

# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Vol. 27, No. 2  
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**Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People**  
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**Table of Contents**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LESSON TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Apr. 2	Jesus Christ, the Great Physician .....	1
9	Jesus Christ, the Victim for Our Salvation.....	6
16	Jesus Christ, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection .....	10
23	Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life .....	15
30	Jesus Christ, Our Great High Priest .....	20
May 7	Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom of our Souls .....	24
14	Jesus Christ, the Author and Finisher of Our Faith .....	29
21	Jesus Christ, the Rest Giver .....	24
28	Jesus Christ, the Song of the Soul .....	39
June 4	Jesus Christ, the Sweet Rose of Sharon .....	43
11	Jesus Christ, the Living Stone.....	48
18	Jesus Christ, Salvation for all Mankind .....	53
25	Jesus Christ, the Final Judge .....	59

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## **THEME FOR SECOND QUARTER, 1995**

Our Bible Lessons for this quarter will be a continuation of studies of the various aspects and titles that the Lord Jesus Christ fills. The place that He fills and the position that He holds at the right hand of the Father takes on many varied forms of ministry to us. As we understand these things more clearly, the Lord Jesus becomes more dear and precious to us. It is for this purpose that we set forth these lessons, trusting the Holy Spirit will accompany them to the spiritual edification of all. Unto us that believe He is precious and we stand in holy love and awe in the face of all that the Word of God declares that He is and what He proves to be to us. May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened that we may know what is the hope of His calling, and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the greatness of His power to us-ward who believe.

—Leslie C. Busbee

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**APRIL 2, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, THE GREAT PHYSICIAN**

Matthew 8:14 And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever.

15 And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

Matthew 14:34 ...They came into the land of Gennesaret.

35 And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased;

36 And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.

Matthew 9:10 And it came to pass, as Jesus sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples.

11 And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners?

12 But when Jesus heard that, he said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick.

13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Acts 10:38 ...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

1 Peter 2:24 ...His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

James 5:14 Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord:

15 And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.

16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** "Jesus came from heaven to earth with a name of mighty virtue. When the world was held in bondage under Satan's dismal sway, Jesus healed their dread diseases: He is just the same today!" J. W. Byers.

## **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(Matthew 8:14), "*Laid, sick of a fever*": The Greek text says she was "laid down and burning with fever."

(Matthew 8:17), "*Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses*": This is taken from the Greek translation of Isaiah 53:4: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows..." The Emphatic Diaglott renders this passage: "Himself our weakness He took away, and the diseases He removed."

(Matthew 9:10), "*Publican*": A collector of public revenue. It is very evident that publicans were highly hated and despised by the Jews, and were themselves in their profession of taking and handling money subject to gross temptations of fraud and deceit.

(1 Peter 2:24), "*Stripes*": This refers to the marks of the blows and

lacerations that Christ suffered in His body, the wounds and the scars that were left.

(James 5:16), "*The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much*": The Greek text renders this: "Much strong is the prayer of a righteous man, being made effective." This word "effective" is the translation of the Greek word "energes" which means active, operative and powerful. From this word comes the English word "energy."

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today reveals from the Holy Scriptures the wonderful truth of Christ as the Great Physician. He came into this world to heal all our woes and sorrows that Satan had brought upon us. We will see in our lesson how that Christ's role as Healer was forecast in prophecy, how He fulfilled that prophecy in His day by healing all that were oppressed by the devil, and how that we today have the wonderful privilege of being healed by this same Jesus. We can be healed in our spiritual life from the effects of sin and transgression, and we can also be healed from sickness and disease.

Matthew shows on the two separate occasions mentioned how the people flocked to Jesus to receive the healing that He was giving out. He said this was the fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah. He quoted from Isaiah 53:4. In speaking of the healing of the sinners, Jesus urged the Jews to understand what the scripture meant when God said, "I will have mercy and not sacrifice," which is a quotation from Hosea 6:6. Jesus quoted this passage on one other occasion in Matthew 12:7 when He reproved the Jews for finding fault with His disciples for picking and shelling corn on the Sabbath day, saying that if they had known what this scripture meant they would not have condemned the guiltless. God was more interested in showing kindness and goodwill and mercy to humanity for their healing than condemning them for their failures.

Our scripture in Acts 10:38 was from Peter's address to the souls who were waiting for him at the house of Cornelius, who had earnestly sent for him in response to the direction of the angel of God. Note that it was expressed that it was by the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the power of God that Jesus was able to heal all those who were oppressed by the devil. And though He is seated in the heavens in the power and glory of eternity He is still able to heal those who come to Him today.

Peter joins with Matthew in quoting from the 53rd chapter of Isaiah. This wonderful chapter is pure prophecy of Jesus altogether. Philip preached Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch from this passage in Isaiah. (Acts 8:35.)

We might say that the apostle James puts the cap on our lesson as he makes it plain that healing is for us today. Jesus has the same power and goodness that He had when He gave healing and deliverance to those who sought His healing touch while He was here on earth. Note, however, that there is more responsibility on our part now in obtaining healing than there was back then. There is calling for the elders of the church, being anointed with oil and prayed for, confessing our faults, and praying fervently and effectually for one another as the means of obtaining the wonderful grace of healing. It is very evident that Jesus healed many people who were not required at the time to do these things. But we that are enlightened and know the plan of God are required to take these essential steps in obtaining healing.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is made manifest in Christ's willingness to heal us?
2. By what power and means did Christ administer healing?
3. What Old Testament prophecy did He fulfill in healing the sick?
4. What is the most important healing that Christ wants to give?
5. Why did it take wounds and stripes in His body to bring healing?
6. What are the requirements that we must meet to be healed today?
7. Can we expect healing if we deliberately or neglectfully fail to meet these requirements that James instructed us about?
8. Why does God choose to use the elders of the church in healing?
9. Why is the confessing of faults so important in obtaining healing?
10. What is it that availeth much before God?

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

Jesus Christ, as the Great Physician, is able to heal every kind of disease and disorder in the human body. He is just as able to heal every disease and disorder in the human soul. He came to bring spiritual and physical healing to us. The soul of man needs to be healed of pride and strife and unbelief. Lust, greed, bitterness, hatred, evil temper and gloom are more of the things that the soul needs healing from. These are the fruits of the disease of sin and transgression against God. The mind and spirit of man is afflicted with these evil ways of life. But so many are unconscious of their need of spiritual healing. Much means are spent on health care and treatment with

little or no awareness of the real need, and that is the healing of the inner man. Christ came to minister to the inner man first. That is the most important thing. He wants to bring peace, faith, humility, contentment, purity, love, patience and cheer to the soul of man. And every soul who really turns from these sinful ways of life can find that blessed soul healing. But that is not all. Christ is also able and willing to impart healing to the physical body. And He has done it through the years of time for those who seek Him in faith and obedience. Even in our day He is still healing those who put their trust in Him and follow His word. Sometimes He allows our faith to be tried and allows us to suffer for awhile, but if we will hold on to Him and resist the devil and keep believing that He heals us we can have victory. Healing is for us. He purchased it through His sufferings. It was prophesied that He would bring healing to us. Let us be encouraged to look to Him in the time of affliction and sickness. He is pleased when we trust in Him. If He allows us to suffer for awhile and to be tried in the furnace of affliction, let us keep pressing our claim and hold on. He will not fail to bring us out.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." The healing of soul and body are tied very closely together. We notice by this scripture that they are both accomplished by faith.

Faith is something that at times is construed in people's minds as something vague and elusive; therefore hindering the sinner from being saved and the sick from being healed.

A beautiful illustration of the simplicity of faith has been told by a minister, William Anderson. Once he was journeying to a town to help in a revival which was in progress. He met with a boy who told of the death of his little brother. The lad seemed sure that his brother had gone to heaven. When asked for the grounds of his confidence, he replied, "Because he had faith."

"But," asked William Anderson, "how do you know?"

"Well, sir, when he was dying, he seemed afraid. I told him to trust in Jesus. He asked me what that meant—what he was to do. I said, 'Pray to Him.' He replied, 'I'm too weak: I'm not able to pray.' Then I said, 'Just hold up your hand—Jesus will see you, and know what it means.' And he did it. Now, was not that faith?"

—Wayne Murphey



**APRIL 9, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE VICTIM FOR OUR SALVATION**

John 19:1 Then Pilate therefore took Jesus, and scourged him.

2 And the soldiers plaited a crown of thorns, and put it on his head, and they put on him a purple robe.

3 And said, Hail, King of the Jews! and they smote him with their hands.

Matthew 27:30 And they spit upon him, and took the reed, and smote him on the head.

31 And after that they had mocked him, they took the robe off from him, and put his own raiment on him, and led him away to crucify him.

John 19:17 And he bearing his cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:

18 Where they crucified him, and two other with him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst.

Mark 15:23 And they gave him to drink wine mingled with myrrh: but he received it not

Luke 23:34 Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots.

Matthew 27:36 And sitting down they watched him there.

Mark 15:29 And they that passed by rallied on him, wagging their heads, and saying, Ah, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days,

30 Save thyself, and come down from the cross.

31 Likewise also the chief priests mocking said among themselves with the scribes, He saved others; himself he cannot save.

Luke 23:39 And one of the malefactors which were hanged rallied on him, saying, If thou be 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.

44 And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour.

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

Luke 23:46 And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit:...



John 19:30 ...It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

Matthew 27:51 And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...He hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. II Corinthians 5:21.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** It was the will of God for Jesus to suffer the awful death of the cross in order for us to be forgiven and delivered from the guilt and consequence of sin. Jesus was the Victim for our salvation, to suffer for us and bear our blame and punishment for our sins.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(John 19:1), "*Scourged*": Whipped, beat, flogged. The Jews' method was to beat the victim 39 times, but the Romans had no limit, but would beat the victim much more, even to the point of exhaustion and fainting.

(John 19:2), "*Plaited*": Entwined or braided. This evidently meant taking the strands of a thorn bush and weaving it into the shape and size of a crown to be pressed down upon the forehead.

(Matthew 27:31), "*Crucify*": To torture or punish by fastening to a cross.

(John 19:17), "*Place of a skull; Golgotha*": The Greek word for "skull" means cranium. Luke 23:33 says the name of the place was called Calvary. The word "Calvary" is the Latin word for skull. All three words here from the Hebrew, Greek and Latin mean the same thing: a skull. Why the place is called the place of a skull is not really known. The skull is the bone structural shape of the head, which is round shaped. It could have been that this place of execution was a rounded shaped hill like a skull. This is why Calvary is commonly termed as a hill or a mountain. It also could have been so named because of the skulls from other executed criminals lying in the vicinity still exposed and not removed.

(Mark 15:23), "*Wine mingled with myrrh*": The Greek says, "wine spiced with myrrh." Myrrh was a substance with a bitter taste. Matthew 27:34 called it vinegar mingled with gall. Vinegar was sour wine and gall was a greenish bitter bile-like liquid. It is believed to have been administered to the victim as a dope or narcotic to render him senseless to his sufferings and pain. It was evidently for this cause Jesus refused to drink it.

(Luke 23:39), "*Malefactor*": The Greek word means wrong-doer, or criminal.

(V. 46), "*I commend my spirit*": Christ is saying, "Father, I commit to Your trust My spirit to guard and shield and preserve as I enter the realms of death for the sins of mankind."

(John 19:30), "*It is finished*": The Greek says, "It has been completed." Other words can be used, such as, "performed, accomplished, executed, concluded or fulfilled." It is interesting to note that Jesus uttered on the cross the beginning and the ending of the prophetic 22nd Psalm: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and the last phrase, "he hath done this." The Hebrew word for "done" means the same as the Greek word mentioned above that means accomplished and finished. His tormentors spoke these words in their mocking him: "He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him." This is almost identical to what was prophesied to be said in verse 8 of that 22nd Psalm. "*Gave up the ghost*": yielded up or surrendered His spirit. "...The spirit shall return unto God who gave it." Ecc. 12:7.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

We want to bring a lesson today of the scene of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, our Saviour. We will survey the scene of His crucifixion as related by the four gospels. We have endeavored to interweave their accounts together into one account, for what one gospel fails to mention, one or more of the other gospels do.

