought: Any religious system or belief that is not founded on Jesus Christ and His Word is a threat to the peace and salvation of souls. False religion is deceptive because it looks and sounds good and appeals to the flesh.

Word Definitions: *"Lest any man spoil you"*: Seduce or make a prey out of you. *Tradition*: Laws and precepts that are passed down and transmitted from one generation to another. *Rudiments*: Elements and principles that the world accepts and holds to. *"Handwriting of ordinances"*: The law of Moses and any other law that was accepted by the Jewish nation. *"Nailing it to his cross"*: Christ's death and resurrection brought an end to the Jewish law system as being God's system. *"Made a shew of them openly"*: Christ publicly died for the sins of mankind, openly asserting that the old law system was doomed and defeated. *"The body is of Christ"*: The ordinances of holy days, meat, drink, new moons, and sabbath days were but a shadow of the real substance which was Christ. *"Voluntary humility"*:

Humility that is self devised; produced to make a good impression. *"Intruding into those things which he has not seen"*: Professing to understand the things of God without spiritual revelation. *"Not holding the Head"*: Not cleaving to Christ. *"Why are ye subject to ordinances?"*: If we will sincerely follow the Lord Jesus and His teachings we will not need to be subject to the precepts of men. *"Will worship"*: Self devised worship. *"Not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh"*: No real value in subduing the flesh as God would have us to.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Paul, in this epistle to the Colossian church, has declared that only in Christ Jesus is found the perfect way of life that pleases God. The spiritual blessings that Jesus fills the souls with are so satisfying and fulfilling in pleasing God. We need no longer follow the law and its customs and ceremonies. He has acknowledged the fullness that is in Christ to be a mystery, revealed only to those who accept Christ as Lord. In our lesson today, he gives us a dire and serious warning against forces that are arrayed against the simplicity of following Jesus. We need to be aware of what these influences are, for they are still working today. When Jesus had finished His work as Saviour and Redeemer through His death and resurrection and had gone back to the right hand of His Father in heaven, the gospel began to be published to the peoples of the world. The gospel stated that the fullness of God's grace and blessings were in Christ, and that there was no longer any need to keep the law of Moses and the traditions of the Jews. To those who rejected this light, the gospel became a serious offence. To cease the activities and routine of the law system in its sacrifices, priesthood, and temple worship was an alarming affront to their prestige and sacred honor. It is no wonder then that a storm of protest and persecution arose against the followers of Christ. Those who were promoting this new doctrine of faith in Christ were the targets of reproach and contempt. Down through the ages, and even today, this same condition has repeated itself. There are elements today that are reaching out to ensnare souls in beliefs and creeds that highly profess to be of God. The Holy Spirit is faithful to guide

the seeking, needy soul through all of this confusion. We need to be aware that the deceptive elements are on hand, and earnestly seek guidance and the protection of God against their treacherous influences.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Is there any danger of a person believing that he has the truth, and yet be void of the real grace of God?
2. What is the circumcision that we have in the Lord Jesus?
3. What kind of resurrection do we obtain in Christ?
4. Since we are in Christ, why don't we need the law of Moses?
5. Does the law of Christ surpass the law of Moses?
6. What are holy days, new moons, and sabbath days?
7. What is it that fulfills these shadows?
8. To have a shadow, there must be a body. Who is the body?
9. Is it possible for a person to be very religious without being connected to Christ, the Head?
10. If we are dead to the rudiments of the world, do we have to be subject to ordinances to be justified before God?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Young people are many times unaware of the dangers and influences in the world that are enemies of the cross of Jesus. But as you hold fast to the Lord, experience life, and begin to meet doctrines and teachings of men, you will be amazed at how mixed up and deceived the world around us really is. As a young Christian, one of the first erroneous doctrines I met up with was that of "Jesus only." I mentioned this in the comments in our first lesson. Not only did I meet that doctrine at that camp meeting, but I met it in my own town. But when I would meet this foreign element, I would go home and seek the Lord, and the Holy Spirit would help me to see the truth about it personally as well as through the help of another older saint. At another camp meeting in 1959, I met a man who tried to convince me that the Devil was a man. This man acted really nice and could pray a good sounding prayer. But he was deceived, and when he tried to take the pulpit one day in the

meeting, I stood up and objected to him doing that. The congregation stood with me against that spirit and he did not come back that I know of. I have run into various false doctrines along the way, and have sometimes made lengthy efforts to talk and reason, always to no avail. But the Lord was always there to comfort and enlighten my soul. He will do that with you, also, if you will not be moved from the truth you already know. Oh, they will talk big and try to sway you, but let us remember that many false prophets have gone out into the world, and we must not be quick to accept just anything that comes along.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

It means much to be satisfied to accept Christ only. It can be tempting at times to imbibe doctrines that man may teach. Many times false doctrines are upheld by people, who Paul mentioned, have a "voluntary humility and worshipping of angels." A sure defense against being led astray by people like this is to understand what Christ accomplished on Calvary, maintain a true humility, and not let our confidence in man supercede our confidence in Christ.

There is an Oriental custom which very well depicts what Christ accomplished on Calvary and is related by an unknown writer. "When a debt had to be settled, either by full payment or forgiveness, it was the usage for the creditor to take the cancelled bond and nail it over the door of him who had owed it, that all passers-by might see that it was paid. There is the cross, the door of grace, behind which a bankrupt world lies in hopeless debt to the law. See Jesus, our bondman and brother, coming forth with the long list of our indebtedness in His hand. He lifts it up where God and angels and men may see it, and then, as the nail goes through His hand, it goes through the bond of our transgressions to cancel it for ever: 'blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, that was contrary to us, He took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross!' Come to that cross, O sinner! Not in order that you may wash out your sins by your tears, or atone for them by your good works, or efface them by your sophistries or self-deceptions. But come rather that you may read the long, black

list that is against you, and be pierced to your heart by compunction and sorrow that you have offended such a Being; and then that, lifting up your eyes, you may see God turning His eyes to the same cross at which you are looking and saying, I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

If in your careful walk before God you feel that there is a situation in which the handwriting of ordinances are being brought back on you, then there is a possibility that your salvation is being tainted by man and is not solely resting in the fullness that is in Christ.

—Wayne Murphey

— — — — —
January 27, 1991

THE BEAUTIFUL LIFE SPRINGING FROM CHRIST'S FULLNESS

Colossians 3:1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

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

4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

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

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

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

8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

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

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

11 Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but

Christ is all, and in all.

12 Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13 Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14 And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

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

17 And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

Memory Verse: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Col. 3:1

Central Thought: Having our affections centered on Christ who is in heaven at the right hand of God enables us to be victorious over the sins of the flesh and perfects a love for God and our fellow man in our hearts.

