

# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

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## **THEME FOR FIRST QUARTER, 1997**

For our lessons this quarter we will continue our study from the writings of our beloved brother Paul. As we study let us behold the sweet holy Spirit that lived so vividly in him. His words carry great weight and divine importance and we should take them very seriously. Their counsel will greatly assist us in our pursuit of the great goal of everlasting life.

—Brother Leslie C. Busbee



**JANUARY 5, 1997**

### **THE TEMPLE OF THE LIVING GOD**

I Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

I Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

II Corinthians 6:14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

II Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly

beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

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

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

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

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

**MEMORY VERSE:** God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands. Acts 17:24.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The real temple in which God desires to dwell is the heart of man. In order for us to be fit for God to dwell within us we must be cleansed from all sin and unholy communion with this present evil world. Through the blood of His Son, Jesus, and by our obedience to His Word we can be the habitation of God through His Holy Spirit.

### DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

(I Corinthians 3:17), "*If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy*": The Greek text simply states: "If any man destroy the temple of God, God will destroy him." The word "defile" is translated from the Greek word which means to spoil, to ruin, or to deprave. To deprave means to corrupt or make bad.

(II Corinthians 6:15), "*Belial*": This is another word for "Satan."

(II Corinthians 7:1), "*Filthiness of the flesh and spirit*": The impurity of the body and of the soul, or the inner man. This involves corruption of habits and activities of the body that bring the displeasure of God, and also the spiritual defilements of false religions and unholy attitudes toward God and man.

(Ephesians 2:21), "*Groweth unto an holy temple in the*

**Lord":** To progress and develop through faith, obedience and steadfastness of purpose in harmony with other holy men and women to be a people God is not ashamed to call His own.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The prophet Isaiah said in Isaiah 66:1-2, "Thus saith the Lord, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word." Stephen, the first Christian martyr, said in his defense before the High Priest and the council in Acts 7:45-50, "...David; ...found favour before God, and desired to find a tabernacle for the God of Jacob. But Solomon built him an house. Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet, Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest? Hath not my hand made all these things?" The blind Jews held the literal temple and its worship so sacred that one endangered himself to speak against it. They could not see that the literal temple was no longer to be held sacred as God's house. God wanted them to see what His real temple was. He was wanting to dwell in the heart of contrite and humble people who loved, revered and obeyed His Word. Our lesson today reveals the serious requirements of being fit to be the real temple of God, the place where He dwells through the Holy Spirit. II Corinthians 6:17 is from Isaiah 52:11 which says, "Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord." We are not to defile the temple of God. Our bodies are the temple of God. We are to glorify Him in our bodies and our spirits, for they are God's sacred temple. Lustful attire and adornment, harmful substances such as tobacco, alcoholic beverages and addictive substances, defile the temple of God. We can also defile the temple of God by means of an unbridled tongue, speaking words that do not glorify God or benefit our fellow-

man. We should take heed to the temple of God and keep it fit for the dwelling of the most High and holy God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the real temple of God today?
2. How does God dwell in this temple?
3. What must we do to make ourselves fit to be His temple?
4. In what ways can we defile the temple of God?
5. How can unholy fellowship with the world defile us?
6. How can we cleanse ourselves unto perfect holiness?
7. Why will God not dwell in an unclean temple?
8. What kind of people does God dwell within?

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

To be the temple of God! Oh, what a wonderful experience and a rich joy to have! But also it is a great and serious responsibility, as our lesson today reveals. God wants to dwell in the heart of man. Jesus said in John 14:23, "If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." God will not dwell in the heart of a transgressor or one who refuses to obey His Word. If we be willing and obedient we shall eat of the good of the land. (Isaiah 1:19.) We must conform ourselves to the image of His Son. We must be like Jesus if we would be the temple of God. The real temple of God is to have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness and the idols of this present evil world. We are to come out from all the defilements of sin and false religion. God wants us to be perfect in holiness. He will not inhabit the heart that gives sin a place. Every spot of imperfection must be purged or hope must die. Let us not defile the temple of God with the ways and practices of the world. It is sad how sinful man so ruins and defiles his body. Many drink liquors such as beer, wine, whiskey and rum. These substances are harmful and defiling to the body which is supposed to be holy and a sacred temple of God. Tobacco in its various forms of smoking, dipping and chewing,

is also defiling and destructive to the temple of God. Remember, if we harm and defile the temple of God, He will destroy us. This is serious business. How much better it is for a man to yield to the Lord and turn away from all these evils and be perfected in holiness and righteousness before God through the grace of Jesus and have God through the blessed Holy Spirit come and take up His sweet abode within! Oh, what a wonderful privilege we have to be the habitation of God, the temple that has Him for its constant Guest! —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"What? knowye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? Ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." I Cor. 6:19-20.

A certain preacher became interested in the case of a condemned criminal, and after much work succeeded in obtaining his pardon. Upon hearing the joyful news, the prisoner prostrated himself at the preacher's feet, and exclaimed, "Oh, sir, every drop of my blood thanks you, for you have had mercy on every drop of it! Wherever you go, I will be yours!" With how much greater devotion may the Christian bow at the feet of Christ to express similiar indebtedness.

The problem is that through our weak flesh, Satan works to cause us to forget that we are God's, and that He purchased our freedom on the cross. This human instinct can be illustrated by what happens with a house that is rented. It is easy for the those renting a house to consider it their property and to decorate and care for it after their own tastes. A perfect renter would be the person who was well acquainted with the landlord, knew his preferences, and made every change with this in mind. If when a renter first occupies a house, he finds it in good condition, it would be safe to assume that is what the landlord prefers, and how he expects it to be maintained.

God gives us a marvelously constructed body, and we are to maintain it with good common sense. Our behavior and dress should indicate to observers that the ownership is God's, and that we hold Him in regard. —Wayne Murphey

**JANUARY 12, 1997**  
**THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL**

Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.

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

19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

24 For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?

25 But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.

II Corinthians 4:16 For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

II Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if our earthly house of



this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. Galatians 5:5.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Through the salvation of Jesus Christ and the indwelling Holy Spirit of God we are assured of deliverance from this corruptible body to be given an eternal and incorruptible body in which we will live forever with the Lord in that heavenly home beyond this world of suffering and care.

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(Romans 8:17), The Greek text says simply, "And if children, also heirs (those who inherit or receive), heirs indeed of God, and joint-heirs of Christ, if indeed we suffer with, so that we also may be glorified with." It puts it plainly that if we hope to share in Christ's resurrection and eternal glory we must partake of His sufferings and reproach in this life.

(Romans 8:19), "*Earnest expectation*": The meaning in the Greek is "intense anticipation." It is a burning and yearning desire in the heart of the child of God for this wonderful hope to be fulfilled.

(Romans 8:20-21), The Greek text says: "For to the vanity the creation was placed under, (not voluntarily but through him having placed under,) in hope, that even the creation itself will be freed from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God." This is telling us that God has placed us under the fleeting burdens and sorrows of this life, but He has placed us thus IN HOPE. And what is that hope? It is that one day He will deliver us from this bondage of corruption into the glorious freedom of the sharing of Christ's glorified body.

(Romans 8:22-23), "*The whole creation groaneth and travaileth...And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit*": The "whole creation" refers to the entire earth and heavens and all that is in them. There is trouble, adversity, deterioration, affliction and the sentence of

destruction in everything of nature and material substance. We who have the Spirit of God share with all nature this same adverse situation. But our hope in God foresees a deliverance from this groaning and suffering state. We look for eternal adoption (or sonship) with God in a new body like that of Christ.

(II Corinthians 5:1), *"Our earthly house of this tabernacle"*: The word "tabernacle" here in the Greek means a tent or hut. This earthen body that we live in compared to that immortal body that we will inherit is like comparing a flimsy tent to a grand mansion.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We had in our December 15th Bible Lesson the first part of this 8th chapter of Romans in which Paul discussed the importance of living to the Spirit and not to the flesh. He was very candid and plain concerning the importance of having the Spirit of God actually living within us, strongly inferring that this is the only means by which we have any hope of partaking of Christ's resurrection. He stated in verse 11, "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." He also pointed out in verse 13, "For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." It is by allowing the Spirit of God to live in us and to lead us in our daily lives that we can have any sure hope of eternal life. Through the Spirit of God we are the children of God and come into the right of His inheritance. And we see in our lesson today what that inheritance will be. It will be the glorious liberty in the resurrection and redemption of our body. This is the hope of a true Christian. For this we must be saved, sanctified, and always led by the Spirit of God. We must crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts and subdue our bodies to the will of God. Only by doing this can we hope to be delivered from the bondage of corruption to partake of eternal sonship with God in the redemption of our body.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What must we partake of if we would share Christ's glory?
2. What comparison is made between this body and the glorified one?
3. Why were we made subject to the vanity of this life?
4. What are some of the things that cause us to "groan?"
5. What will we share in the "glorious liberty" of His sons?
6. Will we enjoy these blessings if we are void of the Spirit?
7. By what means is our "inner man" renewed day by day?
8. What are these fleeting sufferings working out for us?
9. What are we going to miss if we see only visible things?
10. What are the things which are not seen that are eternal?