Jesus was arrested in the garden of Gethsemane by the chief priests and elders and captains of the temple. He was run through a mock trial before the High Priest and condemned to death. But the Jews did not have the authority to put Him to death, so they took Jesus to the Roman Governor, Pontius Pilate, with their demands for His execution. Pilate was very much opposed to putting Christ to death. His wife warned him to have nothing to do with that just man, having suffered many things in a dream that day because of him. But he was overwhelmed by the force of the crowd. He wanted to release Jesus as it was his custom to release a prisoner to the Jews at the time of their feast. But the maddened throng rejected Pilate's offer to release Jesus and demanded the release of a man who was in prison for murder, sedition and robbery. It could very well be that Pilate did not have sufficient military power at his disposal to quell the raging mob. At any rate he finally gave in to their wishes. But we know that it was the workings of God to bring about the salvation of the souls of lost humanity.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What wounds did Christ suffer that caused His blood to flow?
2. What was Christ's attitude toward His tormentors?
3. Where was the real cross that Christ bore?
4. Why did Jesus so meekly allow Himself to be treated so shamefully?
5. What sufferings of the spirit did Christ have in all of this?
6. Did Jesus feel the sting of their rejecting Him?
7. Could Christ have saved others had He saved Himself?
8. What was the attitude of the first malefactor?
9. What assurance do we have that the other malefactor was saved?
10. What was "finished" by Christ's suffering and death?

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

Christ Jesus came into the world to give Himself a ransom for the souls of men who were sold unto sin. The devil had control because man had yielded to his domination. To get man back to God required a great price, the price of the blood of Jesus. This meant that Jesus would have to give His life for our salvation. And we know that He was willing to do it. He did not draw back from doing the will of His Father in giving His life on the cross. He let Himself be arrested and wrongfully treated. He submitted to their mock trial. He did not resist their vile treatment. He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death, even the horrible death of the cross. It was a most painful and shameful way to die. But He did it so that we could be saved and have a hope of eternal life. He bore His cross upon His heart. They got a stranger passing through the country to bear His literal cross, but the cross that He bore in His heart was the heaviest to bear, and no one could bear that for Him. That is the same cross that we will bear as followers of Him. It is that cross of being rejected and hated by those you would love to help. It is the scorn, the ridicule, the mocking. There were shameful words spoken that pierced the tender heart of the Son of God. He loved them all. They were His people. But their hearts were blinded by pride and vanity. They could not see what He wanted to give them. His was a spiritual beauty and wealth that they could not perceive. So they rejected Him and sentenced Him to die. But God was watching from on high. Even though Christ suffered the awful feeling of being separated and forsaken of God, He was not really forsaken. He suffered that on our behalf. But God let it all be to prepare for that great victory that was to come when He would raise Christ from the tomb.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots." Luke 23:34. What noble words to be immortalized on our hearts. They were true, forgiving and insightful. Even in the agonies of death, Christ didn't let His emotion overcome His magnanimous heart. He could still look at the situation from an analytical view and give the offenders the benefit of the doubt. Those who crucified Christ really did not know what they were doing. Often in our passion over the injustice, we overlook that part of Christ's prayer for their forgiveness.

Once, a man by the name of Le Clerc was walking in the streets of Paris. He accidentally stepped on the foot of a young man, who immediately raised his hand and smote Le Clerc in the face. Le Clerc responded, "Sir, you will be sorry for what you have done when you know that I am blind."

The soldiers who nailed Christ to the cross truly were not aware that they were crucifying the Son of God. It was only when the earth shook that the realization came to them. (Matt. 27:54.) While their merciless act was in the overall plan of God for our salvation, it was not an excuse, for if they had investigated before committing the atrocity, they could have known what they were doing.

Let it also be a guideline to us in our dealings with one another.

—Wayne Murphy



APRIL 16, 1995

### JESUS CHRIST, THE FIRSTFRUITS OF THE RESURRECTION

I Corinthians 15:3 ...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

4 And he was buried, and... he rose again the third day according to the scriptures.

14 ...If Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain.

17 ...Your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

18 Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.

19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.

20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

35 But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?

36 Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die:

37 And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain:

38 But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body.

42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:

43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power:

44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

I Thessalonians 4:13 ...I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, In the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. I Corinthians 15:51-52.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Because Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, all who believe and obey Him are assured of being raised from death and corruption to ever be with the Lord in that blessed world without end.

## WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(I Corinthians 15:19), *"We are of all men most miserable"*: If our hope in Christ is confined to this present life, we who have renounced the world and its riches and pleasures and praise are the most to be pitied for we have neither the comforts of worldly fellowship and are destitute of any hereafter.

(I Corinthians 15:20, 23) *"Firstfruits"*: The first of the harvest, the first in gathering of the grain. Jesus was the first to be resurrected to the state of power and immortality that He has now. Other people have been resurrected from death, such as Lazarus and the son of the widow of Nain, but they were raised to a continuation of life in a mortal sense and sooner or later had to die again. But Jesus was raised to an immortal state never to die again. And it is through the power of His resurrection that we will be raised up to immortality at His second coming. Thus He is the firstfruits, and we that are His at His coming will follow in due order.

(I Corinthians 15:36), *"Thou fool"*: Foolish, senseless, and ignorant one! It is not a carnal accusation that is employed here which Jesus forbade in Matthew 5:22. It is rather an admonition to reveal the shallowness and folly of thought to question the possibility of something that has already been demonstrated in nature as Paul went on to explain concerning the seed which is sown to that which it brings forth.

(I Corinthians 15:45), *"Quickening"*: Life-giving.

(I Thessalonians 4:14), *"Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him"*: God will bring to life in the resurrection those who have died in the faith of His Son. The souls of the departed saints will accompany Jesus as He descends from heaven in that last great day and will be reunited with their incorruptible bodies. They have suffered and died with Christ, and now they are to be raised with Him.

(I Thessalonians 4:15), *"We which are alive shall not prevent them which are asleep"*: We who are yet living on earth who are the chosen ones in Him will not go before those who have died. They will be resurrected first, and then the combined host of the redeemed, those who have been resurrected and those who were still alive and are changed, shall all rise in a mighty immortal throng to meet our dear Saviour in the air and go with Him to that blessed world of eternal joy forever! Praise the Lord!

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Oh, how thankful we are to have the inspiring words of the apostle Paul, who according to the wisdom given by God, has explained the

nature and order of the resurrection of Christ and His Church! From his letter to the Corinthians and also to the Thessalonians we see the beauty and glory of that blessed event that is yet to come. It is evident that there were some in the Corinthian Church who did not believe in the resurrection of the dead. Paul is showing how inconsistent this was to the faith of Christ. The whole Christian faith is centered on the belief that Jesus Christ died for our sins and was resurrected to live forever. It also strongly promises that all who follow Him will share in that same resurrection. This is the hope of the child of God. To the Church in Thessalonica Paul imparted the beautiful words of hope that has cheered many through the ages. He gives it to dissolve all doubt and wonderment concerning those who die in the Lord. We are not to grieve as having no hope, for we know that God will bring His saints back from the grave just as surely as He brought Christ, His Son, back from the grave.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why is the resurrection of Christ from the dead so important to us?
2. Why would we be most miserable if Christ had not been raised?
3. What is the state of the dead in Christ if He is not risen and alive?
4. In what way is Christ the firstfruits of the resurrection?
5. How is Christ the second Adam?
6. What does Paul liken the resurrection to?
7. What is the resurrection sown in? What is it raised in?
8. Will there be any difference in the state of the dead and the living?
9. What will happen when the Lord descends from heaven?
10. Can we know beyond all doubt that we are ready for that day?

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

What a blessed hope we have in serving the Lord Jesus Christ! We need to let the Lord elevate our minds up above this vain, carnal world to the blessedness of our hope in Him. It would be a dark picture for us if Christ Jesus was not alive and at the right hand of God! If he was still in the tomb we would have no hope. When death comes it would all be over. It would be useless to try to live the self-denying route of a Christian if there were no hereafter! We thank God that there is a glorious future for the faithful. Our lesson today projects our vision into this glorious future. Jesus came forth from the tomb on that first

day of the week in immortal glory and power. He conquered death and sin by His resurrection. He was in a glorified body, a body that was to live forever. He could do anything. He could pass through a wall, appear and disappear, traverse distance and space in an instant. And yet he could eat food if he so chose. He was in a glorified body. We who love and obey Him will share in that same blessedness. He will give us a glorified body in which we will live with Him forever. He was the firstfruits and we that are Christ's at His second coming will be raised to that same immortal state. If we have died and our bodies have gone back to the dust, God will quicken us to life and awareness again. We will know who we are and what is happening. We will remember that we came from this world to life eternal. Oh, how wonderful that will be! Let us look upon this wonderful hope with joy and a steadfast determination to be true and accounted worthy to partake of it. By the grace of God we can live triumphant over sin in this life and be faithful to Him who purchased such a wonderful salvation for us. And some blessed day we can rise with all the redeemed throng to meet our Lord in the air, "and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Entering into the power that produced a resurrection for the Lord required the sacrifice of His entire physical life. One cannot be resurrected until he has experienced death. The death that Jesus was sent to enter into was a sacrificial death offered before the Father on high as one without spot or blemish for the sins of all mankind and inflicted by the very ones He sought to save! Aside from this physical dying of His body was the constant everyday sacrificing of His will to the will of the Father. (See Luke 2:49, John 8:29, John 5:30, John 6:38.) Without this constant dying out to Himself along the way He would not have been able to meet the supreme sacrifice at the end of the way. To have failed His Father at the last moment would have deprived Him of the power of resurrection. This is the essence of Phil. 3:10, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;" which applies to every one of us today. If we would aspire to attain to the power of His resurrection for ourselves, then we must be willing also to accept the fellowship or partaking of His suffering. The laying aside of our ways and desires and ambitions and plans and hopes and dreams in life must become a fact in our lives that He and His way may become our everlasting portion. It is this day by day, step by step yielding to Him that prepares and conditions us and conforms us to His likeness so that when we, too, face the laying aside of this



mortal flesh, the power of resurrection may rest upon us and we can live again. May God help us each one to gladly and willingly fellowship His suffering that we, too, might partake of His resurrection.

—(Written by Bro. Clifford Wilson in 1970)



**APRIL 23, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, THE BREAD OF LIFE**

John 6:26 Jesus answered them and said, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

28 Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?

29 Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.

30 They said therefore unto him, What sign shewest thou then, that we may see, and believe thee? what dost thou work?

31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat.

32 Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but my Father giveth you the true bread from heaven.

33 For the bread of God is he which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.

34 Then said they unto him, Lord, evermore give us this bread.

35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

48 I am that bread of life.

49 Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

50 This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

57 As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

58 This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live for ever.

63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. John 6:35.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The soul of man needs food, food that will nourish and bring eternal life. Jesus Christ is declared to be that living food, the Bread of Life. If we will come to Him, believe on Him, obey His word, and follow Him faithfully we can partake of His life-giving Bread and live with Him forever.

### WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(John 6:27), "*Him hath God the Father sealed*": The word "sealed" here means a stamp given for security, preservation, and genuineness. God put His approval upon His Son, and gave Him special recognition.

(V. 30), "*What sign shewest thou?*": How could these people have asked Jesus for a sign when just the day before they had witnessed Him feed five thousand men beside the women and children with five loaves and two fishes?