Word Definitions: *"Set your affection":* Exercise your mind and heart; be concerned about and interested in. *"For ye are dead":* You have died to sin and this present evil world. *"Your life is hid with Christ in God":* You have entered a way of life that the carnal minded men of the world cannot understand nor agree with, even as Christ was unaccepted and unknown by those in His day. *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon earth":* Put to death those passions and desires that once ruled your life, and live in strict self control and dedication. *"Inordinate affection":* The Greek word is "pathos" which ordinarily means suffering, but in this place evidently refers to

uncontrolled passion and lust. *"Evil concupiscence"*: Longing for what is forbidden. *Barbarian*: Foreigner. *Scythian*: A savage. *"Bowels of mercies"*: Deep tender inner feelings of pity or sympathy.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In the closing verses of chapter two, Paul spoke about being dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world and not having to be subject to ordinances under the mandates of "touch not, taste not, handle not." When a man's religion is concentrated chiefly on "dos" and "don'ts," there is great room for failure as well as constant temptation, especially if the things he is restrained from are desirable and attractive to the flesh. But if a person can be drawn in their affections to realities and treasures in heaven and can center their interests and desires in that direction, the allurements of things below will lose their drawing power. This is what the fullness of Christ does for us. He is all of our desire and he has gone above, thus causing our affections to be drawn in His direction. As our lesson says, there is still some caution, restraint, and discipline to be employed. But we can do this with much more success since our Lord and His blessings have become the most important things in our lives. Our earthly life is brought into subjection to the holiness of our Saviour who reigns above. The life we live for Him is a hidden life, a life of spiritual blessings and guidance. The grace of God has superseded all earthly love. Our hopes and treasures are in that world to come. Having put off all the undesirable things, we are free to implement into our lives all the good graces that Christ manifested, graces that are abounding in the Holy Spirit that he has given to us. There is tenderness, kindness, and humility toward others, where once there was coldness and hardness of heart. We learn the great value of patience and ever seek to work that in our lives. Love, peace, thankfulness, and forbearance for others we gladly add daily to our way of living. The beauties of this kind of religion far surpass the beggarly commandments and creeds of men.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the "things" above that we are to set our affections upon?
2. Why do so many people not set their affections on things in heaven?
3. In what way is a child of God dead?
4. What happens when a person employs no restraint and discipline to his desires?
5. Why doesn't God take these things away from us.
6. Why do we have to lay them off?
7. What does the expression "all, and in all" mean to you?
8. How does it show that the way of Christ is far superior to the way of the world?
9. What should we put on above all of the things mentioned?
10. When the peace of God rules in the heart, what will be the effect on our attitudes and relationships with others?
11. When a person finds the blessing of the Christian life in the things mentioned in our lesson, how much allurements will he feel to the ways of sins he left behind?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

The Christian life, as pictured in our lesson today, is truly a beautiful life. Oh, how happy is the soul who has died to the ways of sin and the flesh, and has partaken of the rivers of true pleasure! It is no longer a creed or a set of rules. It is a life that springs up out of the soul like an artesian well. When once a soul relinquishes their hold on the fleeting things of this world and casts them away as dung, and begins to experience the happiness of the indwelling Christ, Satan is defeated forever. There will be temptations, and strict and careful discipline is very much needed. But with the joy of the Lord in the soul, victory is always there. It is from the fullness of life, strength, grace, wisdom, and holiness that is in Christ that we gain success and victory. He died to this present world and has risen in triumphant life to reign forever as King of kings and Lord of lords in heaven. Through the Holy Spirit, this unseen Christ is made real to the souls of men. We don't want to do any thing that is dishonoring to Him. We want to live to please

our Saviour, the Lover of our souls. We here have no continuing city, for we seek one to come. Our affections are upon the treasures above. Some day our loving Saviour will come from the heavens to take us home to be with Him and the Father and all the hosts of heaven. This is what we are living for. While we are here, we employ the fruit of the Spirit and all the attributes we see in Christ as the guideline for our daily living. And they increase as we sink deeper into His blessed will. Praise the Lord for the fullness that we have found in Christ and for what we have received!

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Paul exhorts, "Put on. . . bowels of mercy, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. . ." The fruits of the spirit should come as second nature with a child of God, but sometimes we may have to put forth an effort in order to apply them. "Put on" means to bring them out into the open so that others can see them, they will accomplish good and Christ will be magnified. To magnify means to make larger, and we need to make Christ as large as life.

A story, in which these graces were properly employed, is told of a Christian lady who was told of a very depraved woman, who was ruining herself by debauchery, but was of so violent a temper that no one dared interfere with her. She proposed to go up and see her, but was warned, "she will kill you." She thought to herself, "If my Lord were here, He would do it." She went and entered the miserable apartment, and saw her lying in a corner as if a bundle of rags. She spoke, and an old withered, miserable-looking creature raised herself upon her elbow, and with frenzied look, demanded what she wanted. She replied, "I love you; I want to be kind to you, because Jesus loves you." She went forward and kissed her brow, and notwithstanding violent, repelling words, kissed her again. Then came the exclamation, "Go away, go away! You will break my heart. You put me in mind of my mother. Never has any one kissed me as she did; never have I been so treated since I lost her. Many kicks and blows have I had, but no kisses like this." The fountain of feeling was opened, the confidence of the heart

was won, and step by step, that all but utterly lost soul was led back to Jesus.

This truly took the graces of Christ to accomplish. But it seems there are many who are like the computer on which this "Food for Thought" is typed; its dictionary does not even contain the word long suffering. There are many professed Christians of whom's living vocabulary does not contain words like mercy, kindness and humbleness. These things have to be "put on".

—Wayne Murphey

— — — — —
February 3, 1991

THE QUICKENING POWER OF THE FULLNESS IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:15 Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints,

16 Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

19 And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

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

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

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

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

2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

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

4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:

7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.

Memory Verse: For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph. 2:8-9).

Central Thought: In the fullness that God has put in Christ is a quickening power that is able to quicken souls who are dead in trespasses and sins, and to raise them up to a heavenly realm of spiritual life and peace.

Word Definitions: *"Exceeding greatness of his power":* The far surpassing greatness of His power (the Greek word for power here is the word dynamite). *"According to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ":* The words "working" and "wrought" in this phrase are translated from the Greek word from which comes our word "energy." There was great force and energy exerted in the fullness of Christ. *"That filleth all in all":* Filling every soul with all of His grace and power. *Quickened:* Made alive.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We go to the epistle of Paul the apostle to the church of the Ephesians to study some more about the fullness that is in

Christ. The main thought we have in today's lesson is the great quickening power that the Father wrought and exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead. This quickening power is in two stages. The first stage is the spiritual resurrection that a soul experiences when they are made a new creature in Christ by being born again. The second stage is the great resurrection that will take place at the last day. But we are mainly interested in the study of this first stage of the resurrection, that being of the soul of man. Paul said that he was praying for these saints to be given a revelation from God concerning the power of the resurrection that God wrought in Christ. And we know that it must be revealed to the heart of man by the Holy Spirit for it to mean anything to the individual. He reveals it to humble and contrite hearts who are following the Lord with all of their hearts; He hides it from the proud, the wise and prudent of this world. There was power produced and exerted in the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Just as splitting the atoms and the exploding gases of fuel and the turning of turbines produces energy to supply natural needs, even so the resurrection of Jesus Christ produces energy to bring the power of a risen life to the souls of mankind. And when a person is turning from their sins in true repentance and seeking and calling on God with faith in the Lord Jesus, he is in a position to experience the working of this mighty resurrecting power in his life.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was Paul praying for God to help the saints to know?
2. Put in your own words and expression of what the hope of Christ's calling is.
3. What is the wealth that Christ receives in and from the saints?
4. Why did we need an energy and power that would quicken us?
5. How did God produce this kind of power?
6. Where did the Father set Christ?
7. What can the quickening power of Christ do for a person?
8. Is there any soul who does not need this quickening power in their life?