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

Every human being is subject to the vanity of this mortal life. We are at present in the bondage of corruption. We are under the sentence of death, walking in the valley of the shadow of death. There is but one way of escape from this woeful plight. Without this way of escape we will all perish. And this is what the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ affords to us. We must repent of our sins and be saved, and be made a new creature in Christ Jesus. Then we must consecrate our lives to God and be filled with the Holy Spirit. As long as we live in this world we must retain that same Holy Spirit and be led by Him in everything. It is the power of this indwelling Spirit that will enable us to be in the resurrection at the last day with Christ and eternal glory. We who are filled and led by the Holy Spirit will be delivered from this corruptible body in that day when Christ comes to end this present age and bring the world to judgment. This old body with its frailty, aches, pains, afflictions, humiliations, weaknesses, limitations, blemishes and troubles will be traded in for a new body. This new body will be just as real as this present body and even more so. We will be aware of ourselves. We will remember the existence we have had in this mortal body. But it will all be overwhelmed and swallowed up in the glory of that immortal body which is

like Jesus. We must be like Him now in heart and life if we would be like Him in that life to come. Let us flee for refuge from the sins of this wicked world and lay hold upon this blessed hope that is set before us!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

What a glorious revelation will come to us as we sweep through the portals of glory! There are not words in the English language or any other to describe the beauties awaiting those who belong to the Lord.

As the outward man perishes day by day and strength grows weaker, hope grows brighter for a life beyond this veil of tears. This old house of clay, the earthly tabernacle, will go back to dust and the soul, or the inward man, will be taken to be with the Lord.

Over there, "...we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." II Cor. 5:1. What a glorious hope we have within us! The apostle Paul tells us, "...absent from the body, and...present with the Lord." II Cor. 5:8. Oh, what could be greater than to see the Lover of our soul face to face?! We will be safe and secure from all the power of the enemy. Perfect safety! Perfect bliss! What more can we ask? Heaven is beyond our comprehension, yet it is real, very real, and it will be all the soul longs for or ever could desire. Nothing there will be imperfect, but there will be peace, peace and more peace. Oh, my soul magnifies the Lord when I think about these glorious things! No wonder the apostle Paul looked back over the persecutions, imprisonments and tumults in this life and declared, "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." II Cor. 4:17.

"It will matter but little at last, what we have passed through, when the shades of the evening at sunset we view." When we get a glimpse of heaven's glory, then the burdens and trials of this life will fade away and all the beauties and grandeur of heaven will envelop us.

—Marie Miles (Written in 1975.)



**JANUARY 19, 1997**  
**CONFIDENCE IN THE SOVEREIGN PROVIDENCE**  
**OF GOD**

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

31 What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

32 He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?

33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.

34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,

39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Romans 8:32.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** When we truly have the Spirit of God dwelling within us we have God Almighty and His Son Jesus to safeguard us in every scene of life. Nothing comes to us but what He will guard and protect us, giving us grace to overcome and be more than conquerors in the Christian life.

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(Romans 8:26), *"The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities:...maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered"*: The indwelling Spirit of God gives us the power that we lack in our human weaknesses, making up and filling in with a constant intercession with God for His help in our distresses and needs, joining unspoken groans with ours. Praise His Holy Name!

(Romans 8:29), *"Whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate"*: God knew us long before we knew Him. He had the plan of salvation and the way of eternal life all mapped out before anyone came on the scene. If He finds a soul who is willing to yield to Him and follow His counsel He will lead that soul from the primary stages of being saved through all the advancements of Christian experience, life and character, clear unto that day when he or she is glorified in the final resurrection.

(Romans 8:33-34), *"It is God that justifieth.... It is Christ that died"*: Who can charge us with wrong when we are fully yielded to God's will and He is justifying us? Who can condemn us when we are conformed to the image of Christ's holiness and He is interceding for us at the right hand of God? All such opposition is meaningless and vain. All slander, ridicule and persecution for righteousness' sake has no bearing on those who are called, justified and living a life that is pleasing to God.

(Romans 8:37), "*We are more than conquerors*": The Greek says, "We more than conquer" and the meaning of the word is "to vanquish beyond or to gain a decisive victory." In all the things he mentions that we meet here in the flesh we can ultimately triumph through the inward might of the One who loved us.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We can call our lesson today a theme of "present day victory." Our previous lesson concerned our future victory in the glorious day of the redemption of our body. But, thank the Lord, we can have the victory now over all opposing powers and adversity. We are assured of God's providential care and blessings upon us who love Him and are called according to His eternal purpose. He knows us beforehand, calls us, saves us, sanctifies us, guides us and preserves us unto His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever! This is our exposition of the triumphant grace of God, the power that enables us to roll over all the powers of Satan and trample them under our feet. Thank God we can be the Church triumphant! Though we are, as Paul quoted from Psalm 44:22, killed all the day long and accounted as sheep for the slaughter, the tribulations and distresses we suffer will not keep us from having overwhelming success. We find this victorious spirit and attitude in all of Paul's writings. We can have this victory in Jesus, too.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What would you say is the main theme of today's lesson?
2. Why can we be so confident of victory in the Christian life?
3. How does the Holy Spirit help us?
4. How can we be sure that God's plan is fulfilled in us?
5. Why does not the condemnation of man hurt us?
6. Is there any thing that we need to be afraid of?
7. What is listed in our lesson that we can expect in life?
8. What can we be in all these things?

9. What was Paul persuaded of?
10. Can we have this same persuasion today?

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

Satan opposes the work of the gospel in many hearts and lives by pressing thoughts of fear and discouragement into the mind. Many do not reach forth and lay hold on the grace of God because they are persuaded in their minds that they cannot live for God. Satan gets them to thinking the cost is too great and the way is too hard. Why did Paul not look at it this way? Suppose he would have said to the Lord Jesus when he was struck down on the Damascus road and called of Him, "Lord, I just cannot live Your way. It is too hard and I will have to give up SO much." But he did not say that, did he? Why? Because he saw that Christ was the triumphant Lord and Saviour of the world. He yielded his life right then and there and became willing to take up his cross and live the rest of his days for the King of glory. He never turned back. He went forward from that day forth reaching out for everything God had for him. He was baptized, filled with the Holy Spirit and united with the Church. He saw Christ as the victorious, triumphant King of kings and Lord of lords. The indwelling Spirit of Jesus enabled him to overcome all the powers of Satan. He knew that God was on his side, that all things worked together for his good and that Christ was at the right hand of God interceding for him. This spelled out his victory and success. He was not afraid of anything. He saw what Christ had waiting for him at the end of the way and he was pressing for it. This same victorious pattern of life is for us today. There is no need for defeat and frustration. Let us be victory-minded. Jesus overcame, Paul overcame and we shall overcome, too. We can be more than conquerors through Him that loved us for the rest of our mortal days and go marching into glory on that beautiful morning with the redeemed of all ages. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Many times it is the knowledge that "...all things work together for good to them that love God..." which gives us hope



to continue on. Sometimes it seems life is not worth the problems, and there are times when being "...killed all the day long..." and "being accounted as sheep for the slaughter..." holds absolutely no glamour.

"Life is what you make it," is a maxim which we cling to. There is some validity to this, but it has its limitations. Mind does not always triumph over matter. Wishing things away doesn't dissolve or resolve them when you are brought face to face with the reality of trials. Sometimes, all our efforts to make life pleasant are futile.

The conclusion this leads us to is that we must go through hard times and find our contentment in the midst of them. The only way this is possible is to dwell in the presence of God. "Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." Psa. 16:11. There are no stipulations on this verse. There are no qualifications of what our earthly circumstances are. If we can enter into the presence of God, we will find fulness of joy.

History proves this to be true. I think of the prophet Daniel as a prime example. He suffered jealousy and ill treatment at the hands of the presidents and princes who were under him and undoubtedly did not enjoy these difficulties. But he drew strength to face them by daily entrance into the presence of God. Think of the good resulting from his trial. Because of his deliverance from the lion's den, God's name was glorified among all people, nations and languages, even unto this day. (Dan. 6:25.) Surely all things do work together for good to them that love God.

—Wayne Murphey



**JANUARY 26, 1997**  
**RESPECT FOR LAW AND AUTHORITY**

Romans 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

3 For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same:

4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

5 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.

6 For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

7 Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

9 For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account,... Hebrews 13:17.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God wants us to respect and obey

the laws of our government and law enforcement agencies. As long as the law does not conflict with the law of God we must willingly obey. If and when the law does conflict with the law of God, we must obey God rather than man, but retain a meek and submissive attitude.

## **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(Romans 13:5), "*Be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake*": We should be subject to law and authority, not only to escape punishment, but also as a matter of Christian love and honour in the sight of God.

(Romans 13:7), "*Tribute to whom tribute is due;...custom to whom custom*": Tribute is generally defined as tax on persons and property, while custom is tax on goods and travel. God wants His people to pay punctually, willingly and faithfully all taxes imposed on them by the government.

(Romans 13:13), "*Rioting and drunkenness*": Partying, revelings and drinking. "*Chambering and wantonness*": These refer to unlawful and uncontrolled sexual sins.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In the time this was written the Roman Empire ruled the world. Paul instructs these early Christians at Rome to be subject to rulers and those in authority. There would come times when the law would require a person to do something that would be against the divine laws of Christ, but in refusing to obey such laws against God the people were instructed to be meek and respectful in their hearts. Surely if we are to love and respect our fellow man, we should have a special feeling of appreciation and respect for those who are endeavoring to serve in leadership positions, regardless of how much fault and failure we may see in them. We should pray for those rulers and those in authority as Paul instructs us in I Timothy 2:1-2. Our lesson today can also be applied to leaders in the Church, but in a spiritual way. Those who are called to responsible positions of leadership are to be respected, honoured and obeyed. Many people have gone into error by not regarding the servants of God in their ministry toward them.

They bear a sword far more serious than the weapons that the police and sheriff bear. They have the eternal Word of God which is quick, powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword. (Hebrews 4:12.) This respect that we should lovingly and willingly show is part of the love that we should have for all of our fellow men. It is also part of the serious attitude we should have for our souls in this latter time, for we are facing the end and the judgment of God. We must live to the Spirit, be adorned with the life and attitude of Christ and shun the paths of temptation and the carnal lusts of the flesh.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. For what reason should we be subject to authorities?
2. How should we act when we are stopped by a policeman?
3. What is the real Christian attitude toward the law?
4. How should we feel about taxes?
5. What is the one thing that we should not fail in giving?
6. What law covers all other commandments?
7. Why should we keep wide awake spiritually?
8. What are the works of darkness we should cast off?
9. What kind of society surrounds the saints?
10. What does it mean to "put on the Lord Jesus Christ?"