(V. 31), "*Manna in the desert, bread from heaven*": The Jews evidently had great respect for the fact that their fathers had the special favour of God to be fed miraculously with the manna under the leadership of Moses. They quoted Nehemiah 9:15 which states that God gave the Israelites bread from heaven for their hunger. Moses in Deuteronomy 8:3 reminded Israel that God had led them in the wilderness forty years to humble them and to prove them, and to know what was in their heart, whether they would keep his commandments, or not. He said, "He (God) humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not,... that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live." God fed them, he stressed, with manna which they knew not. When Israel went out and found the small round wafers lying on the ground after the dew was evaporated, they said one to another, "It is manna:" for they knew not what it was. The expression, "It is manna" literally means, "What is that?" So they called the name of it "Manna." (Exodus 16: 14- 15, 31.) It was the bread that the Lord had given them to eat,

and it tasted like wafers made with honey. They did not know what it was or what its ingredients were, for God wanted them to know that it was not food that supported their life, but it was His Word. This was a type and a shadow of Jesus, the Bread of Life, for He was the Word of God made flesh.

(V. 32), "*Moses gave you not that bread from heaven*": That manna that God gave to Israel to sustain them in the wilderness was not the true bread from heaven. It was food administered miraculously but it was a literal food. The real bread from heaven is a spiritual bread, a food for the inner man that would give life and nourishment for spiritual life and health. This is what Jesus is seeking to introduce to us, the true Bread, Himself, coming down from Heaven as the Son of the living God to give life, spiritual life, unto the world.

(V. 35), "*He that cometh to me, he that believeth on me*": As John Bunyan in *The Pilgrim's Progress* explained, "Coming and believing are the same. For he that cometh to Christ, that is, he who runneth out to Him in his heart and affections, he it is who really believes in Christ."

(V. 51), "*The bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world*": This is spiritual language, and it offended the Jews greatly because they could not understand how Christ could give them His flesh to eat. Jesus went ahead and stated it more strongly, saying, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." But Jesus was speaking not of His literal flesh and blood, but rather was referring to His Word and His Spirit.

(V. 63), "*It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life*": Here Jesus gave a clue to the meaning of what He said about eating His flesh and drinking His blood. It was His Spirit and His Word that He was seeking for them to receive which would give them true life.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Jesus had just manifested His glory by miraculously feeding the great multitude with the little lad's lunch of five barley loaves and two small fishes. When the people saw this great miracle that Jesus did, they said, "this is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world. When Jesus therefore perceived that they would come and take him by force, to make him a king, he departed again into a mountain himself alone." John 6:14-15. Why did the people want to make Jesus king? Was it because of His divine love and holiness that would help them to be what God wanted them to be? No. It was rather that He had filled their bellies with food. That is why He told them in the first verse of our lesson, when they had located Him the next day, that they

sought Him not because of the miracles, but because they ate of the loaves and were filled. The people were poor and making out a living and having enough bread to satisfy their hunger was a big thing to them. And here was a man who had the power to furnish them food and to spare. It was no doubt in their minds that if this wonderful Man could be made their king their problems with having enough food to eat would be solved. They would never have to go hungry again. But Jesus sought to turn their minds away from this, and pointed them to the food that was eternal. He plainly showed them that He was the Bread of Life, coming down from heaven to give them life everlasting. But He knew that there were some who did not really believe in Him. So He gave them an occasion to be offended and spoke in spiritual language concerning Himself. And it is hard to believe that these very people who were so carried away in their minds with adoration for what Christ had done for them in feeding them, yes, these very people took offense and went back and walked no more with Him. After they were gone, Jesus turned to His twelve disciples, and asked them, "Will ye also go away?" Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God." Perhaps they did not understand what Jesus meant, but they stayed with Him, with the exception, that is, of Judas Iscariot, who was to betray Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the one need of man in our lesson that everyone has?
2. For what reason do you think God made man with need for food?
3. What is the problem that Jesus ran into with people in our lesson?
4. Why did the people want to make Jesus their king?
5. What kind of food did Jesus want to interest the people in?
6. What did Jesus say about the manna that Israel had?
7. What was the true Bread that He sought to give them?
8. How is Christ's flesh to be the bread by which we can live forever?
9. How can we "eat" Jesus?
10. What is the "meat which endureth unto everlasting life?"

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

The same message that Jesus gave to the people of His time comes down to us today. Do not be so concerned about the literal food

that will soon perish with the body that it feeds. Be more interested and desirous of that food that will enable us to have everlasting life. Food for the physical body is so degraded and corrupted. We live in a world and society that is becoming more and more health and nutrition conscious and concerned. And they have a reason to be concerned about eating the right kinds of food and having a proper diet. Many of man's woes and sicknesses are traced to his diet. In one great sense "we are what we eat." There are many things that man is eating today that are proving to be of very little nourishment, and many are actually harmful. This is probably why they have to have a pharmacy and sell medicine right along with the groceries. And it is wise to be careful what one eats, and seek to stay away from refined foods that have the most important ingredients removed. But on the other hand we must remember that man's effort to provide a perfect diet can be and often is greatly frustrated and full of error. Man's knowledge is so imperfect and things they may teach against today for food value may be different in the future. So we must not be overly concerned with the literal food. It is the spiritual food that we need to be concerned about and interested in. You can get the most perfect food available that is highest in vitamins and minerals, but if you neglect the spiritual food that Jesus has brought to us, it will all be vanity. Christ's food is food for the inner man. It is the Word of God and the Spirit of God. We are to absorb these things into our inner man and let their truths be lived out in us. These spiritual riches will help mold and shape our lives into the image of God. His Spirit will quicken and enable us to live godly and holy lives. His Word will enlighten our minds and guide us in the right way to live. This is the food that God is offering to us in Christ.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

An Arab once lost his way in a desert. His provisions were soon exhausted. For two days and two nights he had not a morsel to eat. He began to fear that He should die of hunger. He looked eagerly, but in vain, along the level sand for some caravan of travelers from whom he might beg bread.

At last he came to a place where there was a little water in a well, and around the well's mouth the marks of an encampment. Some people had pitched their tents there, and had gathered them up and gone away again. The starving Arab looked around in the hope of finding some food that the travelers might have left behind. After searching a while, he came upon a little bag, tied at the mouth, and full of something that felt hard and round. He opened the bag with great joy, thinking it contained either dates or nuts, and expecting

that with them he should be able to satisfy his hunger. But as soon as he saw what it contained, he threw it on the ground, crying out in despair, "It is only pearls!" and laid down in the desert to die.

It is possible to go through life like the Arab, possessing things of this world, but dying for want of the bread of life. The chief thing for us to do is to find the life that is in Christ, and then we may gladly accept the additional good that God is pleased to give us.

—Wayne Murphey



**APRIL 30, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, OUR GREAT HIGH PRIEST**

Hebrews 2:17 In all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 5:1 For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:

2 Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

3 And by reason hereof he ought, as for the people, so also for himself, to offer for sins.

4 And no man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Hebrews 7:25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.

Hebrews 4: 14 Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

I Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. Hebrews 9:24.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ has been given by God His Father the office of Great High Priest at His right hand in the heavens. All prayer and communication between God and man comes through Him. We have access to God and His grace and power through Christ, and we can boldly come to Him in every time of need.

## WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(Hebrews 2: 17), "*High priest*": The word *priest* is associated by Webster to the term *presbyter*, which means elder or one who is older and advanced in knowledge and experience. It refers to one who ministers in holy things concerning God and man. In the New Testament the word *priest* is translated from the Greek word "*hiereus*" derived from the word "*hieros*" which means "holy." Thus it means one who ministers in holy things of God and man. In the Old Testament the word *priest* is translated from the word "*kohen*" which means "one who officiates" and this is derived from the word "*kahan*" which means to mediate or go between. The term *high Priest* refers to a priest that is older and chief in rank or position. Jesus is called the chief Shepherd. (I Peter 5:4.) This means that He is over all the shepherds of His flock. Both words "high" and "chief" mean the same thing. As He is the chief Shepherd, so He is the chief Priest.

(Hebrews 2:18), "*Succour*": Help.

(Hebrews 5:2), "*Who can have compassion on the ignorant*": The Greek says, "Being able to feel in due measure for those not knowing and being led astray, since also He is encompassed with weakness."

(Hebrews 5:6), *"After the order of Melchisedec"*: Melchisedec was a priest of the most high God residing in the city of Salem in the days of Abraham. (Genesis 14:18.) Abraham showed respect for Melchisedec as one in a holy office and minister of God to the people by giving him the tenth of the spoils taken from his victory over the kings. This Melchisedec (as his name in the Hebrew implies, which is "king of righteousness") was a wise and God-fearing leader who upheld the knowledge of the most high God. The writer in Hebrews quoted from Psalm 110:4 which prophesied that Christ would be a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. He shows that Christ is not after the Levitical priesthood, which was a type and a shadow of His priesthood. But the order of Christ's priesthood was to be that of Melchisedec. This means that He was like Melchisedec who was a priest and minister of God because of His righteous and holy life of obedience to God.

(Hebrews 5:7), *"Was heard in that he feared"*: Christ's prayers were heard by God because of His piety, which means godly fear.

(Hebrews 7:26), *"Such an high priest became us"*: Was made fitting, suitable and proper for us.

(I Timothy 2:5), *"Mediator"*: One who goes between; a reconciler or intercessor.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we view Christ Jesus as our great High Priest seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places interceding with God on our behalf. He offered the perfect sacrifice of Himself to God for our sins, and, in keeping of His holy covenant, God set Christ at His own right hand in the role of an Intercessor, or Go-between, One who takes God by one hand and takes man by the other and effects a reconciliation and harmony between both. The writer in Hebrews makes much stress on the order of Christ's priesthood as being superior to the Levitical priesthood in that His is an eternal priesthood, never to end in death because He lives forever. It is so wonderful that the priesthood of our Lord Jesus Christ is termed in our lesson as a throne of grace to which we can boldly come to obtain mercy from God and to find grace to help in time of need. —Leslie C. Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. Why was a priest needed for mankind?
2. What were the requirements of being a priest?
3. Why could not just anyone be a priest?
4. How was Christ made a High Priest?
5. Why was Christ made a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec?



6. In what way did Christ have to learn obedience and be perfected?

7. What is Christ as High Priest able to do?

8. How is Christ as High Priest fit and proper for us?

9. What makes Christ especially able to assist us?

10. What does the "throne of grace" mean to the child of God?

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

God is so great, high and holy while man is so low, weak and vile. Thus there was needed someone who could be a go-between, taking hold of God and at the same time taking hold of man, in order to bring reconciliation and agreement. In Job 9:33 Job spoke of a "daysman" between him and God who would be able to "lay his hand upon us both." The word daysman refers to an arbitrator, one who is right, correct and able to argue and justify for both sides. This is what a priest needed to be. He must be holy and righteous before God, but he also must be compassionate and goodwilled toward men. In this way the priest holds to the holiness of God and at the same time reaches out to those in need of help and mercy. The Levitical priesthood was a go-between, a ministry for the people in the behalf of their relationship with God. But this priesthood was so deficient and inadequate. They had to keep being replaced because of death. What was needed was a higher order of priesthood, an eternal priesthood. The prophet in Psalm 110:4 declared that the Lord with an oath had pronounced the coming Christ as being a priest forever after the order of Melchisedec. This was an eternal priesthood that was founded on righteousness and faithfulness to God. And thus Christ was able to fulfill this prophecy in being raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of God in the heavenly places. There He is a priest for us, interceding for us before the heavenly Father, ever there appearing in heaven on our behalf. His ministry becomes a throne of grace to which we can come boldly both day and night for help in every time of need. For this reason we must hold fast our profession of faith and keep resorting to Christ all the days of our life. He is a faithful High Priest and able to give us help in every scene of life.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

One of the most endearing and perfect types of our Lord from the Old Testament is the priesthood. Under the system as ordained by God, on the Day of Atonement, the high priest made three appearances. In the morning he came before the people, who saw him as a priest of the tribe of Levi, or one taken from among them: (Ex. 28:1.) This

appearance assured them that he was on the job, had their best interest at heart, and could sympathize with their need for forgiveness.

Next the High Priest entered into the Holy of Holies with the blood of the sacrifice, and put in an appearance before God on behalf of the people.

At the close of his intercession, he would again appear, signify to the people that their sins were put away, and then pronounce a blessing upon them. (Num. 6:23-27.)