9. To what kind of life and to what position are we quickened to?

10. In chapter two, verse seven, Paul tells us why God wrought this great power. Can you see what the reason was?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Let us think about the great value and wealth that our lesson today is showing. When we survey the greatness of the plan of salvation that was accomplished by the Heavenly Father in His Son, Jesus, our hearts are overwhelmed with wonder and praise. Oh, it is so wonderful that Christ would die for our justification and be raised from the dead back to life again, and then to ascend up to the right hand of the Father to intercede and to appear in heaven itself for us is beyond all that we can take in. Oh, how vain and frivolous this present evil world is in comparison with our inheritance in Christ! With death and destruction, decay and disappointment, downfall and degradation on all sides, this world is a dark place indeed! But oh, the inheritance that we have in Christ through the power of His resurrection! It is ours now and will be ours forever and ever. There is enough power and energy in the fullness of Christ to transform every soul from the mire of sin and evil to a new life of holiness and righteousness with God. Of His fullness we have all received, and there is plenty for all who will come hereafter. How great is the mercy of God in providing such a great plan of deliverance and victory! Even before we were born, a plan and provision was waiting for us. We were ignorant of this wonderful treasure, but the mercy of God sought us out and brought us to the place where we could gain this great salvation for our very own. And there is grace and power to keep us alive spiritually and give us grace for every need that may ever rise in our life. Oh, let us bow down before the King of kings, and always let His fullness of life and peace fill our hearts until that day when we rise to meet Him in clouds of the sky clothed with His brightness!

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

When we consider all the problems that people encounter in life, we realize it takes a strong force indeed to keep them

above depression and discouragement. Christ is the only power who can do this. There are many things in which people submerge themselves into in order to forget the problems, but Christ is able to cause a person to triumph over them. This is brought about by lifting the soul out of the darkness of sin and putting it on a level where the light of God's presence warms the heart.

Christ's life is a perfect example of what He can do for us. Most every problem you can think of touched His life in some form. He endured grievous woes and He fought many battles in secret, yet His sunny disposition and helpful attitude was evident to all who were around Him. He also experienced death and all the things that lead up to death, physically and mentally, and it appeared to His disciples and friends, as well as His enemies, that He had succumbed in defeat. But the same power that worked in Him mightily while in life energized His body and restored life, a life in the presence of God.

How wonderful that He would endue us with this same power. When we cross that river of death, we will need this power to tide us over so that we don't sink down to an eternal separation from God. This will take a great power, yet we can enjoy an infilling of it now, in life. Our souls can be cleansed, resurrected and restored to peace with God. —Wayne Murphey

— — — — —
February 10, 1991

THE JEW AND THE GENTILE UNITED THROUGH CHRIST

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

11 Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called Circumcision in the flesh made by hands;

12 That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world?

13 But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.

14 For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;

15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;

16 And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby:

17 And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh.

18 For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

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

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

21 In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord:

22 In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

3:6 That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:

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

Memory Verse: For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. Rom. 10:12.

Central Thought: Under the law of Moses, the Jews were to be a separate people from the rest of the nations, but under Christ, the Jew and the Gentile are united in one heart, soul, and mind to make a new nation made up of the saved of all the nations.

Word Definitions: *Gentiles:* Heathen nations. "*Aliens from the commonwealth of Israel*": Non-participants of the citizenship of Israel. They had no part in the blessings of God that the Jews enjoyed. *Partition:* Fence or barrier. *Enmity:* Hostility; reason for opposition.

LESSON BACKGROUND

A great barrier stood between the Jews and the rest of the world. The Jews detested other peoples and nations because of their feeling of superiority and because of the darkness and idolatry of these nations. And the Gentiles hated the Jews because of their peculiarity and separateness. Thus there was a great barrier between the two peoples. The Gentiles were deprived of access to God only as they were willing to renounce their own national status and come to Israel and be a proselyte. And there were people who did that along through the years. But now the time had come when God wanted that barrier of enmity torn down and abolished. The old law system was fulfilled in the love and grace of Jesus, and God wanted the Gentiles to be partakers of that wonderful blessing. By the blood of Jesus, those who were afar off (the Gentiles) and those who were nigh (the Jews) were all brought together into one body, the Church of God. How wonderful that God worked this great uniting of the souls of men. All together they became the building of God, the holy temple of the Lord. The Lord looks no longer upon the Jew with any more special favor than He does any other nationality. Despite what false teachers declare concerning the Jews as still being God's chosen people, the Scriptures are plain that "there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him." (Rom. 10:12).

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the dividing factor between the Jews and the Gentiles?
2. What in the gospel of Christ brings the two together?
3. Are there any other barriers that need to be torn down between people?
4. Which is easier to build, barriers or bridges?
5. What were the Gentiles deprived of while they were barred out of Israel?
6. What were some of the things that were made available to them in Christ?

7. Is there really any difference now between the Jew and the Gentile in God's sight?

8. Is it possible for those who are "nigh" to be farther away than those who are "far off"?

9. What makes peoples of different nationalities and cultures come together and be joined heart to heart?

10. Why did Paul have so much to say about this matter of the Jews being one with the Gentiles?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

There are many, many barriers that spring up between people. It is God's plan that people learn to live together and to love one another. It is Satan's work to erect partitions and walls between individuals and nations. Suspicion, criticism, resentment, contempt, and general ill-will abound in our world. People are afraid, because they do not trust their fellow man. Hatred and murder are everywhere. Barriers rise up between husband and wife, parents and children, friends and neighbors. Through the years, the barrier between the Jew and the Gentile became a strong and formidable wall of hatred. In our world today we have seen a few barriers come down that were of long standing. The Berlin Wall and the Iron Curtain are seemingly coming down. But we know that it is mainly over economic issues and needs. There is no love of Christ that has prompted this change. It will not be long before there will be other barriers erected. Already, one is in plain sight in the Middle East. It looks like people would get tired of erecting barriers; they are a lot of grief and worry. But humanity is blind to the ways of the One who can tear down barriers and walls between people. The love of Jesus can tear down the biggest barrier that the Devil can ever erect, if only people will let Him. In Christ there is no such thing as a foreigner. We who are in Him are all one and united forever. How much better it is to forgive and turn our fellow man loose and commit him into the hands of God, and be friendly and kind. It is a much better way to go. Let us pray that God will tear down the barriers and let us be willing to work at it, too. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Generally, when there is a barrier with substantial standing power, it takes a mediator to help in dissolving it. A mediator is one who sets up fair rules for both sides to come to. A partial mediator cannot create a long standing peace. Christ was the mediator between the Jews and Gentiles. He set forth a Gospel that was not influenced by the Jews form of religion or the Gentiles multi-religious background. We may think that if people would be persuaded to our way of thinking, then everything would be fine. It may be for a while, but there generally comes a time when a person doesn't even like the look of their own reflection.

The understanding that the Jew had to come to was that God was no longer a "... respecter of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him." Acts 10:34b, 35. How many times have you seen barriers erected because someone, perhaps unconsciously, felt there was something special about himself? It was ingrained in the Gentiles that Jehovah was not their god. Feelings of inferiority can also breed contempt and hatred, which causes division. Christ's atonement makes all people on the same level. Our country's constitution was drafted to uphold the bill of rights which recognizes that all men are created equal, and has done an admirable job as far as any earthly government, but it does not come near the perfection of salvation.

What harmony and peace there is when everyone is submerged into Christ, and we take on His characteristics. Then there will be no barriers. When an American visiting in Scotland said that he came from God's own country, the Scotsman replied, "Then you must have lost your accent." If we have been made nigh by the blood of Christ, then let us act like it so that others can tell. And let us stay nigh to Christ wherein it is impossible for barriers to be erected. —Wayne Murphey

— — — — —
Notice: If your subscription expired with this quarter, please send your renewal at once. It is necessary that your subscription for the second quarter of 1991 be in this office by March 1. For your convenience there is an order blank at the end of this book!

February 17, 1991

**THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST FILLING HIS CHURCH
LIKE A BODY**

Ephesians 4:1 I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;

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

4 There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

6 One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.

7 But unto everyone of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ.

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

9 (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

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

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

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to

the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Memory Verse: And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Eph. 4:11-12.

Central Thought: From His position at the right hand of God, Christ dispenses His gifts to the members of the Church and works through them in a unity and harmony much like the members of a body.

