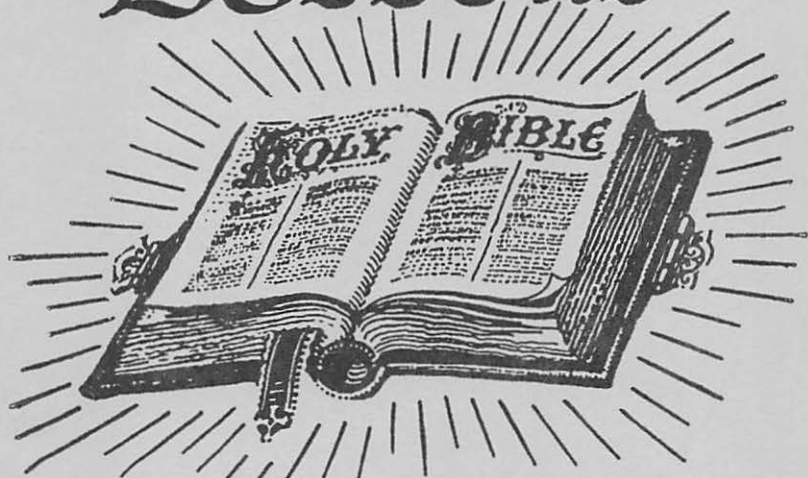


# Bible Lessons



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

**ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE**

Vol. 37, No. 1  
Jan., Feb., Mar.  
2005

Faith Pub. House  
Guthrie, OK  
73044

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

---

**Volume 37**

**Jan., Feb., Mar.**

**No. 1**

---

**Table of Contents**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>LESSON TITLE</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Jan. 2	The Entrance of Sin Into the World .....	1
9	Sin Crouching At the Door .....	6
16	Sin Without the Law: Introduction of Faith .....	11
23	Sin and Wickedness of Man Before the Law .....	15
30	The Purpose of the Law Given by Moses .....	20
Feb. 6	The Woeful Plight of Sin .....	25
13	Prophecies of Victory Over Sin .....	29
20	Jesus Born Under the Law to Redeem Us .....	34
27	The Gospel Preached to the Poor .....	39
Mar. 6	The Gospel; A Message of Hope .....	44
13	The Amazing Grace of Christ Jesus .....	49
20	Spiritual Life in Christ .....	53
27	Jesus Christ is Risen from the Dead .....	58

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

Articles contributed by: Sis. LaDawna Adams,  
Sis. Angela Gellenbeck and Bro. Bob Wilson

---

**Subscription Price-\$1.50 a copy for quarter of year, or**  
**\$5.00 per year, issued quarterly.**  
**Periodical postage paid at Guthrie, Oklahoma.**

---

**Published Quarterly By:**  
**FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE**  
**P.O. Box 518**  
**4318 S. Division**  
**Guthrie, Oklahoma 73044**

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

## **THEME FOR FIRST QUARTER, 2005**

We are inspired to set forth a series of lessons this Quarter on the subject of sin and how God moved and worked in bringing about a redemption and deliverance for mankind from the dominion of sin and death. We want to cover how God introduced the importance of faith in His goodness and grace and also through the giving of the law to make known what sin was to man. Then we will see how God united those two factors in bringing a fulfillment of salvation to us so we can be delivered from the power of sin to a life of faith and holiness before Him. We pray that the Lord will bless these lessons to the good and understanding of every one.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



**JANUARY 2, 2005**

### **THE ENTRANCE OF SIN INTO THE WORLD**

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make onewise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 5:12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** In the beginning man disobeyed the command of the LORD God and partook of the forbidden fruit. Thus sin came into the world and brought a separation between man and God. God drove man out of the garden to a life of labor and travail that ended in death and a return to the dust that he had been formed from.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

(Gen. 3:1), "*subtil*": cunning, crafty, sly, tricky.

(Gen. 3:23), "*Eden*": This word is defined as pleasantness. God made life for man to be enjoyable bliss and happiness without care or labor as long as man would obey Him. "*to till the ground*": But when man chose to yield to the temptation of self and the material prospect, God removed him from that bliss and happiness to the task of working the soil to bring forth food for his sustenance. This was part of the price man had to pay for sinning against his Maker. "*from whence he was taken*": Man was formed from the dust of the ground, and now he must turn to that source for his support and nourishment.

(Gen. 3:24), "*Cherubims*": These were probably angelic heavenly beings. "*flaming sword*": a blazing blade of light and

fire. *"turned every way"*: The Hebrew word here means a whirling; going round and round. *"to keep the way of the tree of life"*: To guard and keep anyone from going to the tree of life to partake of its life sustaining fruit.

(Rom. 5:12), *"by oneman"*: Adam was that one man. It was through him who consented to disobey and partake of the forbidden fruit that sin gained its stronghold on the human race. Thus sin entered into the world, finding a place in the heart and nature of man.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our lesson today we have the Biblical account of man's fall from fellowship with God into transgression and sin. According to what Jesus said about the devil being a murderer from the beginning and abiding not in the truth but being the father of lies, (John 8:44) and what Peter said about our adversary, the devil, as a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour, whom we are to resist steadfast in the faith, (I Peter 5:8-9) we are persuaded that Satan was the power and influence that worked through the serpent in getting Eve to be willing to partake of the forbidden fruit.