We see Christ fulfilling this same operation. He was born among men, assuring us that He was one of us, and would be a sacrifice for our sins. When Christ passed into the heavens at His glorious Ascension, it was to appear before God to be our advocate. Next, and finally, He will come again to make an appearing in the heavens to say "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," and to distribute blessings to those who have accepted His sacrifice for their sins.

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 7, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, THE BRIDEGROOM OF OUR SOULS**

Isaiah 54:4 Fear not; for thou shalt not be ashamed: neither be thou confounded; for thou shalt not be put to shame: for thou shalt forget the shame of thy youth, and shalt not remember the reproach of thy widowhood any more.

5 For thy Maker is thine husband; the Lord of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

6 For the Lord hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God.

Isaiah 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Isaiah 62:4 Thou shalt no more be termed Forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed Desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee, and thy land shall be married.

5 For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

John 3:27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven.

28 Yeyourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him.

29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...As the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee. Isaiah 62:5.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The love that Jesus has for His people is so warm and tender and blessed that He is given the title of Bridegroom and Husband. He is to our souls as gracious and loving as a bridegroom is to his bride.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(Isaiah 54:4), "*Reproach of thy widowhood*": In one sense, no one can really come to know Christ unless they experience the death of sin and the severance of fleshly ties and earth's charm. This makes us a spiritual widow, poor and needy of the comfort and care of the heavenly Bridegroom.

(Isaiah 54:6), "*Woman forsaken and grieved in spirit*": This is further description of the soul who becomes aware of his need of the love of Christ. The world has faded from his vision in all of its beckoning allure and charm. The call of eternal things has so drawn his attention and desires that the world ceases to please. Godly sorrow

and repentance take hold of the mind and he begins to mourn and weep for the salvation of God.

(Isaiah 61:10), "*Ornaments and jewels*": These are spiritual riches that Christ decks Himself with and what He wants to see in His church. These are qualities of life and character such as humility, faith, meekness, godliness, love, patience and trueness.

(Isaiah 62:4), "*Hephzibah*": The Hebrew word which means "My delight is in her." "*Beulah*": Married, joined with Christ.

(Isaiah 62:5), "*So shall thy sons marry thee*": This is spiritual language. The sons of Christ's Bride, who are the souls born again of the Spirit of God, shall unite themselves with the Church with a love and affection as warm and tender as a young man marrying the object of his love.

(John 3:29), "*Bridegroom*": A man joined in marriage with his bride.

(Ephesians 5:29), "*Nourisheth and cherisheth*": To warm, brood, foster and bring up to maturity.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Isaiah, the gospel prophet, speaking in the inspiration of the Holy Spirit foretold the relationship that Christ was to have with His Church, and that was as a Bridegroom to His Bride. He pictured it as a joyous union of the Saviour and the souls of men in love and harmony forever. He would take delight in us and we would be married to Him. And, thank God, we have found it to be so. When we gave our hearts to Him and became one spirit with Him we were the same as married to Him. And we know that this marriage bond is the closest bond on earth. In this 54th chapter of Isaiah there are two other passages that we want to mention that accompany the ones we have in our lesson. Verses 1 and 13 are both quoted in the New Testament. Paul quotes verse 1 in Galatians 4:27 in speaking of Jerusalem which is above, the mother of us all. And Jesus referred to verse 13 in John 6:45 when He spoke about those who hear and learn of the Father coming to Him, saying, "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God." So this shows how this 54th chapter was applied by the Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul.

John the Baptist was questioned about the One that he had borne witness to and how that all men were coming to Him instead of John as they did for a time. So John explained to them that Jesus was the Bridegroom who was to have the Bride, the Church. And he was the friend of the Bridegroom who rejoiced to hear the Bridegroom's voice as He came to take the Bride. Therefore he, John, had to fade out of the picture. He went on to say, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

We have Paul's beautiful comments on Christ and the Church as given in his epistle to the Ephesians. It is a very moving display of the sweet relationship that there is between Jesus Christ and we who are truly saved and make up His Bride. How He cherishes us! Think how a mother bird sits on her eggs so faithfully, warming and protecting them as the most precious thing she has. Even so the Lord Jesus warms and sustains us with His love and grace, preventing us from failing to come forth for Him.

We just had to include in our lesson that scene in the Revelation of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His marriage to the Church, His chosen Bride. It is so beautiful to behold her in spirit arrayed in that fine linen, clean and white, which is the righteous and holy lives of the saints.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did the prophet Isaiah say God would be to us?
2. How can we be grieved and forsaken in spirit before the Lord?
3. What are the ornaments and jewels that Christ and the Church wear?
4. Can the Lord delight in us if we cling to our sinful ways?
5. How can we marry the Church?
6. Who was John referring to when He mentioned the Bridegroom?
7. What did Christ do for the Church?
8. How did He prove that He loved us as Himself?
9. When are we married to Christ?
10. What is the Church arrayed in?

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

It is so precious to have a union with Christ in the spirit. Paul said in I Corinthians 6: 17 that "he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit." This is a very close bond. The spiritual bond is the most important bond, even in a marriage between man and wife. A man must build a spiritual relationship with the woman he marries. To do this He must be a spiritual man, born again and fully yielded to and led by the Holy Spirit in his life. The woman he chooses must be likewise, a woman filled with the Holy Spirit. Before they come together in the flesh they must build a solid relationship with each other in the Spirit of the Lord. This will take time and waiting on God. So many marriages today, sad to say, are entered into without this spiritual bond. And that is why so many of them do not stay together. The flesh alone is poor bonding material. Oh, it may seem to stick for awhile, but when the thrill wears

off things start coming apart. But if there is a spiritual bond, even when adversity and the toils of life try to tear them apart, they will continue to live together in love and harmony. This spiritual bond is what we have with Jesus. It is purely spiritual. But it is so real, for His Spirit entwines about us and flows into our souls with such joy and loving pleasure that we are overwhelmed with love and happiness in Him. Oh, how precious is He to our hearts! We love to be with Him in His presence and in His service. We love to pray and commune with Him. We love to work for Him and do His biddings. We rejoice to hear our Bridegroom's voice. We are looking forward to that wonderful day when He shall appear and take us out of this troublesome world to that Home of endless day. We are married to Him now, and our relationship with Him is so real, but what will it be when our faith is lost in sight and we see our Lover face to face? It surely will be worth it all. May God help us to be true and faithful to our heavenly Bridegroom until He comes to take us to Himself

—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"There are two different lines of thought which at once arise from considering our Lord as the Bridegroom: in His single capacity as the Lover or Suitor who seeks to win the affections of the Bride to Himself; in His married state, as the Husband or Head, who watches over, guides and acts for the one to whom He is united.

"The Bridegroom, however happy He may have been, is not content to abide in a single state, John 17:24. He consults His Father as to the bride of His choice, John 8:42. He then gives offers of marriage, II Chron. 36:15. Many and many a precious invitation comes to the heart of Christ's people, Isa. 45:22; Matt. 11:28; Rev. 3:20. Like the servant of Abraham in search of the wife for Isaac, the Holy Spirit seeks the bride for Jesus, Gen 24:3, 8, 12, etc. He sues hard, does the Bridegroom, Matt. 23:37; Luke 19:41. He waits long in His desire to gain the heart, Rev. 3:20. Years seem but days for the love He has, Gen 29:20; but no rival can He endure, Matt. 22:37. Thus does Jesus come to us as the Bridegroom, II Cor. 11:2. He calls the sinner as at Jericho, Luke 19:5. He pleads with the sinner as at Sychar's well, John 4:10. He shows Himself ready to do all for the sinner, as in Simon's house, Luke 7:47, and upon the cross, Luke 23:43.

"The Bridegroom having won His spouse, the promise and contract of marriage is made and sealed, II Cor. 1:21-22. There is joy and rejoicing throughout the whole household, Luke 15:9-10."

—Taken from writings by Rowley Hill



**MAY 14, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE AUTHOR AND FINISHER  
OF OUR FAITH**

Hebrews 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

I Peter 1:21 Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:11 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.

Psalms 138:8 The Lord will perfect that which concerneth me: thy mercy, O Lord, endureth for ever: forsake not the works of thine own hands.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him.

28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

**MEMORYVERSE:** I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:8.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ, through His life, death and resurrection has made our salvation possible and within our reach. He goes before us as our Chief Leader and will work His great work in our lives as we yield and follow Him. He will be with us all the way and will bring us to His eternal glory at last.

### WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(Hebrews 12:2), "*Author and finisher*": The Greek meaning of these words is "chief leader and completer". The same word translated "author" here is also translated "captain" and "Prince" in other places.

(Philippians 1:6), "*Perform*": The Greek word means, "fulfill completely." This word is closely related to the word translated "finisher" above.

(Ephesians 4:11), "*He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets, etc.*": Paul had quoted from Psalm 68:18 concerning Christ leading captivity captive and giving gifts unto men. He applied these gifts to refer to the various functions of the workings of the Spirit of God in His people. To some He gave to be apostles, and to some He gave to be prophets, etc. The apostles were those set apart and commissioned to proclaim the good news of the Saviour to the darkened nations. They were invested with miraculous powers to demonstrate the power and authority of Christ. Prophets were given the power to foretell what was in the future, not only what was revealed in the scriptures, but also in individual lives, as Agabus foretold the dearth in the world and also what was ahead for Paul. (Acts 11:28, 21:10.) An evangelist is a preacher of the gospel, one who announces or heralds the message of Christ. A pastor is a shepherd, one who feeds and nurtures and cares for the spiritual needs of souls. A teacher is an instructor, one who is capable of expounding scripture and doctrine.

(Ephesians 4:12), "*For the perfecting of the saints*": For the complete furnishing and qualification of the saints to the work of the ministry. The Greek text has these two phrases together. "*for the edifying of the body of Christ*": The Greek says, "to the building of the body of Christ."



(Ephesians 4:13), The Greek rendering of this verse says, "Until we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God to a full grown man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

(Ephesians 4:14), "*Children*": Infants or babes. "*Sleight*": Trickery.

(Ephesians 4:15-16), The Greek text reads: "But speaking truth in love we may grow into Him in all things, who is the Head, Christ, of whom all the body being fitted together and being brought together through every bond of assistance, according to the working in measure of each one part, producing the growth of the body to the building up of itself in love." It is the great work of our Saviour to work in each one of us the completion of the design of God's perfect will for us.

(I Corinthians 15:24), "*Then cometh the end*": This means the end of time when the saints will be resurrected to be with Christ forever.

(I Corinthians 15:27), "*It is manifest that he is excepted*": It is plain that all will be subjected to Christ except the One who subjects it all to Christ, and that is God, the Father. He still is above all and always will be.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In today's lesson we see Christ as the Founder of the Christian faith, the Director of its operation and function in the lives of people, and the One who will finish and complete its accomplishment in this time world. Had Christ only offered Himself as an atonement for man's sins and not followed it up by a personal ministry from heaven, His labours would have been in vain. But He ascended up on high and began a ministry through the Holy Spirit to work in His Church to the edifying of humanity and souls. It is His work and direction to begin His work in a person's life by the conviction of sin and repentance. As the individual yields to His dealings (and it is always according to the yielding and submission of the will) Christ will continue His work of grace all along the path of life until the end, the end of the individual's life and the end of this world, as is foretold in our lesson. Through the various gifts of the Holy Spirit and the functions of His divine grace Jesus builds up His children and develops their experience unto fullness of growth. He then maintains that status, working in and through them according to the will of the Father. He is the Author and He is the Finisher. He will perfect that which concerns each one of His trusting children.