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

Would you like to live in a society where there is no government, no law enforcement agency, no rules or regulations, no laws or statutes to obey? There are people who are called anarchists who do not believe in government. Thank God they are not allowed to have their way. This world would be chaos and our society would really be a perilous and dangerous place if there were no law enforcement and control. True, those who serve in these places are often not nearly what they ought to be, or what *we think* that they ought to be. But we must take into account that most of these are carnal people with many faults and sins. But mankind has retained enough sense and proper judgment to know that there must be control

and force to keep order. There is too much wickedness and sin in men and women to allow them to do as they please without any law and order. If everyone were holy and righteous and filled with the love and Spirit of God there would not be nearly as much need for law enforcement. But even then there would need to be leadership and those in authority to counsel and instruct the people. As Christians we should take into account that government and law enforcement is ordained of God and we should be subject thereto. When you are stopped by a traffic officer or any other law officer you should exhibit a humble and apologetic attitude to him. To argue and contend is not the Christian way, even though you may think you are in the right. Tell the truth and be co-operative. That officer has an important and dangerous job. He needs your prayers and cooperation. Let him know that you appreciate him. A child of God should NEVER refer to policemen as "pigs" and the like. This kind of attitude is displeasing to God. Children of God should have a like respect and holy regard for the ministers of the Lord Jesus who are holding forth the Word of God. They are watching for our souls and we are commanded to show them respect and honour and be willing to follow their counsel. It is God's plan to have pastors and leaders for the flock of His care. Let us pray for them and give heed to their message.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The apostle Paul preached that we should have respect for law and authority. Not only did he preach it, but he practiced it. During one incident in his life, he was brought before the council in Jerusalem. "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day. And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth. Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law? And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest? Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is

written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people." Acts 23:1-5.

Even though the high priest was wrong to have Paul smitten, still Paul recognized he too was wrong for showing disrespect. Paul, however, was on the right side of the law in opposing Ananias. The high priest's business was to condemn the wicked, and not to smite the righteous. (Deut. 21:5.) And there is an interesting side note to Ananias' life. History tells us that in the beginning of the Jewish wars, he was actually smitten to death by a captain of the Jews.

Conscience itself is often a reliable guide in obeying the law. With thousands of laws on the books of our land, there are many with which we are totally unfamiliar. But there is no need to pore over legal books to make sure we are not transgressing. "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law." If you love others, and follow your conscience, you are unlikely to end up a transgressor. —Wayne Murphey



## **FEBRUARY 2, 1997**

### **THE DANGER OF JUDGING ONE ANOTHER**

Romans 14:1 Him that is weak in the faith receive ye, but not to doubtful disputations.

2 For one believeth that he may eat all things: another, who is weak, eateth herbs.

3 Let not him that eateth despise him that eateth not; and let not him which eateth not judge him that eateth: for God hath received him.

4 Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.

5 One man esteemeth one day above another: another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind.

6 He that regardeth the day, regardeth it unto the Lord; and he that regardeth not the day, to the Lord he doth not regard it. He that eateth, eateth to the Lord, for he giveth God

thanks; and he that eateth not, to the Lord he eateth not, and giveth God thanks.

7 For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

8 For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's.

9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

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.

13 Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.

19 Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men. Romans 14:17-18.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Instead of judging and condemning our fellow man for what he does, we ought to pray for him and seek to be at peace and for wisdom to be a help to him.

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(Romans 14:1), *"Not to doubtful disputations"*: The Greek expression can be more clearly expressed thus: "not discriminating or separating (the weak in the faith) because of their inward reasoning." The real sense of the apostle's words can be summed up to say, "Do not cast away or separate yourself from a person who has believed in Christ because of his convictions that are not yet enlightened by the Spirit of God.

Give him time, bear with him and pray for him, and, above all, set a good example before him in your own life."

(Romans 14:3), "*Him that eateth....him that eateth not*": The Jews had certain beliefs from the law of Moses concerning the eating of certain meats. There were meats pronounced by the law as clean and permitted to be eaten, and there were other meats that were counted as unclean. In the fulfillment of the law in Christ those scruples were done away with. But the feeling and conviction about those forbidden meats lingered in the minds of many of the converted Jews. This brought about problems on both sides. Paul is trying to guide the people to proper understanding. Do not despise your brother or count him lightly if he cannot feel right in eating meats, and do not judge your brother if he eats when you do not feel right about it.

(Romans 14:4), "*To his own master he standeth or falleth*": We get in trouble with God when we place judgment or condemn others for something when their hearts are sincere and right before God.

(Romans 14:5), "*One day above another....every day alike*": Just as with meats, so it was with days. The Jews stressed the seventh day as the Sabbath in which they did no work. In the New Testament the literal Sabbath day is fulfilled in a spiritual Sabbath which is to be kept every day. Those who kept the Sabbath were prone to judge and condemn those who did not keep the Sabbath. Paul's counsel was that if a person conscientiously wanted to esteem one day above another (like the Sabbath day) he was free to do so. If a person wanted to count every day alike and be diligent to keep the spiritual sabbath of rest with Christ, then he was not to be condemned if he did not keep the literal Sabbath. Both can do what they are doing as unto the Lord and be thankful.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Paul is dealing in our lesson today with the age-old problem that has plagued the Christian. That is the relationship of Christians to each other concerning differences of opinion concerning what is right and wrong. Most sincere men



or women who seek to please God are concerned about what is right and what is not right. That is a good quality of character, but it must be handled properly and with wisdom or it can lead to problems in our relationships with others. Especially this is true when there are people coming to the faith of the gospel from so many different beliefs, customs and cultures. Now there are some things that are absolutely forbidden and condemned by the holiness of God and His commandments. But in the gospel there is not only judgment but there is mercy and a chance given for the guilty and the transgressor to obtain forgiveness and deliverance. There are other things, as we find in our lesson, that are not absolute. Things such as whether you eat meat, or whether you keep one day above another, are matters that must be left up to the individual—that is, between them and God. Paul is seeking to steer the people away from a judgmental attitude to a disposition of love and patience with one another. In our lesson Paul points us to vital matters: (1) God is the Judge. We must not judge or condemn one another, but leave such judgment to Him. (2) We are all going to have to stand before God's judgment and give an account, not of our brother, but of ourselves individually. And, (3), the kingdom of God is righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit and it is in these things that we are to serve Christ and win the confidence of our fellow man.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Instead of judging others what should we seek to do?
2. What will happen to us if we wrongfully judge others?
3. For whom are we going to have to give an account?
4. What is the kingdom of God really all about?
5. How can we be acceptable to God and approved of men?

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

The combination of zeal for what is right and tolerance for others is difficult for us to have. We must be strong, but in being strong we must seek to help those who may not be so strong. We must be pure, but we must be merciful and make

the way attractive for those who are not pure. We must walk in the light, but we must be patient with those who do not have the light. To keep balanced in these matters IS difficult and despite our best efforts we find ourselves often on one side or the other. But the Lord can help us, for it is part of the Christian spirit to possess both of these two points of character. One thing we must really seek God for grace not to do, and that is assuming the attitude of judging our brother. We must be friendly, kind, mannerly, cordial and respectful. We can be these things without violating any moral conviction that we might have. We must put the responsibility of judging in the hands of God. God may have His ministers bring forth the Word that will be judgment, but the execution of His wrath and judgment is in His hands alone. In the meantime we must live together here on earth, love one another, and live in peace together. Matters of difference of opinion must be dealt with in peace and brotherly love. We must be able to sit down and discuss our differences without strife and anger. There are some things we will have to submit to God and pray about. There are things that we must earnestly strive to have in our lives. Righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit are the things that we should seek to have in our lives abundantly. Let us not waste the powers of our spirit in strife of words and differences of opinion. Let us live quiet and peaceable lives with all godliness and honesty. Let us seek to be spiritual and always be led and inspired by the Spirit of God. If we have misgivings about others, let us seek God's guidance and wait on Him to lead us as to what to do about it all. Instead of judging and condemning, let us be living and portraying.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

There lived forty years ago, in Berlin, a shoemaker who had a habit of speaking harshly of all his neighbors who did not think quite as he did about religion. The pastor of the parish in which the shoemaker lived heard of this and felt that he must give him a lesson.

He did it in this way. He sent for the shoemaker one

morning, and when he came in, said to him, "Master, take my measure for a pair of boots."

"With pleasure," answered the shoemaker, "please take off your boot."

The clergyman did so, and the shoemaker measured his foot from toe to heel, over the instep, and noted all down in his pocketbook. Then he prepared to leave the room.

But as he was putting up the measure, the pastor said to him, "Master, my son also requires a pair of boots."

"I will make them with pleasure. Can I take the young man's measure?"

"It is not necessary," said the pastor, "the lad is fourteen, but you can make my boots and his from the same list."

"That will never do," said the shoemaker, with a smile of surprise.

"I tell you, sir, to make my son's on the same list."

"No, pastor, I cannot do it."

"It must be — on the same list."

"But it is not possible if the boots are to fit," said the shoemaker, thinking to himself that the old pastor's wits were leaving him.

"Ah, then, master shoemaker," said the clergyman, "every pair of boots must be made on their own list, if they are to fit, and yet you think that God is to form all Christians exactly according to your own list, of the same measure and growth in religion as yourself. That will not do either."

The shoemaker was abashed. Then he said, "I thank you for this sermon, and I will try to remember it, and to judge my neighbors less harshly in the future."

—Taken from, *New Testament Anecdotes*.