Word Definitions: *"Walk worthy of the vocation"*: Conduct yourselves in a fit and appropriate manner of the nature and worth of your calling. *"Forbearing one another in love"*: Putting up with one another in true affection. Greek. *"Led captivity captive"*: Captured or subdued the dominion that dominated souls, that is, Satan. *Apostle*: One who preaches the gospel in new fields; planter. *Prophet*: A foreteller of future events. *Evangelist*: A herald; one who announces and preaches the good news of the Kingdom of God. *Pastor*: One who oversees, cares for, protects, and feeds the flock. *Teacher*: One endued with knowledge and wisdom in order to instruct. *"For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry"*: The Greek text renders this phrase with no partitioning comma, thus: for the complete qualification of the holy ones for a work of service.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We are still in the epistle of Paul the apostle to the Ephesians. In our lesson today we have the work of the Lord likened unto a body, with each member having callings, and qualifications in administering the gospel in various fields. In verse 10 Paul quotes from Psalm 68:18 and applies the thought of giving gifts unto men as the various workings of the ministry. Thus, with Christ as the Head, the Church is like an organism such as the human body; it works that way. Recognizing that the work of the Lord is likened unto a body, each member must exercise himself with holy regard to the

other members. As a small child or infant develops and grows from one stage of ability and strength to another, so the Church of God develops and progresses by the blessing of the Lord. Great care should be exercised to keep the Church operating in this manner. As Paul said in Ephesians 4:25, "We are members one of another." Christ will take care of His own body if every member will move and function according to His direction.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the vocation we are called to?
2. What qualities of spirit are we to maintain to walk worthy of our vocation?
3. Can we have unity if we do not seek to have unity?
4. What kind of attitude should we hold and maintain for one another?
5. How many bodies does Christ have?
6. What did Christ give when He ascended on high?
7. What were some of the gifts He gave?
8. What was the purpose of these gifts?
9. Is it possible for us to hinder the success of the body of Christ?
10. How is the body of Christ put together?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Every child of God should remember that the next person in the Church is just as important as he is. We are to bear with and put up with each other. Our brother or sister may not always do what we think is right. However, we are not responsible for what our brother does, as much as we are responsible for our attitudes and actions towards him. We should try very earnestly to have and to maintain unity and harmony with our brethren in Christ. Division and dissensions in a congregation are devastating, weakening, and destructive. We should not be quick to break unity with anyone. Many people have made sad and serious mistakes right here. They will meet those mistakes when they meet the Saviour who will be their judge. Have we done what we could

to promote unity and harmony in our congregation? Look at our lesson today; it shows Christ ascending up to the right hand of God and giving various gifts to His servants. He wants them to use these gifts for the good of the Church and the progress of His cause. Each individual member of the body of Christ has his function. His gift will be of a different function than the other. We must learn to understand one another's gifts and callings. One preacher will have a certain mannerism or way that he puts out the truth; another preacher will be different. Oh, it pays to be careful and kind with our fellow brothers and sisters. Pray for one another, and seek for unity and peace. God is pleased when the body works together for the good of souls.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Our union with Christ, by which we become members of the divine family, necessarily fixes our relationship with all those who are members of Christ. If, through salvation, we are brought into a sacred unity with Christ, we are by the same act brought into essential unity and fellowship with the members of Christ. This the Word distinctly affirms: 'We being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.' Rom. 12:4,5. 'There should be no schism in the body; but the members should have the same care one for another.' I Cor. 12:25. While this last text relates literally to the physical body, the apostle applies it in an illustrative way to the spiritual body. 'Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.' I Cor. 12:27.

"Harmony in a normal physical body is not effected by external means, but is organic. The members may be many and diverse, but they are all necessary and have their respective places and work. So also with the body of Christ. Union with Christ is not dependent upon absolute uniformity except in the one thing—the fundamental experience by which we are made members of Christ. In the apostolic period the children of God who loved our Lord and were known of him were not all of one age or size or nationality. They had not all enjoyed the same social advantages, nor had they had the same intellectual attainments. The act of receiving Christ and His salvation

did not perfect their knowledge; therefore, they had to be patiently taught in order to bring them into the 'unity of the faith.' And for this purpose, divinely chosen instructors were appointed, who must themselves 'study'. But the gospel penetrates beneath the surface; it goes straight to the heart and reaches fundamental things." —Selected

— — — — —
February 24, 1991

**THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST
REFLECTED IN ONE'S BEHAVIOR**

Ephesians 4:17 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

18 Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

19 Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But ye have not so learned Christ;

21 If so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus:

22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts;

23 And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;

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

25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another.

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

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

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Memory Verse: Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. (Eph. 4:32).

Central Thought: If we are a partaker of the fullness that is in Jesus Christ, then we are to conform our actions and behavior to that which is consistent with Christ's Spirit of love, kindness, holiness, and patience.

Word Definitions: *"Ye have not so learned Christ"*: Christ teaches us a much better way than what the world around is defiled with. *Conversation*: Course or way of life, conduct and deportment. *"Renewed in the spirit of your mind"*: Let your thoughts and attitudes assume that which has been manifest in the mind of Christ. *"Be ye angry and sin not"*: This is the Greek Septuagint rendering of Psalm 4:4, "Stand in awe and sin not." It is not a sin to be angry, but anger can lead us into sin if we do not control our actions in our anger. *"Let not the sun go down upon your wrath"*: It is usually considered to mean that if we do lose our temper and hurt someone, we should make it right before the close of day. But, would it not be closer to the Christ life if we would seek to live and act in every situation so that the sunlight of Christ's approval will shine upon the way we handle ourselves when we are angry? *Clamour*: Outcry; racket; noise. *Tenderhearted*: Well-compassioned and sympathetic.

LESSON BACKGROUND

The first three chapters of Ephesians and the first part of chapter four are filled with wonderful truths concerning Christ and the work of His redemption in the earth. The fullness of grace and goodness for the help of the souls of men

are wonderfully portrayed. The great power of His resurrection, the slaying of the enmity between the Jew and the Gentile, and the wonderful distribution of the gifts of Christ to the Church are clearly set forth. In the light of these wonderful blessings, and seeing their worth, we are challenged to conform our daily lives and conduct to a manner and discipline that will be consistent with the nature and beauty of salvation and holiness in Christ. This kind of living will be far beyond the beggarly and base manners of ignorant souls who are yet captivated in sin. The Christian life is meant to be such a contrast to the world that the child of God will stand out and be clearly seen. Putting on the new man after putting off the old man will be a witness of the grace of God before men. Each ingredient listed here of the Christ life is so vital that we dare not overlook nor neglect any of them. Observe them closely and set your heart and mind to earnestly endeavor to see that they are fulfilled in your every day conduct. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the principle reason why the ungodly live the corrupt way of life?
2. What causes a Christian to be different from the world?
3. Will it take any special effort on our part to be what God wants us to be?
4. Will we make a success for Christ if we do not "work" at the Christian life every day?
5. How are we members one of another?
6. How can uncontrolled anger give a place to the Devil?
7. What one instruction in our lesson would make the greatest change in our world if it was obeyed by everyone?
8. Is the pattern of one's life changed easily?
9. Is it possible to have all of these instructions fulfilled in one's heart and life?
10. What happens when a professed Christian fails to manifest these things?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Impure relations, lying, deceit, anger, wrath, stealing, cursing and swearing, hatred, strife, malice, evil speaking,

and bitterness abound in our world and society. These things are all around us. When a person finds Christ as His Saviour from the sins of this world, he is called to a new and a holy life. There are basic things that salvation changes in the very heart of man. The love of Jesus tames that wild and restless soul to a disposition of quietness and rest. But the habits and manner in which one has conducted himself will have to be changed. He can no longer live and act as he once did. The old man must be put off. This requires determination and a strong will for that which is pleasing to God. The new man must be put on. Our actions, words, ways, manners, and conduct will have to be conformed to the image that the gospel shows is in Christ. This is not carried out grudgingly, but we are happy to know that we can live a holy life. Where once we made no effort to control our feelings of anger and sore displeasure toward others, we are now called to bring our emotions into a calmness and patience. It takes effort on our part and strong decision to get it done. But the Lord will help us if we are willing and determined. Christ is not going to force us to live His way. We must be willing and show our willingness by putting forth the proper effort to work these things into our habits and manner of living. It is worth it all, however. Jesus knows that it will mean more to us if we will work at our Christian life and have a part in it being a reality. Let us look at the beauties of Christ portrayed here and be dutiful in getting them worked into our daily way of living.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