It is interesting to note how the apostle Paul foretold the end of time and the resurrection. He is basing his prophecy on two scrip-

tures: Psalm 8:6, "Thou hast put all things under his feet," and Psalm 110:1, "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." From these two scriptures Paul has gathered that Christ will finish His great plan of redemption with a glorious appearing when death will be subjected and destroyed. This will be accomplished through the resurrection of the saints of God unto eternal life.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did Jesus do to become the Author of our faith?
2. How does Jesus begin His work of grace in the soul?
3. Why can we not really and effectively believe in God without Jesus?
4. Is it possible for us to frustrate or hinder Jesus from completing His work in us?
5. What is Christ's goal in His dealings with us?
6. Who does He work through to accomplish His will in us?
7. Will we prosper if we refuse to give heed to the gifts of the Spirit?
8. What yet must Christ do to complete His work?
9. How can we be sure that we will be with Him in that last great day?
10. What must we always do to have Christ accomplish His good will?

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

What a blessed experience for us to have in the workings of Christ in our souls! He begins His work of salvation through the dealings of the His Holy Spirit. The fear of God touches and stirs the heart and makes it tender and receptive to the dealings of the Spirit of Christ. If we will yield to His tender wooings and entreaties, and will come to Him repenting and turning away from all of our sins and transgressions He will inspire and comfort our hearts with confidence and assurance of His love. He will elevate our minds to the realm of believing faith that will enable us to grasp the promises of God and be made a new creature in Him. Such is the work of grace, the beginning of a life that God is pleased with. Then as we begin to walk in the heavenly way of righteousness and divine love, He will go before us and lead us step by step. As we keep our hearts open to His word, and listen attentively to the word of God preached through the various ministers whom He sends to us, we will be made aware of every move that we should make in our forward progress for Him. We will be made aware

that we need the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and as we respond to that call and consecrate and die out to all self and earth, He will lead us to where we can lay hold of sanctification and its wonderful blessings. Then we will need Him to guide our activities and labours, and also all the decisions we will be called upon to make. If we will furnish Him a willing heart, Christ will work His wonderful plan out in our lives. All along life's journey He will continue to work with us. Through sickness, adversity, trials, disappointments and sorrow He will walk with us. He will fill us with joy, victory, knowledge, wisdom, light, peace and love every mile of life's way. There will be victories to win in hard fought battles. There will be deeper depths and higher heights to attain to. But He will continue to work with us as our faithful Creator and Friend. And some day we will reach the end of life's journey. He will be there with us then, also, just as He has been all the way. He will take us to His Home above where we will be forever with Him. What a rich and wonderful blessing it is to have Him as the Author and Finisher of our faith!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Christ is the Author and Finisher of our faith in the overall aspect of salvation. It was His plan that brought Him to this earth, and when Christ died on the cross He finished it.

For each individual, Christ is the inspiration, or beginning of our faith when we come to God. It is by hearing the story of His sacrifice for our sins that we are made bold to offer repentance. It is also believing on Christ which will tide us over until the last victory is won.

Satan is ardently working to hinder our faith and turn us from the way. Once I was driving down a country lane. I approached a railroad crossing that was constructed on a steep embankment. Upon reaching the top of the embankment, I was unable to see the downward slope over the hood of the car. I simply had to believe that the road existed and keep going straight. Many times we cannot see the end of a spiritual conflict, but we must steadfastly keep living the life that Christ has led us into.

As we consider the beauty of Christ as the Author of our faith, it is easier to believe in Him as the Finisher of our faith. When we ponder the power and love exerted on our behalf to deliver us from sin, we know within that this same Christ will take us through to the end.

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 21, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE REST GIVER**

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

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

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

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9. When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

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

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** From the beginning of time God has wanted man to enter into His rest. Many have failed to enter into the rest that God wanted them to have, such as the Sabbath rest and the Caanan land rest. Now in Christ Jesus God is offering a rest of the soul, a rest obtained through faith and believing His Word. We must be diligent to enter into this glorious rest lest we be hardened by unbelief and sin.

### WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(Matthew 11:29), "Yoke": This means a coupling or means of joining two together for service, like two oxen. Jesus uses this to illustrate us joining up with Him, being coupled with Him by the Holy Spirit that we might enjoy sweet soul rest and success and victory in living for God.

(Hebrews 3:7,12), "*Wherefore....Take heed, brethren*": For this reason, watch, brothers. It is to be observed that there is a set of parenthesis between "Wherefore" and "Takeheed". The writer had just mentioned in verse 6 how that we are made partakers of Christ *if* we hold fast the confidence and rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. He then follows with this exhortation to take heed lest there be in any an evil heart of unbelief. Within the parenthesis is a quotation from Psalm 95:7-11 that he says the Holy Spirit is saying to us today. It constitutes a warning to us to not harden our hearts and fail to enter into God's rest as Israel did when they drew back from going over into Caanan.

(Hebrews 4:1), "*Let us therefore fear*": Let it be an alarming warning to us to be on our guard against unbelief and a drawing back that will cause us to come short of the rest God wants us to have.

(Hebrews 4:3), "*For we which have believed do enter into rest*": This is a key thought to this whole study. The Hebrew says, "For we enter into the rest, those believing." This rest that is spoken of here is not the Sabbath Seventh Day rest instituted by God in the beginning and in the law of Moses. It is a rest of faith, believing the promises of God. It is the rest that Jesus spoke of that we would have if we yoked up with Him in His faith. "*If they shall enter into my rest*": Note that the writer is quoting from the passage in Psalm 95: 11, "As he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest." But it is observed that he is stating it differently. The original quotation just

states it emphatically: *"They shall not enter into my rest!"* Now he says, *"If they shall enter into my rest."* It is in God's great loving heart that even when judgment comes forth from His wrath there is reserved mercy in the event the concerned parties would humble themselves which, of course, the rebelling Israelites did not do. But now the offer is given to us: shall we enter into His rest? *"Although the works were finished from the foundation of the world"*: Here is where he links the Caanan rest up with the Seventh Day rest. The works of God were completed and a rest was offered to man to enter into from the foundation of the world. In the Sabbath Day rest and here in the Caanan rest God offers man this sublime experience of rest with Him.

(Hebrews 4:7), *"Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time"*: Once more God marks out a day of opportunity to mankind after all the times of the past when men have rejected God's invitation. In David, that is, in this 95th Psalm, the Holy Spirit is inviting the soul of man to enter the rest that Christ has come to bring, that is, the rest of faith and believing in God.

(Hebrews 4:8), *"For if Jesus had given them rest"*: It is to be noted here that this Jesus spoken of is not Jesus Christ, but rather Joshua, which is referring, of course, to the Caanan land rest, as Joshua was the leader of the people in the possession of the Caanan land. The name Joshua is actually the same word for Jesus in the Hebrew, which means *Jehovah-saves*.

(Hebrews 4:9), *"There remaineth therefore a rest"*: The Greek states it thus: *"There remains a sabbath rest to the people of God."* This means that there is still a rest for God's people to seek to attain to and enter into.

(Hebrews 4:11), *"Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest"*: The word "labour" in the Greek means to use speed, make effort, be prompt or earnest, be diligent and energetic.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

It was spoken by Jacob in Genesis 49:10 that Shiloh (the Rest Giver) would come and unto Him would the gathering of the people be. Isaiah 11:12 spoke of the root of Jesse, which would stand for an ensign (banner or standard) of the people, saying that "his rest shall be glorious." Isaiah 28:12 spoke of the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest. Jeremiah 6:16 exhorts us to ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and we shall find rest for our souls. So we see from these prophecies that Jesus was to bring a real rest for the soul of man, a rest that he needed far beyond that which the Sabbath Day or the Caanan land could ever bring. And it is the rest

that God is offering in the passage quoted in Hebrews from the 95th Psalm, an offer of the rest of faith. May the Lord help us to not harden our hearts against Him and fail to attain to that blessed experience of faith and trust in God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What are some of the things that cause unrest to the soul of man?
2. What were the two rests that God offered in the Old Testament?
3. Why did they not really give the rest that man needed?
4. What kind of rest does Jesus offer?
5. Is this the rest that God offers in Psalm 95?
6. How does simply believing God bring rest to the soul?
7. What do we have to guard against in order to have this rest?
8. How can we solve the problem of unbelief?
9. What kind of life does a person live who has this rest of faith?
10. Why do we have to "labour" or strive diligently to enter in to this rest?

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

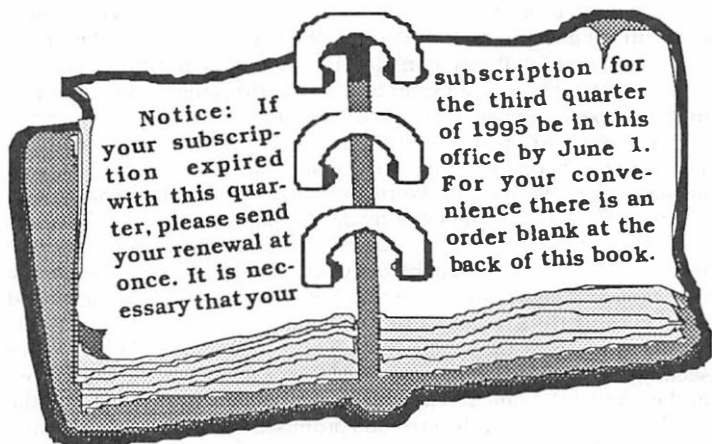
There is left and remaining a rest for the people of God to enter into. God is still holding out the invitation for us to enter into His rest. He wants us to enjoy this sweet rest with Him, this joy and gladness that comes with believing and trusting fully in Him. Unbelief will assert itself in every person, but if we want to overcome this evil power of Satan, God will help us to do that. We need no longer to be under the bondage of Satan's domain. His realm is darkness, gloom, unbelief, doubts, fears, despair and worry. He caught Adam and Eve in this trap when he got them to doubt God's word. They listened to him and plunged the whole world under the domination of unbelief. This unbelief is really the basis of all sin and transgression. When a person really believes God's Word and will act upon it, it will bring faith and victory. Satan is still working against faith. To have faith, active and effective faith in God, we have to press against unbelief and the powers of darkness. It is a fight, but God will help us if we will seek Him earnestly and be willing to obey Him in every point. Believing in God and believing His promises brings a calmness and assurance. It lifts us up away from the shadows of doubt, fear and unbelief. While seeking the Lord recently for a needed increase of faith, the words "Get in the sunlight!" came forcibly to my mind. I saw right away that the Sunlight is Christ and His precious promises. We are to step over into this blessed Sunlight. As the song says, "Faith is believing, then doubt

Flim no more; sell all your sorrows, your troubles give o'er. Soar in the sunlight above every cloud, triumph forever, believing in God!" Another song says, "Cheer up, my brother! Live in the sunshine!" As we believe and simply trust in God it brings rest to the soul. "We which have believed do enter into rest." This rest of believing God is more beneficial and richer to the soul and much more pleasing in God's sight than the Seventh Day rest and the Caanan rest ever was. Jesus is the Rest Giver. Praise the Lord! Let us be very diligent to enter into this rest of faith and not come short of it. —Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Laura Bridgeman was unable to see, and in her youth, lived in a home for the blind in Boston. One day, Laura spelled out on the hand of her instructor, "What is the soul?" The instructor "signed" back, "The soul is that which thinks, and feels and hopes." Laura spelled back, while an insightful look passed over her expressive features, "And aches so." How true that is. It is the soul that aches when it is void of the presence of its Creator. Christ provides the only means of cure possible for the millions of souls with this capacity for "aching." It is obtained through His simple invitation, "Come unto me, allye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matt. 11:28. Are we doing all within our means and ability to spread this Gospel? The thought of little Laura's quick apprehension of the soul's capacity for aching should quicken our desire to do more.

—Wayne Murphey





**MAY 28, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE SONG OF THE SOUL**

Psalm 40:1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

Psalm 104:33 I will sing unto the Lord as long as I live: I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.

34 My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the Lord.

Psalm 149:1 Praise ye the Lord. Sing unto the Lord a new song, and his praise in the congregation of the saints.

2 Let Israel rejoice in him that made him: let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.

4 For the Lord taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation.

5 Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

11 For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren,

12 Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.

Colossians 3:16 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.