God had specifically labeled the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil as forbidden and that in the day man would eat of that tree he would die. But Satan presented a different aspect for man to view the tree by. He approached the woman and at first asked the question: "Hath God said, Ye shall not eat of *every* tree of the garden?" In this Satan would have pulled Eve to what we might call a "far left" idea, questioning whether God had given them any access to the trees of the garden at all. But Eve made it clear that she knew what God had said, that they could eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden with the exception of that one tree.

Then Satan proposed the idea that in denying them access to that one tree, God was keeping them from something desirable and beneficial. Satan is still employing this cunning craftiness, as Paul said in II Corinthians 11:3, "But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." The devil caused Eve to look on the forbidden fruit as desirable, permissible and beneficial. For this cause she willingly took of the fruit and influenced her husband to also eat it with her.

This is how the Bible describes how satan prevailed to get our foreparents to yield to sin. This brought sin into the world and with sin came sorrow, labor, adversity, pain and eventually death. Man lost his right to the tree whose fruit would sustain life and he was driven out into the world eventually to die and go back to the dust.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How can we know that Eve understood the command of God?
2. How did the tempter get Eve to look on the tree as something desirable?
3. What were the three points that made Eve look with desire on the tree?
4. What was the punishment that God gave man for sinning against Him?
5. Why did God take measures to keep man away from the tree of life?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Let us consider the three points of Eve's temptation to disobey the command of God. (1) "The tree was good for food." This involves the appetites of the body. The body has various appetites and the desire for food is one of the strongest. Satan plays on that appetite for eating and taking in food. (2) "It was pleasant to the eyes." Here is one of satan's great methods for getting us to go his way. *He makes sin and fleshly lusts very attractive.* The world and its pleasures and commodities are enticing and alluring to the human heart and mind. They are deceitful but very successful in alluring people to go after them. (3) "It was a tree to be desired to make one wise." But this wisdom that it offered was not the wisdom of God. It was and still is what scripturally is termed as worldly wisdom. Worldly wisdom that is attended with pride, the love of money and worldly praise attracts the heart of man so readily. Paul said in I Corinthians 1:21 that "the world by wisdom knew not God." It was obtaining this wisdom that closed the shutter on the wisdom of God shining into the heart of man. Let us consider these three factors in the temptation of man. We will see them again all along the

way in the history of the world. And remember that we have to go against this fleshly wisdom if we would please God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Satan was not content to see God's creation flowing in peace and harmony. He sought out the most subtle creature, the serpent, and used it to accomplish his evil plan to disrupt and cause discord between God and man. The same voice that spoke light into existence and created the lovely garden they enjoyed from day to day also told Adam and Eve to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Yet they were persuaded by the lie of the devil and disobeyed God's command, "Thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

One can look at the catalog of sins found in Galatians 5:19-21, those sins of the flesh that God's Word clearly says, "...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God," and it is evident that the same evil spirit is at work today. He is using modern, subtle methods to beguile men and women to disobey God. Satan hides his evil face behind a mask and appears to them in the spirit of pleasure, fun, power, happiness, wealth, intelligence, superiority and other appealing ways including religion. Notice the billboards along the highways that are advertising sinful vices and identify the spirit they use to capture the interest of people and it becomes obvious they are masking, hiding and contorting the truth of the sin they are promoting. If these appealing ways cause a person to do what God said not to do they are guilty of sin. They have believed satan's lie just as surely as Adam and Eve and God's judgment will come upon them with fiery indignation.

With knowledge of satan's devices it is no wonder that the Scripture exhorts us to be sober, vigilant, careful, watchful and prayerful. God has graciously given His Son to redeem us from the awful consequences of sin. It is the solemn responsibility of every soul to take advantage of the plan of salvation and keep himself pure. May God help each one to see through the evil lie of the enemy and escape the horrible death that has been pronounced upon the sinner.

—Bro. Willie E. Muir

**JANUARY 9, 2005**

**SIN CROUCHING AT THE DOOR**

Genesis 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife: and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

3 And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD.

4 And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering:

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? And why is thy countenance fallen?

7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? And if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.

9 And the LORD said unto Cain, Where is Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: Am I my brother's keeper?

10 And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

11 And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand.

1 John 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Isaiah 5:18 Woe unto them that draw iniquity with cords of vanity, and sin as it were with a cart rope.

Numbers 32:23 ...Be sure your sin will find you out.

Ezekiel 18:30 ...Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be your ruin.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. Proverbs 14:34.



**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The power and evil influence of sin is all around us, crouching at the door of our hearts, ready to enter in and ruin us. It has ruined and been the downfall of many people and will be to us also if we do not resist the temptation to sin and rather yield to God.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

(Genesis 4:2), "*tiller of the ground*": One who works the ground for the purpose of producing fruit for gain.