If there is an exhortation in our lesson today, it is “. . . grieve not the holy Spirit of God.” There are many people who do not get past the first base of repentance without grieving God. A good example of this is contained in the story of what became of a certain son's conversation with his father. He relates, “I had a serious conversation with my father one evening, and he concluded by recommending me to address heaven to have mercy upon me, and to join my prayers to his constant and paternal cares for my reformation. These expressions, with his preceding counsels, had such an effect upon me that I bent the stubborn sinews of my knees, when it

occurred to me that my devotions might be seen through the key-hole. This drew me from my pious attitude, and having secured this aperture, I went to let down the window curtains also; and just in the performance of the act, some lively music which struck up in the street caught my attention, and gave a sudden change to all my devout ideas. So I girded on my sword, and went to the theater, where the entertainment soon dissipated all my gloomy thoughts." Can you not feel the sorrow intermingled with disgust that God would have felt as He beheld that scene? Yet how often it is that people are unable to lay aside their pride and the attractions of this life in order to follow after Christ.

It is this same pride that causes those who profess Christ to fail to follow through on being kind, tenderhearted and forgiving of one another. Perhaps we have good intentions, and make a show of fulfilling them, but until we actually put into practice what Christ taught, God can take no pleasure in our profession. It is so hard to lay down self; yet until we do we will grieve the Spirit of God, and come short of reflecting the fulness of Christ.

—Wayne Murphey



March 3, 1991

**THE BRIGHT SHINING LIGHT
OF THE DEAR CHILDREN OF GOD**

Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;

2 And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savour.

3 But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints;

4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.

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

6 Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of

these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7 Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;)

10 Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12 For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13 But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14 Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

Memory Verse: Walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. (Eph. 5:8-10).

Central Thought: The light of Christ has illuminated our darkened souls to help us to see and understand the things that are good and acceptable with God. Thus we can be the dear children of God and escape the wrath of God that will be poured out upon the disobedient.

Word Definitions: *Dear:* Precious and well beloved. *"Sweet smelling savour":* An odor of a sweet smell. *Covetousness:* The love and pursuit of money and earthly gain by fair or foul means. *"As becometh saints":* As it is fit or proper for saints to be. *Jesting:* Words that can be used to convey an obscene or offensive meaning. *Convenient:* Suitable. *"The fruit of the Spirit":* The Greek text says "the fruit of the Light." *Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord:* Searching and finding out what is well pleasing to the Lord. *Circumspectly:* Watching all around

and in every direction. *"Redeeming the time"*: Buying up the opportunity; taking the best advantage of the time given to us for eternal profit.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is a continuation of the discourse of Paul concerning the behavior and discipline of the Christian life in view of Christ and His teachings and Spirit. As Christ gave Himself as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling odor, even so it is for the Christian to likewise follow God as who is dearly beloved in His sight, offering his or her life in a service that is well pleasing to God. We have a few more things mentioned in our lesson today that must diligently be refused and laid aside. Fornication and sexual impurity was rampant in the Gentile world to which the gospel was sent. The unbridled lust of man had sunk human society into a depth of immorality and corruption that was appalling. The love of money was captivating people much like it is the ignorant of our time. Not only does Paul counsel against these things, but he plainly states that they who partake of these evils will have no share in the blessings and benefits of God's Kingdom. Although there are false prophets who say that there is no need to deny one's self of these earthly passions, Paul states plainly again that because of these things the wrath of God is to come upon the world. It was because of the darkness and vanity of the minds of the lost that men were running after such evil. The Light of Christ has made the difference in the redeemed. The Light has shown up the evil of these things. When a soul is awakened to the peril of his lost state, he needs to arise from this dead state and let Christ illuminate his soul. Thus he can become one of the children of light and can discover the real pleasures of the Lord. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why should we want to be dear children of God?
2. What made Christ dear and beloved to God?
3. How can we be dear to God?
4. Does humility, faith, love, trust, kindness, patience, and holiness have an odor?

5. Does fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, and filthiness have an odor before God, also?

6. Why is filthiness, foolish talking, and jesting not consistent with godliness?

7. What is the price one will pay for allowing these evil things to remain in his or her life?

8. What does Light do for us?

9. Is it possible for a person to be awakened and made conscious of their need and then not put forth the effort to arise and flee from sin?

10. What does time afford to everyone of us of which we need to take advantage?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

How wonderful it is that we changed from a life that is displeasing and offensive to our Creator to a life that makes us dear and precious in His sight! It is much better to walk in the love that Christ had, that took Him to Calvary for the sins of the world. It is much better to love than to hate. The things that are condemned in God's sight are not to be held onto and contended for. They are fit only for the dung heap. The things we have mentioned in our lesson today are sinking mankind into perdition. They are to be cast aside, refused, and fled from; they are destruction and sorrow. They do not bring happiness nor satisfaction. People who go after these things and live after such a manner, do so because of the darkness and ignorance of their hearts. The Light has come. The darkness of earth and sin has been driven back by the Light of the gospel of Christ. We see the vanity and uselessness of these things. We see the value and blessing of holiness and obedience to God. All the goodness and righteousness and truth is revealed in the life of God through His Son, Jesus. We awaken from the sleep of the dead who are in trespasses and sin. We awaken to the fact that we are lost and sinking to perdition and despair. We awake "with horror from the spell of Satan's dread control." Shall we "with heaven's offer blessed lie bound in sin's domain?" No, we make a determined move toward God, repenting, and pleading the blood of Christ for our sins. We are decided in our persuasion to press forward and enter Christ's rest. We want

that inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Time is passing so swiftly and will soon be ended. Let us take advantage of the opportunity given to us to serve Christ and be ready to meet Him when He comes again. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

On a lighthouse on the shores of England are inscribed these words, "To give Light is to save Life." As this is true in the temporal world, it is so much more so in the spiritual world. Not only is accepting the light of God into our soul the means of saving it, but to let that light shine through us can be the avenue of saving others. The things that are listed in our lesson, fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, etc., are things that people do who stumble in darkness. It is darkness because they do not realize what is just ahead of them when they do these things. As Eve was blinded when she partook of the forbidden fruit, the pleasure of sin has quick and dire consequences that the imbibor chooses not to consider. First, the soul is separated from God in an instant. Then think of the shame, sorrow, and grief that is brought upon the family of the guilty one. Yes, light then dawns upon the sinner of the consequences of his misdeeds, but time cannot be rolled back and decisions changed. It is then Satans work to smooth over the sharp edges of conscience and continue to lead the transgressor into more of the same. When health is broken and ruined, then the past is a plain light to show where things were wrong, but Satan has only to give a last sedative, which once again pulls a cloak of darkness over the conscience, in order to tide a soul over to eternal damnation. No wonder the Apostle Paul said for the saints not to let these acts be once named among them.