Ephesians 5:19 ...Singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

Revelation 5:9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

Proverbs 29:6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Psalm 100:1-2.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ living within the soul of man causes man to sing and rejoice. The grace and holiness of Christ is a song of gladness that is ever singing in the heart of the child of God. This song soothes and comforts the righteous through the battles and trials of this life.

### WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(Psalm 40:1), "*I waited patiently*": The Hebrew says, "Waiting, I waited."

(Psalm 40:2), "*Horrible pit*": The Hebrew says, "the pit of desolation or destruction." "*Miry clay*": The Hebrew word for "miry" means "the dregs or sediments of liquor." It has to do with intoxication and drunkenness. Surely this vain, wicked world with all its fleshly attraction can intoxicate and stupefy the mind and hold the soul in its grasp much like the mud of miry clay. "*Established my goings*": The Hebrew says, "directed my steps."

(Psalm 40:3), The Hebrew says, "And He has put in my mouth a new song of praise to our God."

(Psalm 149:5), "*Sing aloud upon their beds*": This scripture means just what it says. Both the Hebrew and Septuagint agree that the saints shall sing aloud and exult even while they are upon their beds. The song does not stop when a child of God retires for the night. I have had songs come to my heart in the night, sometimes in a dream, and sometimes while wide awake. We can sing and praise the Lord at any time of the day or night. Jesus is so precious to our souls that the songs are going to break forth, springing from that deep inward joy that we feel so wonderfully.

(Hebrews 2:12), "*In the midst of the church*": In the midst of the assembly or congregation.

(Colossians 3:16), "*Psalm*": a set piece of music with a sacred theme for the worship of God. "*Hymn*": A song or psalm expressing praise and glory to God, to celebrate and magnify His greatness. "*Song*": A chant or ode, which is a general term for any words sung. Spiritual songs are musical arrangements and compositions that are beneficial to the soul in relating to God.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

Much is said in God's word about singing and praising Him. God gave man the ability to sing and compose music. Its design and

purpose is to glorify God and be a blessing and benefit to man. The early worship of God in the Old Testament was attended with music and singing. The book of Psalms was the hymn book of Israel. A good part of these Psalms were written by David, the sweet Psalmist of Israel. They have much spiritual value and inspiration for the soul. Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs help set the key for spiritual revival and association of Christians to one another. The real melody is in the heart. That is where God wants it. Many instruments of music have been invented and produced through the ages and have brought much delight and pleasure to those who perform and listen. But the Spirit of God brings music in the inner man and it is with this that the true worship of God can really exist in an acceptable manner with Him.

Our lesson today reveals the song of the worshipper of Christ. Jesus Christ has inspired more songs through the ages than any other person. His presence in the soul is a singing influence, a cause for rejoicing and melody. Singing is an outward expression from the deep sentiments of the heart. When there is joy, particularly the joy of the indwelling Spirit of Christ, there will be singing and a joyful sound coming forth. As our scripture in Hebrews 2:12 (which is a quotation from Psalm 22:22) says, Christ sings in His Church. His presence always inspires jubilant expression of song. When He blesses the soul in prayer, when He whispers words of comfort, counsel or consolation, the result is always a song of gladness and praise. It is a wellspring of glory flowing in the soul. Oh, how the devil hates real spiritual singing! He has his counterfeits and substitutes in the world. But the real music comes from the indwelling Spirit of Jesus.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What and how much influence has music had on society of man?
2. For what purpose did God give us the gift of music and singing?
3. What pleasure does God have in the singing of His people?
4. Is it possible for a person to be a true child of God and not enjoy singing of hymns and spiritual songs?
5. Does Satan like for us to be happy and sing in the Spirit?
6. What are the benefits of saints gathering together and singing in the Spirit of worship and praise to God?
7. What does the child of God have to sing about?
8. Is it possible for the devil to succeed in taking the song out of our heart?

9. Can you relate instances in your life when a sacred or spiritual song helped you to get the victory?

10. Does our joy in singing hymns and spiritual songs ever need to fade?

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

Jesus Christ brought joy and singing to the soul of man. Thanksgiving and the voice of melody are heard in the dwelling of the righteous. It is the glory of God singing in the heart of a truly saved and sanctified person. How wonderful that God gave us such a blessed gift. To be able to sing in harmony and musical inspiration is a blessing that lifts the soul up above the shadows and burdens of life. How many songs are born in the depths of sorrow and pain! In the depths of grief and trial God gives a song. In the night of darkness and despair God gives a song. To the soul who prays through to victory for salvation or deliverance there comes a song every time. When Israel was delivered from the Egyptian army at the Red Sea and they were safe on the farther shore and their foes were drowned never to bother them anymore, we see them giving vent to their joy by singing. And it is that way even today. As we press along this pilgrim way we encounter hard trials and the opposing powers of Satan. As we press forward in faith and determination let us keep a listening ear to the Spirit of Christ singing in our souls. He will give us a song to inspire and strengthen our hearts. Oh, the Lord Jesus Christ is the Song of the Soul! He sings His cheer and comfort in the inner man. It soothes the weary spirit and lubricates the wheels of life and labour. Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs have set the pace for many a solving of problem and conflict. Singing elevates the soul from the drudgery of life. The birds of the air and treetop have their singing. Did you ever watch a mockingbird sing and rejoice? See how they leap up into the air in the joy of life? So we can rejoice and sing, too. Listen: Don't ever let the song go out of your life for the Lord. Keep it ringing and keep it singing. It is one of the greatest means of victory and success that you have.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"A song will outlive all sermons in the memory."

—Henry Giles

"The best days of the church have always been its singing days."

—Theodore Cuyler

"A well-composed song or ballad strikes the mind, and softens the feelings, and produces a greater effect than a moral work, which

convinces our reason but does not warm our feelings or effect the slightest alteration in our habits." —Napoleon

"Ballads and popular songs are both the cause and effect of general morals; they are first formed, and then reacted. In both points of view they are an index of public morals." —Harriet Martineau

"Music is the harmonious voice of creation; an echo of the invisible world, one note of the divine concord which the entire universe is destined one day to sound." —Giuseppe Mazzini

"There is something marvelous in music. I might almost say it is, in itself, a marvel. Its position is somewhere between the region of thought and that of phenomena; a glimmering medium between mind and matter, related to both and yet differing from either. Spiritual, and yet requiring rhythm; material, and yet independent of space."

—Heinrich Heine

"Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us."

—Martin Luther

"Music is the child of prayer, the companion of religion."

—Francois Chateaubriand

"The meaning of song flows deep. Who is there that, in logical words, can express the effect music has on us? A kind of inarticulate, unfathomable speech, which leads us to the edge of the infinite, and lets us for moments gaze into that!"

—Thomas Carlyle



**JUNE 4, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, THE SWEET ROSE OF SHARON**

Song of Solomon 2:1 I am the rose of Sharon, and the lily of the valleys.

2 As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

3 As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

4 He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love.

Song of Solomon 5: 16 His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Isaiah 28:5 In that day shall the Lord of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people,

6 And for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.

Isaiah 35:1 The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose.

2 It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing; the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God.

Hebrews 1:1 God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,

2 Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

4 Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

Ephesians 1:18 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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. I Timothy 3:16.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ is a Rose of beauty, power and grace, blooming and shedding His fragrance and blessing from the right hand of His Father in the eternal heavens. He is dear and precious to all who experience His divine grace and saving power, the sweetest and most blessed Person in all time and eternity.

## **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(Song of Solomon 2:1), "*Rose of Sharon*": The rose of Sharon was a beautiful flower, a rose plant that grew abundantly on the plain of Sharon, which was situated in the western portions of the land of Israel. Noted for its beauty and fragrance, it is a true type of the beauty and fragrance of the Lord Jesus Christ. The word "Sharon" means

"plain" and the Hebrew word is from another word that means "right, straight, or even." It also means plainness, simplicity and humility. Such are the attributes of Christ and His people, whose beauty is not from outward show in the flesh, but rather from plainness, modesty and meekness.

(Song of Solomon 2:4), *"His banner over me was love"*: A banner was a flag or standard showing to make known to all present. At banquets and formal gatherings there is usually something displayed to express or make known the object and cause that is upheld. Over us always in all of God's dealings, whether severe or gentle, is the banner of His love, assuring and comforting us of His faithfulness and good will.

(Song of Solomon 5: 16), *"Altogether lovely"*: The Hebrew says, "All of Him is desirable."

(Isaiah 28:5), *Residue of his people*: The rest of His people. The prophet had just spoken of the crown of pride and the glorious beauty of Ephraim, which is that of the flesh and the world. He prophesied of its downfall and doom. But for the "rest of His people" the Lord would be a diadem of beauty. The word "rest" here is the same word as "remnant" in other places. The Lord is a diadem of beauty to His "holy remnant," those who will still cling to Him through all the temptations and trials of life.

(Isaiah 28:6), *"That turn the battle to the gate"*: This is referring to the pure and faithful soul who through faith and steadfastness turns the tide of the battle toward ultimate victory, not just for the present, but pressing toward that final victory, the victory of the saints unto eternal life.

(Isaiah 35: 1), *"The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them"*: I remember hearing Brother Sam Barton bring a message on this scripture, and he brought out that the word "them" was referring to the Word of God and the Spirit of God. In the preceding chapter (Isaiah 34: 16) the prophet said, "Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them." So we can see that He speaks of the book of the Lord, His mouth (or Word), and His Spirit. These things in the heart and life of a person through the gospel of Jesus, the Rose of Sharon, will turn the desert heart into a garden of Eden.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The Song of Solomon was written concerning King Solomon and his bride. It becomes through the Holy Spirit inspiration an image of the love and affection that Christ and His Church have for each other.

Christ presents Himself as the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valleys. This means that Christ is the beauty of plainness and humility. The beauty of the risen Christ who lives in glory at the right hand of God far exceeds the vain and fleeting beauty of pride and the flesh. The beauty of the Church of God in her meekness, modesty, faith, purity, holiness and obedience to Him means more to Christ than all the vanities of this wicked world.

The 28th chapter of Isaiah is purely prophetic of Christ. The 16th verse foretells the foundation of the Church. This prophecy is referred to in Romans 9:33 and I Peter 2:6. The 35th chapter of Isaiah is also a great prophecy of the gospel day in Christ, speaking of the beauty and glory that was to come to the souls of men. Verse eight speaks of the highway, the way of holiness, upon which the redeemed in Christ shall walk.

We have Christ in our New Testament scriptures portrayed as sitting at the right hand of God in power and glory for the victory and blessing of His saints. From His throne of glory the Saviour of men blooms in eternal fragrance and beauty to save, sanctify, heal, bless and preserve His Church throughout all ages unto that world without end.

—Leslie C. Busbee

#### **QUESTIONS:**

1. In what way is Jesus likened unto a beautiful Rose?
2. What kind of lives does the Rose of Sharon bloom in?
3. Is Christ pleased with us if we make outward beauty most important?
4. How is Christ "altogether lovely"?
5. How can outward beauty be a snare?
6. Is our world today affected by outward beauty?
7. Where is Christ today? What is He doing?
8. What can the Rose of Sharon do for a desert life of sin?
9. How can we have Christ really blooming in us?
10. Is there any danger in us losing sight of the real beauty of Jesus?