**FEBRUARY 9, 1997**

## **RECEIVING ONE ANOTHER IN GOD'S MERCY**

Romans 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.

2 Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification.

3 For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me.

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

5 Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus:

6 That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

7 Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.

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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God has had great mercy upon the nations of the earth in freely giving His Son to save us from eternal ruin. He will receive all who come to Him through His Son to be saved. We need to glorify Him for His mercy, and receive one another in our love and fellowship even as He has received us.

## DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

(Romans 15:1), "*Bear the infirmities of the weak*": This is referring to spiritual limitations and the lack of knowledge that many who are newly come to the faith often have. We that are strong and "up to par" with the Lord need to exercise great love and patience toward others who are just coming to the truth.

(Romans 15:8), "*A minister of the circumcision for the truth of God*": For the sake of the truth of God which He showed forth in the Old Testament workings with Israel and the law, Jesus came forth as a servant under the law "*to confirm the promises made unto the fathers*": That is, to ratify and establish beyond all question and fulfill all the prophecies that were given to the generations preceding.

(Romans 15:9), "*And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy*": In ministering to the Jews and fulfilling the scriptures Jesus opened up the door of faith to all nations. These three words: "Gentiles, heathen and nations" all mean the same thing and are translated from the same Hebrew word in the Old Testament and from the same Greek word in the New Testament. It refers to the races and tribes of mankind that inhabit the earth. God dealt first with the Jews to show forth His power and truth, and then in the fullness of time, when Jesus came to bring about full salvation and eternal life, God opened the door for all other people to have a chance to know Him and experience His divine favor. We, the people who inhabit this earth, should rejoice and be glad for the mercy God has shown to us in offering us His great salvation and not hesitate to take advantage of this splendid offer.

(Romans 15:11), "*Praise the Lord, all ye Gentiles; and laud him, all ye people*": To praise means to lift up, shine forth the worth, celebrate and extol the merit and value. But to laud is to do this praise with great loudness and forceful expression.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our previous lesson Paul instructed us to refrain from judging one another and to receive those weak in the faith. In our lesson today he continues this thought and speaks of the

great mercy that the Almighty God has shown to the peoples of the earth in sending Jesus to be our Redeemer. In instructing us to bear with our weaker brethren and not to please ourselves he referred to Jesus as being this way and quoted a prophecy of Christ to that effect. He quotes from Psalm 69:9, which says, "For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me." The disciples remembered the first part of this scripture when Jesus cleansed the temple of the moneychangers in John 2:17. And now Paul uses the rest of this scripture to refer to Christ again. Christ bore the blame for the sins and reproaches of mankind that had offended God. In quoting this scripture Paul made note of the blessing of the scriptures and how they were written for our learning that we might have hope. This is surely true, for those things written of old are our inheritance of comfort and understanding in obtaining salvation through Christ. And in speaking of the mercy of God shown to the Gentiles Paul quotes from several places in the scriptures. Verse 9 he quotes from Psalm 18:49 which was David's psalm of praise in being delivered from the hand of Saul and of his enemies. Verse 10 is a quote from the song of Moses in Deuteronomy 32:43 in which he praises God for the mercy He shows to His land and His people. Verse 11 is a quote from Psalm 117. And finally he quoted from Isaiah 11:10 in verse 12. All of these scriptures from the Old Testament show that God's will is for all the nations of the earth to be given the gospel and an opening for the door of faith. He wants every man and woman, boy and girl in the world to have a chance to be filled with all joy and peace in believing so that they may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is it possible to be a weak and lame Christian?
2. If there is, what should be our attitude toward him?
3. How did Jesus show Himself a good example of this?
4. What does Paul show the purpose of the scriptures to be?
5. What do we do when we reject a child of God?

6. Is there a possibility for God to take action in this?
7. Why should we remember the mercy God has shown us?
8. May we fail to see the need to praise Him?
9. In what manner is it most befitting to praise God?
10. How can we be filled with all joy and peace?

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

God has been so good and merciful to the peoples of this world. He has shown great mercy in sparing them from His wrath and utter destruction. The last words of the Old Testament in Malachi 4:6 foretold the Lord sending Elijah the prophet who would turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, "lest," He said, "I come and smite the earth with a curse." Malachi 4:6. The word "curse" from the Hebrew means "utter destruction." The world was ripe for utter destruction, but instead of doing that, God sent John the Baptist in the spirit and power of Elijah to prepare men's hearts to receive the Saviour whom He sent after John. Oh, how we should praise the Lord and thank Him for His mercy in sparing this world from utter destruction! How we should embrace His Son and His discipline and repent of our sins and take up our cross and follow Him! We should bear with people who are coming to the truth for we know that if it were not for the mercy of God none of us would have a chance. We must have the same mercy on others that God had on us. We ought never to get over what God has done for us in extending the kingdom of love and peace to us and giving us a chance to be delivered from sin and its blight. It is truly wonderful what the Lord has done. He has done great things for us, whereof we are glad! Let us believe the scriptures and partake of the hope they bring as we patiently endure the trials of life. God is a God of patience and He wants us to be patient people, forbearing and gentle with one another. We must follow after things that make for peace and things wherewith we may edify and build up one another. Let us set an example that will inspire and help our neighbour. And the God of hope and consolation will fill us with all joy and peace

in believing and we will abound in the hope of the gospel through the power of the Spirit of God! —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

It seems that many people want to be kind, but knowing how to be kind and to receive others is something that is not always well understood. Kindness is not measured in large acts only, but often small deeds are the ones which break down barriers and bind hearts together.

When Eugene V. Debs was imprisoned as a conscientious objector, he became interested in a prisoner who was said to be incorrigible and devoid of a spark of goodness. Since the prisoner would not speak to anyone, Debs started a campaign of kindness by leaving an orange on his bed and going off without a word. In spite of many rebuffs, he gradually penetrated the hard exterior of the man, and the two became fast friends. Years later, upon hearing of Debs's death, the prisoner, now a useful citizen, commented, "He was the only Jesus Christ I ever knew."

We are told in the scriptures that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost and went about doing good. (Acts 10:38.) Not only do we have a wonderful example of how to be kind and accepting of others, but we can have divine anointing as we do so.

—Wayne Murphey



**FEBRUARY 16, 1997**

### **CHRIST THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Romans 10:2 ...They (Israel) have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God.

4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

5 For Moses describeth the righteousness which is of the law, That the man which doeth those things shall live by them.



6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

12 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.

13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

14 How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard?...

15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath believed our report?

17 So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...That no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them. Galatians 3:11-12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** We cannot be saved and have true righteousness by keeping the law of Moses. Only by confessing with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believing in our hearts that God has raised Him from the dead can we be saved.

## DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

(Romans 10:4), "*Christ is the end of the law for righteousness*": In that Christ has paid the required ransom to redeem us from the bondage of sin we need not look for righteousness in keeping the laws of God. Christ terminated, concluded and brought to an end the law as a means of righteousness. We can only be righteous by believing in Christ with all our heart. This kind of faith, when properly applied and followed, will inspire and enable us to be obedient to Christ in every law He has given to us.

(Romans 10:9), "*Confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus*": To confess means to acknowledge and utter in open tongue the truth of Christ, the Son of God, while in your heart you believe in Him and are willing to follow Him in all things.

(Romans 10:17), "*Faith cometh by hearing*": Faith, saving and effective faith, will be inspired in the soul of man as diligent and earnest attentiveness is given to the Word of the gospel of Christ.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In the 9th chapter of Romans Paul spoke much about Israel and the Gentiles. He stated in verses 30-33: "...The Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness. Wherefore? Because they sought it not by faith, but as it were by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumblingstone; As it is written, Behold, I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed." Then in 10:1 he spoke of his burden for Israel that they might be saved, and that would be by becoming enlightened as to what the real righteousness of God is. Paul explains the difference in the righteousness of the law and that which is of faith. In verses 6, 7 and 8 he refers to Deuteronomy 30: 11-14, where Moses was speaking to Israel, "For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say,

Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it." Although these words came from Moses, Paul is applying them to us concerning the word of faith which is preached in the gospel. In verse 11 he quotes from Isaiah 28:16, which says, "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." The Septuagint puts it, "He that believeth on him shall by no means be ashamed." In verse 13 he quotes from Joel 2:32 which is the final part of the prophecy of the coming of the Holy Spirit and the day of grace. Verse 15 is a quote from Isaiah 52:7 concerning those who publish the gospel of peace. God sends His preachers to proclaim the good news of the gospel of Christ that souls may hear, believe and call upon the name of the Lord. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is it possible for us to be ignorant of God's righteousness?
2. How does the righteousness of the law operate?
3. What does the righteousness of faith say?
4. What does it mean to believe in one's heart?
5. What if we confess but do not believe in the heart?
6. Does this mean that we can live any old way—just as long as we believe?
7. What are we constrained to do when we truly believe?
8. What does it mean to really call upon the name of the Lord?
9. Who sends forth the true preacher of the gospel?
10. How does faith come by hearing the Word of God?