But where do we stand in relation to this unending chain of indulgent souls? Will we be wise and walk in the light of the Gospel which reveals ahead of time where these things lead? If we do there is a good possibility that we can be of help to someone else in avoiding the pitfalls of the enemy.

—Wayne Murphey



March 10, 1991

A GLORIOUS CHURCH, THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

Ephesians 5:17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;

21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

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

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh.

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

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband.

Memory Verse: Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. Col. 3:18-19.

Central Thought: The relationship between Jesus Christ and His true followers is as the relationship between a godly, kind, loving, tender, compassionate husband and a faithful, gracious, submissive wife.

Word Definitions: *"He is the saviour of the body"*: The word saviour means deliverer, healer, preserver, and protector. As Christ is to the Church, so is a man to be to his wife. *"Washing of water by the word"*: Christ's doctrine is likened unto water in its cleansing power. We are cleansed by Christ's Word as we diligently obey. *"A glorious church"*: Splendid, noble, honorable. *Wrinkle*: Generally referring to the drawing of the skin, as wrinkles in the face. This means that the Church retains the beauty and charm of her youth before Christ. *"Without blemish"*: Without blame or fault. *Cherish*: To warm and gently care for; to brood (as a hen doth her chicks).

LESSON BACKGROUND

After general instructions that apply to everyone concerning relations to one another, the apostle begins to give specific instructions to various situations and positions of life. The first he deals with is that of husband and wife. It is easy to see why he would deal with this first, because of all relationships between people, the closest natural tie is that of husband and wife. Christ is shown in the pictures of the Scriptures in many different aspects. He is a Shepherd. He is a King. He is a Teacher, Master, Captain, Author, Counselor, Leader, and many other wonderful positions. But that of being the Husband and Bridegroom of the soul brings out the closest bond that is between Him and His saints. As we think of Christ being the Lover of our souls, our Husband, let us also examine the

closeness that God has planned between a man and his wife. Sad to say, many today have drifted away from the real place that husbands and wives should fill to one another. It does not need to be that way. If we are to be partakers of the fullness that is in Christ, our Saviour, we must let it help us in having marriages and homes that are happy and full of love, peace, and harmony. Both the husband and wife have a part and a responsibility to fill in making this dream come true. God has planned for a man and a woman to be happy together in the bond of holy matrimony. But if we do not put forth the effort and work at the marriage relationship, all of Christ's provision will be in vain.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. In what way is Christ like a husband to us?
2. What kind of husband do you visualize Christ to be?
3. As His wife, how are we to relate to Him?
4. What is the main ingredient in a marriage that brings success?
5. How did Christ show His love to us, the Church?
6. Can a man be a good husband if he constantly looks at and magnifies his wife's faults and failures?
7. What did Christ do concerning our faults and failures, that is, what did He do to help us?
8. What must a person do concerning his or her companion's faults and failures?
9. What kind of feeling should be in a man's heart for his wife?
10. What kind of feeling should be in the heart of a woman for her husband?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

To have and maintain a happy marriage is one of life's greatest fulfillments. In this, the human race is largely failing. We have in our lesson today the key to a happy marriage. Our lesson deals largely upon husbands and wives who are already married. It would be good if the young people of our society could see the value of really having the Lord's guidance in the construction of marriage and the establishment of a home.

The Lord surveys all the creatures of earth and is weighing every heart. He knows who will be the most compatible person for you. We, as human beings, are prone to judge from an outward and emotional aspect. God weighs a person much farther. Every young person should be yielding to the Lord and should be letting Him mould and fashion their hearts and minds to prepare them to be the husband or wife that He would be pleased with. And then when the Lord has been given the chance to bring about a marriage of His choosing, the practical application of the truths of our lesson today can be successfully carried out. There are many, many women in our world today who suffer many things because of a sorry husband. This is plain talk, but it is the truth. Many men do not know how to be a good husband. They have had no example set forth in the generation before them, and their sons will have no example to follow either. And so the cycle keeps on and on. There are many men who suffer from a wife who is not what she ought to be, also. But we need to be aware that the responsibility God places for success and happiness is mainly on the man. Oh, I know that many do not want to accept that challenge, but scripturally it is so. I am persuaded to believe that the world is suffering more from ungodly men than it is from ungodly women. If men would be more what God would have them be, it would help the women. If men would conform their lives to Christ and His standard, the women would have something to better themselves for. And happy marriages could be a reality instead of just a dream. —Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Our lesson today makes things very plain about what our relationship in marriage should be. It addresses the husband as well as the wife. It needs to be understood that there will be problems in a marriage no matter how suitable for each other the couple might be. A marriage without the least difference is a marriage of indifference. But difficulties can be kept to a minimum, and conquered in love if we will follow the guidelines laid down in the Bible.

According to Paul's admonitions, a wife has no more right to have equal rule with the man than the man does with Christ.

Many marriages end up in divorce because the woman tries to usurp authority. The story is related of the time when Prince Albert and Queen Victoria had a falling out. In wrath Prince Albert locked himself in his room. No less furious, Queen Victoria knocked to be admitted. "Who is there?" he asked. "The Queen of England" was the answer. He did not move, and again there was a hail of knocks. The question and the answer were repeated many times, but at last there was a pause, and then a gentle knocking. "Who is there?" came once again. This time the reply was different. "Your wife, Albert." The door was opened immediately.

A husband is enjoined to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. To dominate is not to love, but is selfishness. As Christ served the Church, the husband should serve the wife. Chivalry however outdated it may seem, should be kept alive in the relationship.

It is vital to a marriage for a husband and wife to express their love for each other. It makes the marriage go smoother and there are many less regrets. One man wrote in his diary, after his wife died, "Oh, if I could see her once more to let her know that I always loved her . . . She never did know it."

Perhaps the greatest key to a successful marriage is the fact that the closer you are to Christ, the closer you will be to one another.

—Wayne Murphey



March 17, 1991

**THE FULLNESS OF CHRIST
AFFECTING DOMESTIC RELATIONS**

Eph. 6:1 and Col. 3:20 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, and in all things for this is right and well pleasing unto the Lord.

Eph. 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise;

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

Eph. 6:5 and Col. 3:21 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, lest they be discouraged: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Eph. 6:5 and Col. 3:22 Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ, fearing God:

Eph. 6:6 Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Eph. 6:7 and Col. 3:23 And whatsoever service ye do, do it with good will heartily, as to the Lord and not unto men.

Eph. 6:8 and Col. 3:24 Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall receive of the Lord the reward of the inheritance, whether he be bond or free, for ye serve the Lord Christ.

Col. 3:25 But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

Eph. 6:9 and Col. 4:1 Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal, forbearing threatening: knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.

Col. 4:2 Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving;

3 Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds:

4 That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak.

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with

salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Memory Verse: Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. Matt. 7:12.

Central Thought: The grace of Jesus Christ affects our relationship with others in every respect, causing and enabling every person to properly relate to everyone else, regardless of who they are.

Word Definitions: *Nurture:* Education; training and disciplinary correction. *Admonition:* Loving rebuke or warning. *Singleness:* Sincerity, also abundant generosity. *Heartily:* With all of your heart and soul.