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

Through His precious Word and Holy Spirit Jesus Christ blossoms from His throne in the heavens and sheds His fragrance and virtue to all who will come to Him in faith and obedience. He is truly the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valleys. This Lily is so called because of its whiteness. A beautiful white Lily, blooming in the valley of humility and meekness is Jesus! We must furnish Him our hearts to be lowly and plain and modest. No pride or boasting or selfish



exaltation! Christ will not grow in such places. Oh, see the world in its lust, greed, strife and impurity! Christ will not blossom there. The Rose of Sharon will only find room in the humble, contrite and believing heart. This thought has inspired hearts throughout the ages. Poems and songs have been written about it. Christ is the dearest and most cherished Person in heaven and earth. He sits on a throne of glory with a scepter of righteousness and love. His graciousness and mercy reaches out to all in need and in distress. We can cast our cares on Him, for He cares for us. Though He is high, yet has He respect for the lowly. He regards the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their prayer. Because of His submission to the will of His Father in allowing Himself to be crucified on Calvary, God has highly exalted Him and given Him a name which is above every name. At the name of Jesus shall every knee bow, and every tongue will confess Him. If they refuse to confess Him now, they will at the last, but for many it will be too late. Oh, how we need to have our eyes opened to the beauty of Jesus! How we need to turn from this vain and corrupt world and seek for that which Christ offers! All other figures who have arisen in the admiration of man fade before this Holy One of God. Let us love and obey Him now, and hold fast to Him always. —Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Think of what it means to possess the Rose of Sharon. Today some clubs host flower shows where individuals tastefully prepare arrangements in the most becoming manner possible. The judges observe the arrangements and choose the most perfect flowers for commendation. With a smile and joyful anticipation, the owner of the winning entry will accept a prize or ribbon.

This can be likened to the reaction of those who are possessors of the beautiful Rose of Sharon, the **perfect** lamb of God. Obtaining the Rose of Sharon should lift up the head of the downcast, replace the frown with a smile, place courage in the heart, and a song on the lips.

Just as the winner accepts a prize, we should be glad to claim the Rose of Sharon. The apostle Paul said that he was "...not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation...." Rom. 1:16. Some feel that being a Christian makes one odd. The truth of it is, it makes a person distinctive by lifting them above the base desires of the world through the power of God.

In viewing the Christian life, people sometimes fail to see the rose for the thorns. They need to elevate their thinking above the "cannots" of the Christian life and see the beauty of it. "O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him." Psalms 34:8.

—Wayne Murphey

**JUNE 11, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE LIVING STONE**

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

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

14 And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a stone of stumbling and for a rock of offence to both the houses of Israel, for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem.

Psalm 118:22 The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner.

23 This is the Lord's doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock;

25 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

26 And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth

them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

27 And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. I Corinthians 3:11.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ is the solid Rock for us to build our faith and hope upon. He is the Living Stone, despised and rejected of carnal man, but chosen of God to be the precious Corner Stone of His Church.

### WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

(Isaiah 28:16), "*He that believeth shall not make haste*": The Hebrew says, "He who believes shall not hurry." I Peter 2:6 is a quotation from this scripture as it reads in the Septuagint, which says, "He that believes shall by no means be ashamed." Isaiah 52:12 says, "For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the Lord will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward (will gather you, Hebrew)." The thought of haste and hurrying indicates unbelief and fear. When we base our faith and hope upon Christ, the Living Stone, we need not move in haste, but rather in confidence and trust.

(Isaiah 8:14), "*Rock of offence*": The Hebrew says, "Rock of falling." Instead of the Rock, Christ Jesus, being something to build upon it becomes a means of falling. "*Gin*": A trap.

(Psalm 118:22), "*Head stone of the corner*": The chief corner stone. Webster defines "cornerstone": A stone forming a part of a corner or angle in a wall, lying at the foundation of a principal angle; hence: something of fundamental importance; a trait or fact upon which all others rest. Jesus is the cornerstone of the Church in that upon Him every other part of God's building rests. As Paul said in Ephesians 2:20, "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone." Everything must line up with the cornerstone.

(Matthew 16:17), "*Simon Bar-jona*": Simon, son of Jona.

(Matthew 16:18), "*I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church*": The real sense of this scripture is this: Peter had just stated the truth that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus responded to Peter's confession that he was blessed because his persuasion and confession came from a revelation of the Father in heaven, and not from human wisdom. Thus he said to Peter, "Thou art Peter, (The name Peter signifies a rock), but

upon this rock, this truth divinely inspired and revealed by the Holy Spirit, I will build my Church." In no way is Jesus saying that His church was to be built or founded upon Peter. *"The gates of hell"*: The Greek text says, "The gates of hades." Hades means, "the unseen," and generally refers to the state of departed souls from this life. When Jesus said that the gates of hades would not prevail against His church, He is saying that He is depriving death of its sting and is affording all who believe in Him a hope of being resurrected unto eternal life. The term *"gates of hell"* has been used to mean false churches and religions, and can be used thus. The Lord told Abraham that His seed would possess the gate of his enemies. (Genesis 22:17.) Gates refer to the principality and rule of anything. The powers of Satan, death, hell and the grave will never prevail against the true Church of Christ.

(I Peter 2:6), *"Elect"*: Select, choice. *"Precious"*: Dear, valuable, honourable, of great worth, rare.

(I Peter 2:8), *"Whereunto also they were appointed"*: Peter, in these verses, is speaking of those, on one hand, who count Christ as worthy of their faith and hope (to them He is precious), while those on the other hand are disobedient, unto whom Christ becomes a stumbling stone and is disallowed or rejected. He said that they stumble at the Word, that is, they fail to get the message with understanding, and are offended at what the Word of God teaches, and are not willing to obey it. Because of their unwillingness to obey the truth of Christ they will fill the place that is fit and proper for them. It is not that God predestined that they do this, but it is their choice and they go, as Peter said of Judas in Acts 1:25, to their own place.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

From the sayings of the prophets, Christ Himself, and from the apostle Peter we have the blessed truths of Jesus Christ, the solid Foundation of our faith. Everything has to have a foundation, something solid and sure to hold it together and keep it from falling in the time of adversity. A business or organization has to have a good sound basis and management to succeed. A structure regardless of size or function has to be built on solid footing. It is said that when the great bridges that span the wide rivers are built they have to dig deep to be sure the pillars are on solid rock. Brother E. B. Pinkerton told me about the bridge at Cape Girardeau, MO, that spans the Mississippi River. He said that they dug down until they found rock so solid that they could make sparks when striking it. And that is what they built the mighty pillars upon. The foundation of a building, or anything else for that matter, is the most important part.

God wanted His people to have a solid foundation to build on. His Son, Jesus Christ, fulfilled every requirement for that foundation. He is surely safe to build our lives upon today. Everything else is sinking sand. Sad to say, to many, Christ and His teachings become a stumbling block instead of a foundation stone. Pride and worldly vanity keep them from being obedient to Christ. Thus they reject Him and seek to build on other things such as money, pleasure, worldly wisdom, carnal philosophy and selfish desires. Paul spoke in Romans 9:32-33 about those who sought righteousness by the works of the law, stumbling at the stumblingstone. He quoted a blend of our two scriptures in Isaiah: "As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Jesus quoted Psalm 118:22-23 in Matthew 21:42 when he told the parable that brought out how that the kingdom of God would be taken from the Jews, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof. And he added these words in verse 44: "And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." We are either going to accept and make Christ our Foundation Stone or we will have Him fall upon us in wrath and eternal destruction. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the qualities of Jesus that make Him a good foundation?
2. How can we build upon Jesus effectively?
3. Why is Jesus a stumbling stone to some people?
4. Is it possible to believe in Jesus and fail to obey Him?
5. What was the Rock that Jesus said He would build His Church on?
6. What are some of the adverse things that will come against our experience?
7. What will decide whether we stand or fall?
8. Who is Christ precious to?
9. When and where do we want to make sure our building will stand?
10. What are some of the things that people are building on today other than Christ?

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

A foundation is security and safeguard against failure and frustration. There are so many adverse elements that will attack an enterprise or effort and mean its downfall unless certain precautions and fundamental needs are met. In the case of a house or building, as

Jesus put it, there are the factors of weather that will threaten the structure, such as wind, rain and rising waters. In the case of businesses or organizations there are competitive forces, financial fluctuations and failures, and human error that must be taken into account. A marriage and a domestic family needs a good foundation, also. There are so many problems to overcome, adjustments to be made, and human weaknesses to deal with. And a man and woman who enter into married life without something strong and solid beneath them stand very little chance of happiness and success.

The most important thing that needs a good foundation is our life and experience with God. Life is attended with so much evil and so many adversities. There are elements in this world that are foreign and threaten harm and destruction to our life. We need something solid and immovable to build our souls upon. And that is just what God has provided for us in His beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus is that Stone that God has put in Zion, His Church, for us to build upon. If we will believe and obey Him faithfully we will have no fear of failure or loss. Jesus Christ lived in this wicked and sinful world. He met its suffering and adversity. He braced up against its contradiction and opposition. He fought the powers of darkness and error. And He was triumphant. He was faithful and true. He proved Himself to be a solid Rock. By His death upon the cross and His triumphant resurrection Jesus becomes the Living Stone, the everlasting Rock of Ages. Oh, how we need to survey life and its dangers and come to a decision to make Christ the Rock and Foundation of our life! We must be willing to submit ourselves to Him and obey His every word. To try to believe in Him and be careless or neglectful of obeying Him will mean failure. Many people today base their happiness and success on how much money they can make, or how well furnished their life is with property and human favor. Many marriages are based solely on physical attraction and beauty. These things may last for a time, but they are not trustworthy. They can fail, and so often they do. Christ Jesus is the only true Rock that will insure happiness and success. Let us be diligent to build our lives solely upon Him, and then our structure will stand the storms of time and adversity. And above all, we will be building against the judgment shock, the end of time, and the destruction of this present evil world. With the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, we can be ready to meet it all with victory and peace.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"Peter piles up his metaphors in rich profusion—babes, stones, priests, etc. In the Old Testament the Lord is likened to a Stone, or a

Rock. But the New Testament goes further—a *Living* Stone. Though in nature a *living* stone is unknown, in the spiritual world it is a fact. Two ideas, opposite in themselves, are joined in this title, showing how wonderfully all combine in the Lord Jesus; life and death, warmth and immobility, sternness and gentleness, meekness and anger.

"There is a tradition that during the erection of Solomon's Temple, a stone was brought up by the straining oxen which refused to fit into any of the rising walls. It was cast aside, soon forgotten, and covered by weeds. At last, as the building neared completion, it was found that a stone of special form would be required to knit the walls and fill a particular corner. The need suggested the forgotten and rejected bit of masonry, which fitted perfectly. Does not this remind us of Psalm 118:22, 'The stone which the builders refused is become the head stone of the corner,' quoted by our Lord Himself?

"Christ upholds the whole weight of the glory of God. The salvation of His people rests upon Him and is safe, solid and enduring. He is also the foundation stone on which we build."

—Taken from the book, *Handfuls on Purpose*.



**JUNE 18, 1995**

### **JESUS CHRIST, SALVATION FOR ALL MANKIND**

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is none else.

23 I have sworn by myself, the word is gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear.

Acts 13:45 But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy, and spake against those things which were spoken by Paul, contradicting and blaspheming.

46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Romans 15:8 Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:

9 And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

10 And again he saith, Rejoice, ye Gentiles, with his people.

11 And again, Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people.

12 And again, Esaias saith, There shall be a root of Jesse, and he that shall rise to reign over the Gentiles; in him shall the Gentiles trust.

13 Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Ephesians 2:13 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.

**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. Romans 10:12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Through Jesus Christ the door of repentance and salvation has been opened to men and women, boys and girls of all nations regardless of their nationality, their color, their culture or background. In Christ there is no longer Jew or Gentile, for all men are equally precious in His sight.

#### **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(Isaiah 45:23), *"Every tongue shall swear"*: This word "swear" is translated from the Hebrew word, *shawbah*, which means to be complete, that is, to "seven oneself," or swear (as if repeating a declaration seven times). Isaiah 65:16 says, "...He that sweareth in the earth shall swear by the God of truth;..." Although we are instructed by the Lord Jesus Himself in Matthew 5:34 and by James in James 5:12 to not swear, yet in the sense of our text in Isaiah every tongue should swear in the way of vowing and promising to God our fullest allegiance to serve Him all of our days by His help and grace.



(Acts 13:46), *"Waxed bold"*: The Greek word here means "speaking boldly." *"Judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life"*: These Jews were actually putting themselves on trial and condemning their own hearts to damnation by their attitude against the truth of Christ. Now they did not realize this, but that is precisely what they were doing. It is even so today. When we reject the Word of God we are acknowledging that we are not fit for the eternal blessings of God. *"Gentiles"*: These three words in the New Testament: *Gentiles, heathen, and nations* as a general rule are all translated from the same Greek word and mean the same.