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

What precious truth the apostle Paul brings to us in our lesson today! But there is also a warning in it. It is a warning

against having our own righteousness. The Jews were endeavoring to obey all the law of Moses and in it they felt that they were safe, having righteousness and favor with God thereby. But Paul is labeling this kind of righteousness as self-righteousness, so vain and useless. We need to be aware that this self-righteousness is still alive and working in the world today. It is so easy to slip into the rut of self-righteousness. Live a good life, pay your debts, treat everybody right, give to the poor and needy—do this and all will be well. But the problem with this kind of concept is the question: Just how well does one succeed? A close, honest search will reveal that there will be times when you are not so righteous after all. In fact, no one can really live up to the law in their own strength. Trying to be righteous by obeying the law is a losing enterprise. We just cannot do it. We need the power of a mighty Saviour who has conquered sin and death to enable us to live righteous and holy before God. In confessing with our mouth the Lord Jesus, we are at the same time confessing that we are a failure when it comes to being righteous. We confess that only in Him can we really live righteously. Then we see Christ in the gospel as risen from the dead and Conqueror of sin and Satan. We believe in Him with all of our hearts because we have called upon Him and sought Him with all of our hearts. As we listen with open heart and mind to the Word of God, faith is inspired in us. We are able to believe to the saving of the soul. We gladly give our hearts and lives to follow this mighty Saviour! Now we are righteous, not because we are keeping the law, but because we believe in Jesus and His risen life. We follow His example of love, faith, humility, kindness, forgiveness, patience and obedience to God. Praise the Lord for the righteousness that we can have through Christ Jesus, who paid the price for the forgiveness of all our sins. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Some people carry about with them a type of moral magnifying glass, which they are fond of using. At times you may hear them emit contented and approving noises as they view their accomplishments from different angles. Their vir-

tues seem so great that they fail to see their need of pardon.

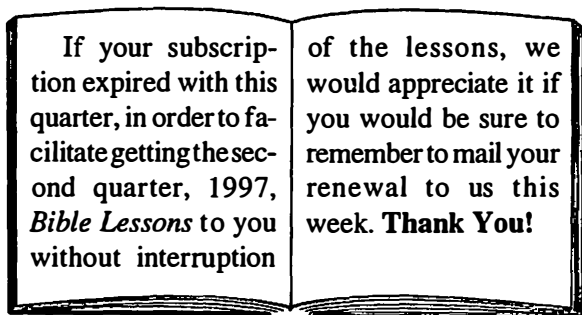
David Rittenhouse was an astronomer skillful in measuring the size of planets and determining the distance of stars. But he found that a silk thread stretched across the glass of his telescope would entirely cover a remote star. And though our sun was 886,000 miles in diameter; yet, when seen from a distant star, it could be hidden behind a thread near the eye!

It is possible for a very slight thread of smug virtue to hide from our eyes the glorious Sun of Righteousness. Paul says, "They, going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God." (Rom. 10:3.)

Many years ago, an Indian and a white man were both struck with conviction as they listened to the same sermon. The Indian immediately found pardon, but the white man labored under stress of mind for quite some time before he could rejoice in salvation. One day, the white man asked the Indian how it was that he had found salvation so quickly. The Indian explained it this way: "There came along a rich prince who promised to give you a new coat. You looked at your own coat and said, 'I don't know, my coat is pretty good. It will do a little longer.' He then offered me a new coat. I looked at my old blanket and said, 'This is good for nothing.' I flung it away and took my new coat."

This is what God would love to see every individual do—see ourselves for what we are in comparison to what God can do for us.

—Wayne Murphey



**FEBRUARY 23, 1997**  
**DIVINE COUNSELS FOR MARRIAGE**

1 Corinthians 7:1 Now concerning the things whereof ye wrote unto me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman.

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

6 But I speak this by permission, and not of commandment.

8 I say therefore to the unmarried and widows, It is good for them if they abide even as I.

9 But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn.

10 And unto the married I command, yet not I, but the Lord, Let not the wife depart from her husband:

11 But and if she depart, let her remain unmarried, or be reconciled to her husband: and let not the husband put away his wife.

27 Art thou bound unto a wife? seek not to be loosed. Art thou loosed from a wife? seek not a wife.

28 But and if thou marry, thou hast not sinned; and if a virgin marry, she hath not sinned. Nevertheless such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you.

29 But this I say, brethren, the time is short: it remaineth, that both they that have wives be as though they had none;

30 And they that weep, as though they wept not; and they that rejoice as though they rejoiced not; and they that buy, as though they possessed not;

31 And they that use this world, as not abusing it: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

32 But I would have you without carefulness....

35 And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction.

39 The wife is bound by the law as long as her husband liveth; but if her husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will; only in the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord. Proverbs 18:22.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** It is a wonderful thing for a man to have a loving wife and enjoy her as it is fit in the Lord, but it was never in the plan of God for such a relationship to hinder or distract a person from attending upon the service of his God.

### DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

(I Corinthians 7:2), "*To avoid fornication*": The Greek says, "on account of fornication." The apostle's meaning summed up is: "It would be good if a man could get through life without a woman, but since there is such an inclination for a man to desire a relationship with the opposite sex, and because unlawful contact between the sexes is fornication (which is transgression against God), let a man be free to marry as the Lord would direct and have and hold his own wife in holiness and pure love."

(I Corinthians 7:3), "*Due benevolence*": The kindness and good will that one's wife or husband properly needs and deserves.

(I Corinthians 7:4), "*The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband*": Each allows the other the privilege of enjoying his or her body in a mutual bond of tenderness, meekness, affection and honour. The Greek word for "power" means mastery or control. The husband and wife each allows the other to control his or her body. It must be a mutual affair for it to bring the intended happiness and pleasure.

(I Corinthians 7:5), "*Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time*": Do not deprive one another of the

joy and pleasure of marriage unless it is agreed upon by both parties for the purpose of being devoted to religious duties for the needed time. *"And come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency"*: By depriving one's wedded companion of the physical embrace unnecessarily Satan will have room to tempt one to sin or to fail to control his bodily appetites as he should. The word "incontinency" in the Greek means "lack of self-control."

(I Corinthians 7:6), *"By permission, and not of commandment"*: Paul is not commanding but rather granting permission and liberty for each person to choose what is best for them. He had no Word of God on the matter, but rather, as the servant of Christ, gave his advice.

(I Corinthians 7:9), *"If they cannot contain"*: The Greek says, "If they do not have self-control," which means: If they cannot be content to be without a wife or husband let them be free to marry without any guilt or condemnation. May we add also that all marriages should be preceded with diligent and earnest prayer and waiting on God that His will be fully known and carried out in the matter. *"For it is better to marry than to burn"*: If a man finds it incommodious or uncomfortable to be without a wife let him pray and seek God to give him a loving wife whom he can possess in sanctification and honour.

(I Corinthians 7:28), *"Such shall have trouble in the flesh: but I spare you"*: Especially in the times of severe persecution and suffering a man would have extra trouble and heartache with having a wife and family to see suffer and care for. Paul is generally believed to have been a widower, and was persuaded that remaining unmarried was to his advantage in the work of the gospel. In counseling to remain unmarried he was just trying to spare the individual from the trouble in the flesh incurred by having a wife. Paul spoke in verse 26 about the present distress. According to history the believers in Christ were undergoing a great siege of adversity and persecution at the time of this writing.

(I Corinthians 7:29-31), Paul speaks in these verses concerning the need for a man to not allow having a wife, passing through sorrow or rejoicing, buying or in any other way using the natural things of this present world, to hinder



him from being everything God wants him to be. If you have a wife, do not allow her presence or influence in your life to keep you from attending upon the life and service that God is calling you to. Do not let sorrow or adversity or prosperity influence or affect you. If you buy or possess anything do not allow it to intrude upon your spiritual affections and devotion to God. If you take liberty to make use of any earthly commodity, do not misuse it or overuse it, for it will soon fade away and is not really worth allowing it to distract you from the welfare of your soul.

(I Corinthians 7:32), *"Without carefulness"*: Free from anxiety.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Paul's counsel in our lesson today concerning marriage and husband-wife relationship is very sound, wise and worthy of our consideration and heed. We will have to admit in our day that a happy and successful marriage is too often hard to come by while the divorce rate is shamefully high. Paul had just spoken in the previous chapter about how our bodies are the members of Christ and the temple of God. He firmly held that fornication is sin and to be fled from. We are to glorify God in our body and in our spirit which without question belong to God. And now, in our lesson today, he dwells upon the marriage question and offers sound and beneficial counsel for our good in this highly important matter. It is true that choosing a marriage partner is, next to the salvation of the soul, the most important and serious decision and move that one can make. It really should be approached and handled by a godly attitude and prayer. Marriage is for this present life, a special blessing that God has given man, but it must be carried out according to His divine leadings or it can be a curse instead of a blessing.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What would you say is the most important ingredient in a successful and happy marriage?
2. What was the original purpose of God in marriage?

3. When is the marriage tie dissolved in God's sight?
4. What are some of the problems that marriage can bring?
5. How can we that have wives be as though we have none?
6. How can we weep as though we weep not, or rejoice as though we rejoice not, or buy as though we possess not?
7. How can we misuse or abuse the things of the world?
8. What does it mean to attend upon the Lord without distraction?
9. When is a person free in God's sight to remarry?

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

Blessed is the man and woman who are happily married and in the will of God. It is a wonderful thing to have a loving and dutiful wife who keeps the house clean and in order, faithful and considerate of her husband's welfare and happiness. It is a wonderful blessing for a wife to have a kind, gentle and loving husband, one who provides, protects and tenderly cares for her every need whether it be spiritual, physical or emotional. Sad to say, there are many homes which are not like this. Many times the husband is domineering, rude, cold, bossy, inconsiderate and self-centered. And there are wives who are not neat and dutiful, argumentative and loud, unthankful and rebellious. If a marriage is entered into without the preparation of heart and mind that only God can give, the chances of happiness are lowered considerably. I have pondered this through the years and, after seeing many marriages crumble to decay and many couples separate after a few years of marriage, I have come to the following conviction. No man or woman is really ready and qualified to be married and expect a full and satisfying life with each other unless they are fully saved from sin, sanctified and filled with the Spirit of God. The Lord must come first. He is the one who instituted marriage and bestowed its blessedness upon man. Is He not worthy of the place of leading and bringing it about as He did with the first man and woman? He most certainly is worthy of this. And not only this, but it is most indispensable

for *Him* to be the author of love and marriage in a man's life. If a man fails or refuses to consider God in marriage he is bound for disappointment and difficulties that he will find himself incapable to surmount. A woman cannot really be subject and devoted to her husband without the help of the Spirit of God in her heart and life. It is the same with the husband. Without inspiration and strength of the Holy Spirit he cannot be the kind, patient and considerate man that he ought to be. Marriage is an honourable and blessed gift of God but to undertake it without His guidance and help can bring untold sorrow and trouble.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Never marry but for love; but see that thou lovest what is lovely."