LESSON BACKGROUND

I hope no one will object to the manner in which I have set forth the Scriptures of our lesson for today. Paul's instructions to both the Ephesians and the Colossians were on similar lines, but varied a little with some thoughts in one that were not in the other. So I have purposely combined the contents from each one of the epistles in several of the verses to catch the full meaning. For instance, Paul told the children in Ephesians to obey their parents in the Lord, for this is right. He told the Colossian children to obey their parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. So I put the two together, combining the thoughts into one lesson. We might note that he gives no explicit instructions to mothers here, but the instructions he gave in our previous lesson to the wives will suffice. Fathers and mothers have a great responsibility in bringing up their children. The father is the head of the wife and the home, and both must cooperate and work together in harmony. The fullness of Christ in a man's soul will help to gauge his relationship with those with whom he daily has to do. Much is said here concerning masters and servants. In our terminology it would be laborers and overseers, or bosses. A mutual love and concern for one another impels kind and gracious manners to one another. Pity, compassion, consid-

eration, thoughtfulness, and loving regard for each other's feelings will help to build up a relationship with your fellow man that God is pleased with. Think of all the strife pulsing in our world today that would be dispelled if Paul's counsel here was given heed to. If our speech would always be seasoned with the grace and salt of the Holy Spirit, there would be less friction and more happiness and peace. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. It has been said that a child's training should begin 20 years before he is born. Can you explain why?
2. What does God expect of a parent concerning his child's obedience?
3. Does a parent have to be perfect for a child to be obedient to them?
4. What is the usual effect of an unwise or rash parent upon a child?
5. How does the fear of God help a person to be submissive to his superiors?
6. Is the Lord beholding how we perform tasks that we are given to do?
7. Why should we do our work as if we were doing it for the Lord?
8. What should we remember in our dealings with those in our jurisdiction or control?
9. Why should we be careful of how we act and speak toward those who are not saved?
10. Why is it not wise to speak hastily?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

One of the burdens of the ministry of John the Baptist was to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the children to the fathers. (Mal. 4:6). This kind of burden was part of the preparation that mankind needed to be ready for the Saviour when He appeared. And this kind of preparation is needed today. The hearts of fathers need to be turned to their children, that is, fathers need to be awakened to their joys and responsibility of parenthood in the sight of God. Think of the

problems that we have in our society today because fathers are not caring, teaching, loving, helping, instructing, and (most of all) setting the right example before their children. And the children have some responsibility here, also. Children are called of God to respect and love and honor their parents, regardless of how many faults they might have. I am sure that any parent can look back over their years of parenthood and see many mistakes and things they would do differently. And we can sometimes see faults and failings that our own parents had. But this does not give us license to censure them and to refuse to obey and respect them. Oh, the sorrow and destruction that has filled many lives on account of transgressing this first commandment with promise! The relationship between masters and servants is similar. A wise and considerate leader in any situation of life will help keep the kinks out. A faithful and obedient worker is a boon to any industry. The fullness of Christ in a man's heart and life will dictate to him to be as the instructions in our lesson today point out. We have to work at these things every day, but the reward is calculated to coincide with the great reward God has promised to those who are faithful and obedient to Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The following is an article that was written by Sis. Janice Johnston of Seymour, MO, for the "Faith and Victory" publication. It is of such an appropriate nature that we felt it would be profitable to also include it in this lesson.

"How do we as parents appear in the eyes of our children? We have often heard the statement about child rearing, "More is caught than taught". A few years ago, while I was still working full time in our Christian School, I had an experience that still weighs upon my heart. I was dealing with a teenager who had some resistant attitudes toward my authority over him. We began discussing the problem and I asked him if there was anything in my life that was a hindrance to him. After persuasion, he acknowledged, "You all give the impression that we are not allowed to have a bad day, but it seems that there are allowances when you all have a bad day!" I doubt that he ever realized the impact this had on my life, with my future

dealings as a parent in my home and with school students. I am reminded of the Scripture that says, "Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged." Colossians 3:21. We certainly have a great responsibility to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Eph. 6:4. Are we requiring them to humble down when maybe we should humble first? Maybe they could "catch" the concept of humility better than being "taught" by a figure of authority standing over them with a pointing finger and voice of stern command. I have many memories of my daddy coming to me and asking forgiveness for losing patience or dealing unwisely with me. This left a real impact upon me, teaching me a living example and concept of true humility. May God help us to keep humility balanced on the scale with our authority."

— — — — —

March 24, 1991

**THE CRUCIFIXION OF OUR SAVIOUR,
THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**

Matthew 27:33 And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull,

34 They gave him vinegar to drink mingled with gall: and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink.

35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Mark 15:25 And it was the third hour, and they crucified him.

27 And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left.

28 And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. . . .

Matthew 27:45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour.

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us.

40 But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

41 And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss.

42 And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom.

43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Matthew 27:46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, . . . My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

John 19:28 After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.

29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.

John 19:30 and Luke 23:46 When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit: and he bowed his head and gave up the ghost.

Memory Verse: For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. (I Cor. 13:14b).

Central Thought: At about 9:00 a.m. (our time) Jesus was nailed to a cross where He suffered the torments and agony of dying for the sins of the whole world. He suffered for six hours (until about 3:00 p.m.) when he yielded up the spirit to God.

Word Definitions: "*Golgotha, the place of a skull*": In Luke 23:33 it was called Calvary. Calvary was the Greek word meaning the same as the Hebrew word, Golgotha, the place of a skull. "*Vinegar mingled with gall*": Sour wine mixed with a greenish colored bile-like liquid, given to the victim to dull their senses to their sufferings. *Crucify*: To put to death by

hanging on a cross. *Casting lots*: Something on the order of pitching a coin for heads or tails; probably stones that were tossed to see what side would appear up. *Malefactor*: Wrongdoer or criminal. *Hyssop*: A stick or rod made from the hyssop plant.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Jesus had arrived in Jerusalem on the first day of the week. The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday because of the welcome given to Christ as he triumphantly rode into the city on the donkey as the people strewed palms and coats in His path. Through the days of the week following, Christ had confronted the angry Jews and finally had denounced them as hypocrites and walked out of the temple for the last time. The storm clouds began to darken as the leaders prepared their case against this lowly Nazarene. Judas, one of Christ's disciples, had covenanted with them to betray Him for thirty pieces of silver, and the deed was done. Jesus was arrested the night before, brought before Pilate and Herod and the rulers of the Jews, tried, convicted, and sentenced to die. He had no mercy or rights that are generally afforded an accused person. It was quick judgment, with no real law or justice. But it was the will of the Lord for this to be. He was dying for the sins of the world. He was bearing our transgressions so that we could be justified unto life. Let us stand beside the cross in the Spirit as we behold these Scriptures today. We have arranged in order from the four Gospels the events of that awful day. We have combined the two Scriptures from John and Luke which discloses what His final words were. He laid down His life for our sake, and we are sure that He did it gladly because of the great love that He had for all of us.

—Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the one bright moment that Jesus experienced on the cross?
2. Were the men who crucified Him forgiven as He prayed they would be?

3. Why did Jesus feel that God had forsaken Him?
4. What kind of attitude did the first thief have?
5. How do you know that the other thief was saved?
6. What did Jesus mean when He said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit"?
7. What did Jesus mean when He said, "It is finished"?
8. What must we do to make sure that Christ did not die in vain?
9. What kind of strength did Jesus have to be able to willingly suffer such a death?
10. What was the joy that Christ has in enduring the cross and despising the shame?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

Come, stand with me on Calvary and gaze upon the scene
Where hangs the Son of God in shame two dying thieves
between.

The nails, pierced through His hands and feet, secure Him
to the tree;

His blood is dripping to the ground, He spilt for you and
me.

He speaks: "Oh, God, forgive them now; they know not
what they do!"

They offer wine that's mixed with gall: He will not drink its
brew.

Now hear the taunts and jeering words from those who
stand around:

"If you're the Christ, then save yourself, and from the cross
come down.

"He trusted God, oh, let Him save, if He delights in Him!"
Thus came the cutting words of scorn from carnal hearts so
dim.

See now the skies turn dark above, thus spreading gloom
around,

While silence settles on the crowd and fear their hearts
surround.