(Acts 13:48), *"As many as were ordained to eternal life believed"*: This means that they were of a condition of heart that met the pre-designed plan of God for men to be qualified to receive His salvation. Salvation is for all men, but only those who truly repent and turn to God can qualify to receive it.

(Romans 15:8), *"Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers"*: This means that Jesus came and submitted to the Old Testament law system to reveal the truth that God had in the law, and to fulfill the promises which were given under the law. As Paul said in Galatians 4:4-5, "But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."

(Romans 15:9), *"And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy"*: Jesus came under the law in order that He might fulfill the law and meet its just demands for atonement and salvation, and then to offer His free grace to all men, Jews and Gentiles. This open door of salvation to all nations in the mercy of God is a cause for all men to rejoice and glorify God and take advantage of His gracious offer.

(Ephesians 2:14), *"The middle wall of partition"*: This means the separation between the Jew and the Gentile which existed because of the decrees of the law against the Jews fellowshiping other nations. This part of the law concerning literal Israel bred contempt and enmity in the Jews toward other nations. This part of the law, along with other carnal ordinances and commandments, Christ abolished in his flesh when He died on the cross for the sins of all mankind.

(Ephesians 2:15), *"For to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace"*: Jesus made of the Jew and the Gentile a new creature, a spiritual Jew inwardly and in the heart. The natural race distinction Christ dissolved and brought forth a salvation that will cause all nations to flow together in one Spirit.

(Ephesians 2:17), *"To you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh"*: The Gentiles were afar off, and the Jews were nigh. The gospel is preached to both of them in Christ.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We want to stress in our lesson today the blessed truth that the salvation of Jesus Christ has been brought down and made available for every person on earth regardless of his nationality. There is no longer any difference between the Jew and the Gentile in God's sight. They are both under the guilt of sin and need the salvation of Christ Jesus. They both need mercy and forgiveness and the gift of the Holy Spirit. They all need access to the Father and the throne of grace.

Our text in Isaiah 45:23 is quoted in Romans 14:11, and referred to in Philippians 2:10. Paul applied this to be toward the name of Jesus. Every knee is going to bow, and every tongue is going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. This needs to be done now in response to the gospel. But if through the pride of men's hearts they refuse to bow, there is coming a day when they will bow at the final judgment. But, of course, that will be too late.

In Acts 13 we find Paul and Barnabas in Antioch in Pisidia preaching the gospel on the Sabbath day. The Jews did not receive the message but the Gentiles present besought them that it be preached to them again on the next Sabbath. And on the next Sabbath day almost the whole town turned out to hear the Word of God. This stirred the carnal-minded Jews who were desiring the praise of men and they became very jealous, and began to try to talk the message of the gospel down. They were forfeiting their chance at eternal life, and the brethren let them know about it. They quoted from Isaiah 49:6, a text which is a direct prophecy of Christ coming to be the salvation of God unto the ends of the earth. They applied that to themselves and their preaching, proving that they were commissioned by the scriptures to preach to all men, including the Gentiles.

In our text in Romans 15 Paul quotes from several Old Testament scriptures that mention the Gentiles being given a chance at the salvation of God. He quoted first from Psalm 18:49 when David was rejoicing in God's deliverance from his enemies. He was so glad for what God had done for him that he wanted to give thanks unto Him among the heathen. He then quoted from Deuteronomy 32:43, which says, "Rejoice, O ye nations with his people:..." This verse in the Greek Septuagint translation has some interesting additions. It starts out by telling the heavens to rejoice, and "let all the angels of God worship him." This is quoted in Hebrews 1:6. He also said, "Let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him." Paul is applying this scripture to this gospel day. Then he quoted from Psalm 117 and Isaiah 11 in which both scriptures give promise to the Gentiles to share in praising God and trusting in Him.

In our text from Ephesians 2 Paul is referring to Isaiah 57:19

which says, "I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him."

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Does God still favour the Jews above anyone else?
2. For whom did Christ give His life on the cross?
3. How can a person today judge himself unworthy of life eternal?
4. How can we be of them who are ordained unto eternal life?
5. How should we as Gentiles feel about God granting us a chance to be saved?
6. Why did Jesus come "under the law?"
7. What does God want to fill both Jew and Gentile with?
8. Does the blood of Jesus still break down middle walls of partition?
9. Who proved to be closer to God: the Jew or the Gentile?
10. Why is there no difference between the Jew and the Greek?

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

The word of God makes it very clear that there is no difference in the Jew and the Gentile. All men are equal in the sight of Almighty God. We are all accounted as less than nothing, and vanity. (Isaiah 40:17.) We all need to be born again of the Spirit of God and washed in the precious blood of Jesus. All men need the risen life of Christ to raise them up from the dead state of sin to a life of righteousness and holiness. All men should fear and tremble before God and be made aware of the sinfulness of their sin. They should feel their need of His mercy. This is one of the problems that we face today. This is a society and a world who as a whole have rejected the fear of God. The pride of man's countenance will not allow him to seek after God. (Psalm 10:4.) Without this deep sense of God's holiness and greatness and our littleness and need, the gospel will have little if any appeal to the soul of man. God knows where there are hearts who are hungering and thirsting for His salvation. This is where the gospel needs to be proclaimed. We need the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit to lead us in our efforts for His cause. For this let us seek Him earnestly. The gospel is for all men, but not all will obey. Too many judge themselves unworthy of the gift of life by rejecting the opportunity that is given to them. The fear of God is to be seen everywhere, and the Spirit of God is gone out to all the earth. He can lead His servants to where the gospel is longed for. We find in Acts 16:6-10 how that Paul

and Silas were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia. They tried to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit would not permit them to. Then they had a vision in the night of a man of Macedonia calling for help. Immediately they endeavored to go into Macedonia, "assuredly gathering" that the Lord had called them to preach the gospel unto them. So the Word is for everyone, but not everyone is prepared and ready for it. Therefore we need the guidance and anointing of the Holy Spirit that our efforts may be effectual. —Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

One sharp winter's day, so goes the nursery tale, a poor woman stood at the window of a king's conservatory, looking at a cluster of grapes, which she longed to have for her sick child. She went home to her spinning wheel, earned half-a-crown, and offered it to the gardener for the grapes. He waved his hand and ordered her away. She returned to her cottage, snatched the blanket from her bed, pawned it, and once more asked the gardener to sell her the grapes, offering him five shillings. He spoke furiously to her and was turning her out, when the princess came in, heard the man's passion, saw the woman's tears, and inquired of the matter. When the story was told, the princess responded, "My dear woman, you have made a mistake. My father is not a merchant, but a king; his business is not to sell, but to give." So saying, she plucked the cluster from the vine and dropped it into the woman's apron.

We have a King in heaven who is more gracious than all earthly kings, and He gave His Son for the salvation of all people. His business today is to give. He will not turn anyone away. Everyone is precious in His sight.

A woman from Canaan proved this to be true. When she asked Christ for the healing of her daughter, the disciples thought He should send her away. Christ told them, "...I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel." When she pressed Christ, He told her "...It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." In humility she pressed her case and those words of gold have gleamed through the halls of history, "O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt." Matt. 15:28. Christ came into this world to be a blessing to everyone who will believe on Him. —Wayne Murphy



**JUNE 25, 1995**

**JESUS CHRIST, THE FINAL JUDGE**

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

22 For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.

John 12:47 And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

48 He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

II Corinthians 5:9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether good or bad.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Ecclesiastes 12:14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ came into this world the first time to save and make a way for us to escape the judgment of God. When He comes the second time He will come as our Final Judge, and His word and decree will determine for each one of us what our eternal dwelling will be.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS**

(Acts 17:30), "*God winked at*": God overlooked.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The scriptures in our lesson today are strong and clear enough for us to be persuaded that Jesus will one day be our Final Judge. We will have to give an account to Him for how we have lived in this world. Jesus came into the world the first time, not to judge or condemn, but to save and to help. But when He descends from heaven in the last great day He will bring the world to judgment. Every living soul will be there, yes, every person who has ever lived in this world. We will stand before the judgment seat of Christ. He will decide our future and eternal fate. This is a serious lesson that we have before us today. The words that Christ has spoken will be there. We will have to answer for how we have responded to them. No one will be able to plead ignorance. Knowledge and light has come in one measure or another to every man. Every man will have to give an answer for what he is responsible for. Each one of the writers in our lesson agree on this subject. The final judgment should be in our minds in everything we say and do. We must give an account of how we have lived and conducted ourselves in this world. So many live their lives with little or no thought of this. To gratify the selfish flesh has been their pattern of life, unmindful of the reckoning day that is sure to come. Let us let the grace and truth of Christ judge us NOW and thereby assure our hearts of being accepted of Him in that day. —Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why has the Father committed all judgment to the Son?
2. Whose words will judge us in the last day?
3. What are the books that will be opened at the last judgment?
4. What will we have to give an account of at the judgment?
5. Why should we not judge one another?
6. Should we daily pray that God will help us to be ready for that day?
7. Who will God judge the world by?
8. Is there any way that anyone can escape meeting that appointment?
9. What kind of life will be accepted at the last judgment?
10. What are some of the vital things we must do in order to be ready for the judgment?

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

I heard about a young man who fell into deep water and, not being able to get out, called for help. A man passing by heard his cries and came and saved him from drowning. Later on in life this young man was brought to court for some unlawful act and was surprised to find that the judge he faced was the very man who had saved him from drowning. The judge sentenced this young man to prison for his crime. The young man asked the judge how he could do this when before he had saved his life. The judge answered him simply, "Yesterday I was your saviour; today I am your judge."

So it is with Christ. Today He is our Saviour and Friend. He came into this world to be the Friend of sinners. He came to pay the price for their freedom from sin. He is even now at the right hand of God, ever living to make intercession for all who come to God for salvation. But the day is coming when this Friend and Saviour will descend from heaven in power and great glory. He will call the earth and all mankind to His great white judgment seat. He will sit on the throne of His glory, and before Him shall be gathered all nations, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats. To those who have lived for Him and been faithful He will say, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world." But to those who have rejected Him and refused to live according to His word He will say, "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." (Matthew 25:32-46.) Many will say unto Him in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and

in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?" Then will He profess unto them, "I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." Matthew 7:22-23. We would be wise to take this into serious consideration every day we live. With every deed and action, thought and decision, we should ask ourselves, "Will this pass at the great judgment?" Remember that Jesus said also in Matthew 12:36, "...Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." He spoke of the men of Nineveh and the queen of the south rising up in judgment with the generation of his day and condemning it. Yes, we will all be there on that great judgment day. He will resurrect every person who has ever lived and bring them back to awareness and consciousness to face the way they have lived in this time world. May we take heed to the Lord Jesus and remember always that while He is our Saviour today, He will be our Judge in that day to come.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The coming of the Lord will be the greatest event that ever takes place. It is an event in which everyone will participate. We will all be judged, and Christ will be the righteous magistrate.

If we were going to be put on trial, we would want to have an ethical judge, not one who vacillated like Pilate, (John 19:6) or was corrupt like Felix, (Acts 24:26). Christ, who has been appointed judge by God, is a perfect one. An angel wouldn't qualify, however just and holy he might be, for it is only right that a man should be judged by his fellowman—someone who understands his characteristics and can empathize with him.

A person facing judgment would want to know by what process of law he is to be judged. In Rev. 20:12 it says, "...and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

What are those books? One of them is the Bible. This is God's law that not only is a guide to direct us to salvation, but instructs us how to live our lives. We are also told about a Book of Remembrance in which is recorded our every deed. (Matt. 12:36-37.) And there will be the Book of Life in which appears the names of those who have had the blood of Christ applied to their hearts.

Perhaps you quiver to think what might be contained in the Book of Remembrance, but the most important thing is to know that it records a time when you gave your heart to the Lord.

—Wayne Murphey



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