—William Penn

"I chose my wife, as she did her wedding gown, for qualities that would wear well."

—Oliver Goldsmith

"Two persons who have chosen each other out of all the species, with the design to be each other's mutual comfort and entertainment, have, in that action, bound themselves to be good-humored, affable, discreet, forgiving, patient and joyful, with respect to each other's frailties and perfections, to the end of their lives."

—Joseph Addison

"Married in haste, werepent at leisure." —William Congreve

"The Christian religion, by confining marriage to pairs, and rendering the relation indissoluble, has by these two things done more toward the peace, happiness, settlement and civilization of the world, than by any other part in this whole scheme of divine wisdom."

—Edmund Burke

"Of all the actions of a man's life, his marriage does least concern other people, yet of all the actions of our life, 'tis most meddled with by other people."

—John Selden

"Marriage with a good woman is a harbor in the tempest of life; with a bad woman, it is a tempest in the harbor."

—J. P. Senn

"Marriage has in it less of beauty, but more of safety, than the single life; it hath not more ease, but less danger; it is more merry and more sad; it lies under more burdens, but is

supported by all the strengths of love and charity; and those burdens are delightful. Marriage is the mother of the world, and preserves kingdoms, and fills cities and churches, and heaven itself.”  
—Jeremy Taylor



**MARCH 2, 1997**

**WORK IN THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL**

I Corinthians 9:7 Who goeth to a warfare any time at his own charges? who planteth a vineyard, and eateth not of the fruit thereof? or who feedeth a flock, and eateth not of the milk of the flock?

8 Say I these things as a man? or saith not the law the same also?

9 For it is written in the law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen?

10 Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope.

11 If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

12 If others be partakers of this power over you, are not we rather? Nevertheless we have not used this power; but suffer all things, lest we should hinder the gospel of Christ.

13 Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, ... Acts 20:24.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** It is a serious responsibility to be a preacher of the gospel of Christ. One who is entrusted with this great work must be humble and not misuse its power for selfish purposes, but rather freely give of himself to the cause of Christ, keeping himself in the perfect will of God

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(I Corinthians 9:11), "*Carnal things*": Material wealth and goods.

(I Corinthians 9:12), "*We have not used this power*": Although Paul knew that he had scriptural right to expect those to whom he preached and ministered spiritual blessings to share with him of their earthly substance, yet he would not press them to do so; but rather suffered and bore with them. He felt that making an issue of this would hinder the gospel and make it seem to be with a charge instead of being free.

(I Corinthians 9:17), "*If I do this thing willingly,.....if against*

*my will*": If it was convenient for him to preach the gospel he would be glad and enjoy the reward of such wonderful work, but if it brought him persecutions and trouble in the flesh (as well it did), he would go ahead and preach it anyway because of the great trust that God had invested him with. He was determined to be faithful to that sacred trust.

(I Corinthians 9:18), *"Make the gospel... without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel"*: He wanted the gospel to be free and not have a charge attached to it. Even though he had authority to require people to help him with their means, as the scriptures taught, he would not abuse, or misuse, this authority. How sad that many professed preachers have not followed his example!

(I Corinthians 9:27), *"I keep under my body"*: The Greek expression here is "to hit under the eye" which means to subdue and beat down into subjection all the passions and desires of the flesh and keep them in proper bounds of holiness and righteous behavior.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today Paul is stressing how important preaching the gospel was to him. And although in preaching the gospel he had certain rights and privileges that he felt the scriptures afforded him, yet he would make no demands or requirements so the gospel would always be a freely given, open door for souls. This is a great example of humility and forbearance that the religious world, sad to say, has so often not followed. Preachers have pressed their claims for the support of their followers and in so doing have made their millions. It has been a shame and a disgrace to the profession of preaching. The true saints of God follow the teachings of Paul and the Lord's ministers do not ask for offerings nor do they make known their needs except to God. The gospel is to be freely shared with all alike, the pauper and the rich. Any offering received must be freewill on the donor's part. To abuse one's right and privilege by taking advantage for selfish reasons is gross error. We must control our feelings, our

desires and our thoughts. We are, as our lesson shows, in a great race, running against great odds in our Christian journey. We must "go by the rules" and discipline ourselves to the mind and spirit of Christ Jesus. If we fail to control ourselves in proper Christian manner and conduct we will not be rewarded but will in the end be cast aside as being unaccepted and unapproved.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. For what reason did Paul believe he had a scriptural right to live of the gospel and receive earthly things?
2. Why did he not press this right or use this power?
3. What were his convictions about his ministry?
4. How important is it for us to keep under our body and what does it mean to really do so?
5. What kind of crown are we striving to obtain?
6. What would Paul rather do than to misuse his power?
7. What did he believe would happen to him if he failed to keep himself in control?
8. Are we to have this same control today?

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

It means so much for a Christian to have the right attitude about his privileges and rights. Many times we will have to forfeit our rights for the sake of maintaining humility and love. A man may feel that he has all the right and privilege to order his wife around and make her fulfill his every wish. But if he is bossy and overbearing and ugly in his demands, he is abusing that power. And when one abuses power and authority he will bring dishonor and shame to his own life. Though we be free, yet we must not indulge our freedom to please ourselves. We must be a servant of all. We must never use our power as a club to beat our fellow man with. By the keen guidance of the indwelling Spirit of Christ we can be guided in our attitudes and conduct toward others in all things. We must not take for granted our rights and privileges. We must handle them carefully and often we must give them up for the sake of the welfare and happiness of others. Self-denial must

be our constant recourse. Always be ready to forfeit your part for someone else. This is the true spirit and mind of Christ. One may feel that they are mistreated and wronged. Meekness will enable us to take the wrong rather than give the wrong. And this kind of spirit put in action will preach a message louder than words.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

One of the biggest contributing factors to the downfall of a minister is the abuse of power. When Jesus was led of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil, all of the temptations were related to misappropriating or abusing the power invested in Him. The first temptation was to turn stones into bread. Christ viewed this as using a divine ability for the gain of fleshly desire. The next temptation involved casting Himself from the temple and letting the angels bear Him up. Finally the devil offered to put all the kingdoms in Christ's control if He would only fall down and worship him. Satan works in a similar manner today. He likes nothing better than to guide a minister into the covetous act of spreading the gospel for the gratification of fleshly desires and gaining earthly power.

Those who operate in this manner receive all the reward they will ever get for any sacrifice made. Paul received a blessing because he could make the gospel of Christ without charge. When his life was drawing to a close, he testified that there was a crown of righteousness laid up for him. His eternal reward far outweighed any pleasure he could have attained by usurping personal power in this life.

—Wayne Murphey



### **MARCH 9, 1997 WARNINGS AGAINST TEMPTATION**

I Corinthians 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea;

2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;



3 And did all eat the same spiritual meat;  
4 And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

6 Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted.

7 Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play.

8 Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand.

9 Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents.

10 Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer.

11 Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come.

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Watch ye and pray, lest ye enter into temptation. The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak. Mark 14:38.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Seeing how others in the past have yielded to the tempting powers of Satan and this present evil world, to their own sorrow and destruction, should cause us to take diligent heed and not to yield to the cunning devices of Satan and the allurements of sin.

## DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS

(I Corinthians 10:2), "*Baptized unto Moses*": The children of Israel followed Moses and were separated and fully delivered from their slave masters of Egypt into his leadership and care when they passed under his command through the waters of the Red Sea which overflowed and drowned their enemies. In like manner we flee from sin and the world and are baptized into Christ which is a testimony of our severance from sin and eternal allegiance to Him.

(I Corinthians 10:3-4), "*Spiritual meat and drink,.....that spiritual Rock, Christ*": The meat and drink that sustained Israel on their flight from Egypt was produced through the supernatural power of the Spirit of God which was pointing them to Christ, the true Rest-giver to come.

(I Corinthians 10:6), "*These were our examples*": The things that happened to Israel were examples of what can happen when people harden their hearts against God. They are warnings for us to diligently consider and take heed to.

(I Corinthians 10:9), "*Tempt*": The Greek word means "to test thoroughly." It is gross iniquity to deliberately yield to evil thoughts and feelings with the idea that God will not take offense to our actions and that we will "get away with it" regardless. This is tempting Christ and many foolish souls have done it over the years and reaped the harvest of perdition.

(I Corinthians 10:11), "*Written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come*": We in the Christian dispensation are in the last days for which all things spoken by the prophets were meant to be a lesson and a warning. We are to look upon these types and examples of the past and with reverent fear watch and pray for God's grace to enable us to escape these traps that are waiting to ensnare our souls as it was so with them.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

Paul had just expressed in chapter 9 and verse 27 about how he kept under his body and brought it into subjection lest by any means when he had preached to others he himself should be a castaway. Sad to say, this has happened to many

a worker for the Lord. It is the trick of the devil to get a person thinking that he or she is devil-proof and that there is no danger of their failure. Paul was aware all the time that there was a chance in him failing his Lord and being lost at the end. For this cause he issued the warning that we have in our lesson today. He speaks of how Israel, after being miraculously delivered from Egypt, was overthrown in the wilderness because they failed to resist the temptation of discouragement and lust. He quotes from Exodus 32:6 of the occasion when they made a golden calf to take the place of Moses. They were eating and drinking, making themselves naked and dancing around the idol. The fornication they committed was with the daughters of Moab mentioned in Numbers 25:1. Balak had tried to get Balaam to curse Israel but he had refused to do so. But according to Josephus, (it is not recorded in the Bible) Balaam counseled Balak, who was king of Moab, to put out his young women before the camp of Israel and allure the young men to come to them. That is what happened and the judgment of God fell on Israel and thousands died. He referred to Numbers 21:5-6 when the people complained and the Lord sent fiery serpents and many died. He stresses that these things are warnings for the present day. They are not to be overlooked and passed by lightly. We are to be on our guard at all times against the inroads of Satan. If we will steadfastly hold to the holy way of the Lord, He will make a way for us to overcome and escape the pitfalls of the devil. But if we get overconfident and fail to take heed to the warnings of the Spirit of God, we stand a good chance of falling a prey to the enemy and losing our hope and inheritance with the Lord.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the main warning in our lesson today?
2. Is it really possible for us to be lost after receiving Christ?
3. Why did Paul refer to what happened to Israel?
4. Why and how did the children of Israel displease God?
5. In what areas of our life will we be tempted?