And then a voice is heard: "If you're the Christ, save us and
you!"

The thief has spoken scornfully such words of bitter hue.

Christ answers not, but listen now: the other thief we hear,
Confessing all his guilt and need, he prays with godly fear:
"When to thy kingdom thou art come, O Lord, remember
me."

Oh, hear the blessed Saviour say, "This day with me you'll
be!"

The pain and anguish and despair forms now a mournful
cry;

As death approaches hear him say, "My God, my God, O
why,

"Why hast thou thus forsaken me?" He speaks in sorrow
sore:

"Why hast thou thus forsaken me?" Such pain our Saviour
bore.

But faith o'ermasters His despair; His final words we hear:
"Tis finished! Father, in thy hands I rest without a fear."

Then drops His head upon His breast; His spirit takes its
flight:

The Son of God has rent the veil of flesh and mortal night.
The temple's veil is rent in twain; His death has made a
way

For us that entrance we might gain into the holy way.

His death has purchased our release from sin's destructive
snare

While joy and righteousness and peace with Him we freely
share! —Brother Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

There are seven utterances which came from the cross through which we can trace the happenings of the crucifixion at the literal mount of Calvary, as well as what happened in the spiritual world. The disciple Matthew records one of them, Luke three and John three. The first utterance was of forgiveness. "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." The second, spoken to the repentant thief, told of salvation, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." The third utterance was of love. "Woman, behold thy son. . . behold thy mother." The fourth expresses the full suffering of atonement. "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" The fifth is also of

suffering, but it is physical suffering. "I thirst." The sixth is the word of triumph. "It is finished." This is but one word in the Greek, though translated into three. It has been called the "greatest single word ever uttered." The seventh, the last, are words of reunion. "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit!"

The songwriter, Isaac Watts, so very fittingly penned what humanity's reaction should be to this great event.

"Alas! and did my Saviour bleed
And did my Sovereign die!
Would he devote that sacred head
For such a worm as I?"

"Was it for crimes that I had done
He groaned upon the tree!
Amazing pity! grace unknown!
And love beyond degree!"

"But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe:
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do."

—Wayne Murphey

— — — — —

March 31, 1991

THE GLORIOUS RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

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

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

Luke 24:2 And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre.

3 And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus.

4 And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments:

5 And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?

Matthew 28:6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

Mark 16:7 But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.

Matthew 28:8 And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word.

9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

10 Then said Jesus unto them, Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

16 Then the eleven disciples went away into Galilee, into a mountain where Jesus had appointed them.

17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

18 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

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

45 Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures,

46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

48 And ye are witnesses of these things.

Matthew 28:19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

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

Memory Verse: Fear not, I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. (Rev. 1:17-18).

Central Thought: Jesus Christ, through being raised from the dead, has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Word Definitions: "*All hail*": An expression of cheer, meaning "Be happy, rejoice, be glad!"

LESSON BACKGROUND

From the first three Gospels we have arranged an account of the resurrection of Jesus and some of the events that followed. We could not include it all, but have chosen a line of thought that reaches from the early morning hour of His resurrection until just before He ascended to the heavens. It is so wonderful that Jesus came back to life after being so cruelly put to death. It is so wonderful, that we are lost in the wonder of it all. Oh, what hope and confidence it gives us! Because He arose from the grave by the glory of God, we can have our faith and our hope in God. Man can be very religious in nature and activity, but without the risen life of Christ in the soul, all religion is in vain. Unless Jesus had died and risen again, all efforts for righteousness and zeal for God would have been useless. We surely need that risen life of Christ. We need it now, and we also need to lay hold upon the hope that it gives. Because He is risen from the dead, all who follow Him faithfully will partake of that glorious resurrection. In the background, we see the faithful saints of old who lived and died in hope of the promised Saviour. We see the futile law and insufficient sacrifices made under its system. Jesus and His resurrection supplies all that everything else failed to give. How precious to

know that He is risen from the dead! It is so comforting to realize that He yet lives on high, beyond this life in that heavenly realm beyond our mortal sight. —Leslie C. Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Were the women who came that morning expecting Jesus to be alive?
2. Why didn't Jesus show Himself to everyone?
3. How can we see and know Him as the risen Lord and Saviour today?
4. Is it possible for a person to be very religious and not have the risen life of Christ within?
5. Why did Jesus want His disciples to know that He was risen from the grave?
6. What is there about the risen life of Christ that does more for the soul than all else ever did?
7. Why did the angel especially name out Peter in Mark 16:7?
8. What does it mean to us today to know that Jesus is still alive?
9. What did Jesus want His disciples to do on account of His victory?
10. Does the risen Christ furnish power and strength to live up to His teachings?

ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS

What does the resurrection of Jesus mean to me? First, it means that there is victory for me over death and sin. Jesus died for our sins and rose again for our justification. His death generates power and grace for me to be saved from the power of sin and this present evil world. Through His life I can live triumphantly over lust, greed, hatred, envy, strife, discouragement, doubts, fear, depression, gloom, and every other evil thought or desire. My relationship with this risen Saviour is not just a formal religion of do's and don'ts. It is a life that He quickens and inspires me with every day. I know that He is alive and that He cares for me. I know that He is gentle, understanding, patient, long suffering, and helpful to me in every hard and difficult place that I might encounter. To know

that He has triumphed over death and is still alive causes me to want to live and serve Him faithfully. I do not want to fail or displease Him. I know that He is reigning above this confused world of strife and sin. I know that He has all power to bless and deliver me from whatever takes hold of my life. He can heal me, and He sends forth His Spirit to inspire and comfort me. He is alive. He speaks to my heart, blesses my soul, and feeds me with His hidden manna. What puny man does or tries to do does not affect His love and faithfulness to me. I look to Him as the author and finisher of my faith. I know that He is alive, and in knowing that He is alive, I know that He will keep His promise and come again some blessed day. He will come and destroy this present evil world and punish the wicked who have refused to believe in Him and follow Him. He will take His loving children to a better world wherein dwells only righteousness and peace. I know He lives. He lives in me now, and He will live forever. This is what the resurrection of Christ means to me.

—Leslie C. Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

In the dawn of a Sunday morning an angel heralded the greatest event of all times—the resurrection of our Lord. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus entered that tomb and beheld the glory of its emptiness. Today, we too, through the scriptures and by an inner experience, can stand in the empty tomb and learn of the greatest love story that was ever told.

Consider some of the lessons the events of the resurrection teach about love:

Love is quick in its yearnings. The two women were at the tomb "very early". But divine love had beat them there.

Love will work mighty things. "When they looked, the stone was rolled away." Christ had made a way where humanity would fail. Christ's love makes our fears seem so small.

Love gives comfort. Christ's message was, "Be not affrighted". How often we need that message, and Christ is very willing to give it.

Love gives assurance and promises. The angels told the disciples, "he goeth before you into Galilee". If we will follow

Christ He is easily found of us. Because Jesus literally trod every pathway of sorrow, so now He can always be found just before us to give comfort in sorrow, strength in weakness, courage in danger and even victory in death.

The end of this love story will be fulfilled when Christ comes back to bring about a general resurrection of the literal dead. D. L. Moody once said, "The dead couldn't stay dead where He was." To prove the point he brought out his experience as a young minister. He said he used to spend the summers in Chicago, and when the other ministers were gone away it would leave him to take care of funerals. One day he was called to preach an individual's funeral which was to be attended by many business men who were not Christians. He thought, "This is my opportunity. I will give them a Christian sermon." So he tried to find one of Christ's funeral sermons, but he found that Christ broke up every funeral He attended. The dead just couldn't stay dead where He was.

—Wayne Murphey

— — — — —

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