6. What attitude will be the most easy prey for Satan?
7. Is it possible for us to fail God and not be aware of it?
8. What is the best way to really overcome temptation?
9. Why were all of these past incidents recorded?
10. What word of comfort did Paul give us?

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

We must always be on our guard against the wiles of the devil. He and his ten thousand hosts of evil are pressing hard to draw us from the skies. Through the lusts of the body and the allurements of sin and the flesh he would ensnare us to sin against God. Just because we have been born again and are filled with the Spirit of God is no proof that we cannot fall. Let him that feels confident that he is able to stand be on extra guard. Let us all be aware of the danger of other gods coming in ahead of the true God in our lives. The flesh is so close to us and Satan is so cunning. We are on dangerous ground. Let us watch and be sober. We should watch and pray always lest we enter into temptation. Sin can be made to appear appetizing, convenient, logical, lawful, needful, pleasing, charming, beneficial, helpful, satisfying and opportune. The things that happened to the children of Israel can well happen to us. There are many evil things to lust after today. Man seems to be tempted in three main areas: wealth, pleasure and power. These are the things that trip a person up and cause them to fall from the favour of God. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Connected with the lotus tree in North Africa, is the fable that if strangers eat of its fruit, they forget their home. The fruit of the lotus tree of sin has made many forget their heavenly home, also. But the solution to overcoming temptation and sin is to keep God and heaven in mind. When Potiphar's wife seduced Joseph, his response was, "...how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Gen. 39:9. Joseph's thoughts were upon the Lord right in the midst of temptation. This is the way to have strength to overcome, because in order to sin, you must put God out of your mind.

When temptation comes, consider it evidence of spiritual life. Do you know why the Dead Sea is without the roar of the ocean? Because it is dead. And for this reason it is never visited by gulls or pelicans. It has been said that all migratory birds sweep over the Dead Sea without even a pause to seek for prey. The devil, however, is looking for those who have life so that he can choke it out through temptations and sin. If the devil hates spiritual life with such passion, it certainly must be worth keeping. Guard it with all your heart! —Wayne Murphey



**MARCH 16, 1997**  
**DUE RESPECT FOR OUR HEAD**

I Corinthians 11:1 Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

3 But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

4 Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonoureth his head.

5 But every woman that prayeth or prophesieth with her head uncovered dishonoureth her head: for that is even all one as if she were shaven.

6 For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered.

7 For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

8 For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man.

9 Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

10 For this cause ought the woman to have power on her head because of the angels.

11 Nevertheless neither is the man without the woman, neither the woman without the man, in the Lord.

12 For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

13 Judge in yourselves: is it comely that a woman pray unto God uncovered?

14 Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him?

15 But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering.

16 But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom, neither the churches of God.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Ephesians 5:22-23.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Everyone should honour and respect their Head. Christ honoured and obeyed His Head, God the Father. Man should honour his Head, which is Jesus Christ. And the woman should honour her Head, which is her husband. She should cover her head with respect to her husband and her long hair is given her to be a covering sufficient without the use of a veil of cloth.

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(I Corinthians 11:3), *"The head of every man is Christ"*: Christ is Lord, Protector, Counselor, Guide, Provider, Sustainer and the Means of his salvation and eternal security. *"The head of the woman is the man"*: The plan of God is that the husband be the ruler, the provider, the protector, the owner, the leader and the guide for the wife. She is to be subject to him in all things as it is fit in the Lord. *"The head of Christ is God"*: Christ came from God the Father and the Saviour was faithful and submissive to His Father in everything, even to the obedience of being put to death on the cross for the salvation of humanity.

(I Corinthians 11:4), *"Having his head covered, dishonoureth his head"*: If a man wears any kind of headdress whether it be a turban, cap or hat, it should be removed upon entering into the rites of worship. A covering for the head of a man is needful for protection from the weather and from the perils of labor. But it should be taken off when not needed.

(I Corinthians 11:5), *"With her head uncovered dishonoureth her head"*: It was the custom in the early days, and even yet in many parts of the world, for women to cover their head with a veil of cloth when they were in public in the presence of men other than their husbands, and also when in prayer or worship. The covering of the head was a token of their subjection to their husbands.

(I Corinthians 11:6), *"Let her also be shorn"*: If a woman would dare to come to worship God without her head being covered it was a shame, and a shame as bad as if she had her hair cut off or were shaved. And if it was a shame to be shorn or shaven then she had better be covered.

(I Corinthians 11:10), *"Power on her head"*: Or, the sign of the authority of her husband displayed by her covering. By her having her head covered it is a testimony that she is subject to her husband. *"Because of the angels"*: The woman is the glory of the man. In her submissive role as helpmeet to the man she will be given a special protection and attending from the angels of God. The angels desire to look into (I Peter 1:12) and behold with wonder men and women who love and obey God.

(I Corinthians 11:14), *"If a man have long hair, it is a shame unto him"*: It is a shame because it symbolizes rebellion and dishonour to his Head, which is Christ.

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What does being the Head signify?
2. Why should one honour his Head?
3. What should a man do in honouring his Head?
4. What should a woman do in honouring her Head?
5. What did Christ do in honouring His Head?
6. What was the woman created for?
7. Why should the woman exercise submission to the man?
8. Why is it a shame for a man to have long hair?
9. What is it to a woman if she have long hair?
10. What is the hair given to the woman for?

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

Honouring our Head is a very serious and important matter. In reality the head of all things is God. He is our Head above all things. From Him flow all the blessings and benefits that we need in life. Christ, as the Saviour of mankind, recognized God as His Head and was submissive to His will in all things, even to the death of the cross. He honoured His head completely. Now He, Christ, is our Head. We owe everything to Him. He is the Head of the Church. We should love, worship, obey and honour Him with all of our hearts. He is the head of the man. The man holds a responsible place before Him. He receives, through Christ, all the benefits and blessings that are needed to save Him and keep Him from sin and death. Man should live constantly in honour and respect to Christ. When he prays or worships Christ, his head should be uncovered. Even when he comes indoors he should remove his headgear. It is a matter of respect and proper manners to do so. With the woman it is the opposite. She shows her respect to her Head by covering her head. In other times and places this was done by wearing a veil. But now in the New Testament the hair is accepted as the covering she must wear in the honour of her Head, her husband. A man ought not to let his hair grow long. It is a shame to him to do this. It shows disrespect and dishonour to Christ, his Head.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

History lets us know that "the Hebrew women veiled themselves in the presence of men in token of their being under their power or authority." (Wilson Diaglott.) We also know that Rebekah veiled herself when she saw Isaac coming, the man she was to marry. Now the question has arisen in the Corinth church, as to whether the Gentile converts were to veil themselves as the Jewish women did. So to settle this question Paul writes, "If a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her, for her hair is given her for a covering. But if any man seem to be contentious, we have no such custom (namely, of wearing a veil other than her hair) neither the churches of God." (Verses 15-16). So in the Christian church, the women do not wear a



veil to show they are under the authority of their Head, which is their husband and Christ, but have long hair. The man has short hair to show that he is under the authority of Christ, who is his Head. "Every man praying or prophesying, having his (own) head covered, dishonoureth his head." (Christ).

Some want to say that the woman must wear a little cap to be covered when she prays or preaches. But one sister said the Lord showed her this error when she was in her garden. She felt a real urge to pray, but she had been taught she should wear the cap. She thought about it and then she pondered on the fact that God laid a burden on her to pray when He knew she didn't have her cap on; God opened up to her the truth on this matter, and from that time on she laid off the cap. She knew her long hair was her covering. Praise God for the way He leads honest hearts! —Marie Miles (Written in 1975.)



**MARCH 23, 1997**

### **THE OBSERVANCE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

I Corinthians 11:20 When ye come together therefore into one place, this is not to eat the Lord's supper.

21 For in eating every one taketh before other his own supper: and one is hungry, and another is drunken.

22 What? have ye not houses to eat and to drink in? or despise ye the church of God, and shame them that have not? What shall I say to you? shall I praise you in this? I praise you not.

23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.

32 But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

33 Wherefore, my brethren, when ye come together to eat, tarry one for another.

34 And if any man hunger, let him eat at home; that ye come not together unto condemnation. And the rest will I set in order when I come.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. I Corinthians 11:26.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper as a Memorial of His broken body and shed blood; and He wants His Church to observe it in a holy and reverent manner with spiritual understanding of its true meaning and purpose.

### **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(I Corinthians 11:20-22), *"This is not to eat the Lord's supper"*: Paul is endeavoring to reprove the Corinthians here for the way they were observing the Lord's supper. It seems evident that they were including it along with an ordinary meal which was brought by different ones to the place of worship. Those who brought food were eating before the observance of the Lord's supper. Some were eating and were filled while others were not eating. This was creating confusion. He is counseling them to have the observance of the Lord's supper

on a special occasion exclusive for that sacred ordinance.

(I Corinthians 11:27-29), *"Unworthily"*: Irreverently, unfittingly and in an unworthy manner. Satan takes advantage of conscientious souls and accuses them that they are not worthy to take of the Lord's supper and keeps them away from the service. Any person who has been redeemed from his sins and is endeavoring to live to please God needs to be in this service when it is carried out in their locality. Of course, we are none of us worthy of anything from the Lord. But the point here is not whether we are worthy, but it is that we carry it out in a reverent and worthy manner. *"Not discerning the Lord's body"*: Not understanding, in the heart, the sacredness of the service with regard to what the Lord's purpose was in permitting His flesh to be bruised and broken so.

(I Corinthians 11:30), *"Many are weak and sickly...and many sleep"*: The Lord's supper, being a very serious and holy observance, if kept in an unholy and irreverent manner would have sad effects on the people. Spiritual weakness and feebleness of faith along with spiritual death accompanies such abuse of divine service. When we do not worship God in the right Spirit and attitude of heart, our form and fashion He will reject and we will reap a curse instead of a blessing.

(I Corinthians 11:33), *"Tarry one for another"*: The Greek text says, "You receive from one another."

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

The very night in which Jesus was betrayed, arrested and brought to trial, He was with His disciples in an upper room where they kept the Passover supper. At the conclusion of the Passover observance Jesus took some unleavened bread and broke it and gave to each of them, saying that this bread was a symbol of His body which was to be broken for them. He also took the cup of grape juice and gave it to them, saying that this was a symbol of His blood which was to be shed for the remission of sins. According to Luke's account, as we have already shown, and according to Paul's instructions here as given from the Lord, we are persuaded that Jesus wants His Church to remember His dying passion and suffering for them

through a special service in which unleavened bread would be broken and passed to each one along with the cup of grape juice. This is a very sacred and serious observance and must be carried out with the most earnest and sincere devotion of our hearts. This, along with the observance of washing one another's feet, is to be exclusive from all other activity. With a prayer for the presence of the Lord to be felt, God's saints can gather together for the observance of the Lord's supper and be greatly blessed and benefited in their souls.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did Jesus do with the bread?
2. What did He say it was?
3. What did He say about the cup?
4. How do we know that He wanted us to observe this?
5. How often did He tell us to observe it?
6. Do you feel that it is observed often enough?
7. Do you think the devil would try to hinder us from it?
8. What is the result of partaking unworthily?
9. For what reason was the Lord's supper instituted?

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

When we think of our dear Saviour on His final night on earth  
Ere the foes of darkness judged Him of such pain and awful worth,  
Sat down with His loved disciples for a special time of love,  
We are warmed in heart and lifted from this fleeting earth above.

Oh, what words He uttered to them! What a message did He give,  
Of the coming Holy Spirit that would help them for Him live!  
Rising from the festive supper, and His garments laid aside,  
His disciple's feet: He washed them in a manner sanctified.

Hear His prayer to God in Heaven, interceding for His own,  
That the glory to Him given would be theirs from God alone.  
Hear Him praying that the oneness that He shared with God above  
Would be in His precious brethren in the bonds of perfect love.

Then He took the bread and brake it, giving each a part to share,  
Saying, "This is like my body, broken for your souls to care."

And the cup He passed then to them, saying, "This is now my blood,  
Shed for many for remission of their sins for peace with God."

And He said, "Do this, rememb'ring all the pain I bore for thee,  
Often as ye will, remember what I suffered on the tree."  
For He knew that we as mortals are so prone to just forget  
What the price was for salvation and He wants it thought of yet.

Let the vanities of earth all fade to nothingness from view,  
While eternal values holding with a purpose strong and true.  
And discerning of His body, yes, His Church so pure and fair,  
With a hope of that glad morning when we'll meet Him in the air!  
—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"...Take, eat: this is my body,..." "...A body hast thou prepared me." Heb. 10:5. Christ took on Him not the nature of angels, but the likeness of sinful flesh. (Rom. 8:3.) He took the body prepared for Him by the Father, that He might have somewhat to offer as a visible sacrifice for the sin of the world.

"And when he had given thanks,..." He took the bread, the emblem of His body, and gave thanks to God for it. Think of it! Giving thanks to God for a body that was to be bruised and broken on a cross: thanks to the Father for the privilege of dying for a guilty and thankless humanity! In this simple, common act, we see the wholehearted devotion of our Lord to the awful work the Father had given Him to do.

After giving thanks *He brake it*. Every word and act seems full of meaning. He did not ask Judas to break it. He Himself broke it. He *gave Himself* a sacrifice for our sins. His life was a life of thanksgiving; His death a voluntary offering.

"...this is my body, which is broken for you:..." It wasn't broken by accident. He was wounded for *our* transgressions, bruised for *our* iniquities, the chastisement of *our* peace was upon Him. We are apt to speak lightly and think little of these words uttered at His last meal on earth. "...my body,...broken for you:..." What would be the thoughts in His mind when uttering them? He already saw the cross, and perhaps already felt the pangs of Gethsemane in His soul. But love constrained

Him. When we sit at the Lord's table and handle the bread, do we realize this as we should?

—Taken from, *Handfuls on Purpose*.



**MARCH 30, 1997**

**THE BLESSED HOPE OF THE RESURRECTION**

I Corinthians 15:3 For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures;

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

13 But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen:

14 And 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....

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 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.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...The hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation. John 5:29.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The resurrection of Christ assures all who truly believe and follow Him of an unfailing hope of being resurrected from death and the grave in the day of His final coming.

## **DEFINITIONS AND SPECIAL COMMENTS**

(I Corinthians 15:23), "*Christ the firstfruits*": Christ is the first to be resurrected to a glorified body and it is because of

Him and through His power that we will come after Him in the resurrection that is to take place when He comes again.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

One of the problems that existed in the Corinthian church was the idea (probably promoted by a false teacher) that there was no resurrection of the dead. The Sadducees, a sect of the Jews, had this notion and held it strongly. Very few people today really believe in the resurrection idea. They have vague and dreamy hopes of some kind of hereafter, but nothing concrete and sure as the hope of true believers in Christ. True believers in Christ believe in the resurrection so strongly that they will sacrifice their mortal life gladly rather than give up their faith. Paul is dealing with this foreign element of denying the truth of the resurrection in this chapter. After describing the plight we are in if there is no resurrection, he thunders the truth that Christ IS resurrected and that all who are His, in that day of His glorious coming, will share with Him in a resurrection of their mortal body. The language of the apostle is so eloquent and inspiring in this chapter as he identifies the nature of the resurrection that the righteous shall enjoy. "It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." These are words that very few people, if any, ever had the understanding and courage to utter before. What a comfort it brings to know that there is something for sure beyond this fleeting life, that we will live again in a glorified body with Christ! Verse 55 is taken from Hosea 13:14, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death: O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction:..." The Septuagint is a nearer rendition of the apostle's quote: "O death, where is thy revenge? O grave, where is thy sting?" The triumph of the ages for the holy saints of God will be to rise from the grave unto immortality with our Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is the truth that Paul is defending in our lesson?
2. What sad plight are we in if Christ is not risen from death?



3. What has Christ's resurrection made possible for us?
4. What in nature did Paul use as a type of the resurrection?
5. How is it sown? How is it raised?
6. When will this resurrection take place?
7. What will happen in this final resurrection?
8. What is the sting of death?
9. What has happened to death's sting and the grave's victory?
10. How can we have the victory over it all?

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

On this blessed day when we commemorate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the power of the grave, we can rejoice in that same victory that God gave His Son. Oh, what a blessed hope it is to know that we, too, shall triumph over death and the grave and live with our loving Lord in that beautiful world to come forever! Without this hope our life is reduced to despair and vanity. We are created to live, not to die, and the soul of man reaches for life and clings to it earnestly. But to cling to this present life is in vain, for the best of mortals and the strongest will soon succumb to the icy hand of death. But there is a way that we can cling to life and be successful. And that is to be a partaker of Christ in His death and bearing of our cross for Him. If we die with Him, we will live with Him. If we bear the cross with Him, we will share His crown. It is through Christ dying and being resurrected by the power of God that we have any hope of attaining to the resurrection ourselves. But we must be a partaker of His death if we would be a partaker of His life. We must die to sin and this present evil world and live with our affections on things above where Christ is now seated. We must live a careful and devoted life to God and let His Spirit lead us in all things. It is through the Holy Spirit dwelling within us that our mortal bodies will be quickened unto immortality. We must seek to possess Christ in actual life and conduct, not having our own righteousness, but His. We must know Him in His holiness and purity, and experience the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His reproach and suffering. Only by these things

will we be able to attain unto the resurrection of the dead. It is a goal that we must strive to reach and a prize that we must be accounted worthy to obtain. If we miss this and fail to attain unto the resurrection from the dead we will be cast out into outer darkness. We will be found naked and condemned before God in the judgment. Let us be diligent to follow the Lord and be steadfast in the hope of being resurrected with Him.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

There is a chemical process known as catalysis. It is the decomposition of a compound, and the recomposition of its elements by the presence of another substance, which does not itself suffer change. This is a wonderful illustration of the change that will take place in the human body. At death the body decomposes and goes back to dust. But a glorious reconstruction and change will take place on the day of the resurrection. It is brought about by a power that, of itself, does not change.

Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever." Another way in which we know that Christ is the catalyst to bring about the resurrection is because He plainly declared, "...I am the resurrection, and the life:..." John 11:25. It is in Him that we must trust. The things of this world do not qualify to serve as the catalyst for resurrection because they are transitory and have no power. It is in Christ that we have our hope and confidence. It is through His proven power that we are what we are in this life, and what we hope to be in the life to come. —Wayne Murphey