(Ver. 4), "*firstlings*": This was the first born. "*fat*": This was the richest and choicest part. "*had respect*": looked on with favour and acceptance.

(Ver. 5), "*was very wroth*": The Hebrew says, "glowed with anger." "*countenance fell*": face bowed in disappointment.

(Ver. 7), "*sin lieth at the door*": Sin is crouching at the door of the heart, ready to rise up and come in if we do not obey and please the Lord. Cain could have just as well been accepted as Abel had he taken the right measures and had a right spirit. "*unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him*": The Hebrew says, "Toward you is its (sin's) desire, but you should rule over it." Sin cannot do its woeful damage to us unless we yield to its attraction and influence. This was the difference between Abel and Cain.

(Ver. 11), "*cursed from the earth*": The Hebrew says, "cursed more than the ground."

(Isaiah 5:18), "*draw*": This means to attract, sow to, develop, extend, yield to and make room for. We must remember that we are free moral agents. We can choose to either cater to the allurements of sin or to repel them. The choice is ours. Satan is always playing on our desires but the power of choice is ours. We do not have to go along with him.

(Numbers 32:23), "*find you out*": discover and bring you forth.

(Ezekiel 18:30), The Hebrew renders this verse: "Turn and be made to turn from all your transgressions, and iniquity shall not be a stumbling block for you."

(Proverbs 14:34), "*reproach*": shame.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today we see in the account of Cain and the accompanying scriptures a very important fact. And that is that

we do not have to yield to the power and dominion of sin. The reason that people so readily yield to sin in their life is mainly because they are unaware of its danger and the tendencies of the flesh to take us in the direction of physical enjoyment and fulfillment that leads so conveniently unto transgression against the will of God. Abel chose to seek to please God and Cain sought to go after selfish gain. The Jewish historian Josephus, in his book *Antiquities of the Jews*, chapter two, makes some very interesting statements about these two. "Now the two brethren were pleased with different courses of life: for Abel, the younger, was a lover of righteousness, and believing that God was present at all his actions, he excelled in virtue, and his employment was that of a shepherd. But Cain was not only very wicked in other respects, but was wholly intent upon getting (gain), and he first contrived to plough the ground." And thus we see that Cain's offering from the works of his covetous heart was rejected of God and thus he was angry and took it out on his brother and killed him. Josephus further reports that in later times Cain only increased his wickedness; "for he only aimed to lay hold of everything that was for his own bodily pleasure, though it caused him to be injurious to his neighbors, and became a great leader of men into wicked courses. He also introduced a change in that way of simplicity wherein men lived before, and was the author of measures and weights."

So we see that sin took great hold of the human race. Josephus also observed that, "even while Adam was alive, the posterity of Cain became exceeding wicked, every one successively dying, one after another, more wicked than the former." But let us remember that sin reigned in its ruinous manner because men gave consent to it and they gave consent because it was the easiest and most convenient course to take. There were a few who sought to turn the tide against such a life, such as Enoch and Noah. These men proved that one does not have to yield to sin but can be a follower of God if they so will or desire. Iniquity is drawn into one's life by the cords of vanity, which we can refuse and choose rather to seek to please and obey God and His holy Word.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why were Cain and Abel so different and what was the difference?
2. What makes us know that Cain could have been accepted by God?

3. Why was he not accepted and what could he have done about it?
4. Why is the way of sin so readily followed by mankind today?
5. What must one do to keep from having sin to be their ruin?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

There are things we have to do and steps we have to take to overcome sin and escape its destruction. We are prone to think that man is a helpless victim of sin and the devil and that there is no way to escape being snared by the power thereof. But we have some witnesses that show that we do not have to go the way of sin. Even before Jesus came into the world to offer Himself as a sacrifice for the atonement of sin, we find various people who sought and found help from God to overcome the power of evil. Enoch and Noah were found righteous before God, and even Enoch was so close to God that he was translated and did not have to die. Noah walked with God in an age where most of the world was sunk in the mire of wickedness. Then we have Abraham, Samuel, Daniel, Job and other righteous people who found favour with God and resisted the temptation to flounder in sin. There is something that we can do in obedience to God that will enable us to offset the destructive ways of Satan. We do not have to throw up our hands and give over to sin. God has blessed those who chose to go His way and He has punished those who went against Him. We are free moral agents and responsible creatures before God. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." James 4:17. Even though Jesus came and offered Himself as an atonement for sin, we still have to take proper action ourselves to correct our sinful condition. This is what repentance is, a straightening up and a submitting ourselves to Him in obedience. If we will to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, we can do it and obtain victory over sin by the help and grace of God. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

God revealed a little secret about sin to Cain; it would do well for us to be let in on that secret too. Here, God compared sin to a dog that crouches at the door, whining to be let in. "Cain," God is saying, "You are the master of this dog. He'll do what you tell him. You'll do fine unless he masters you."

How many people have blindly stumbled through life, giving in to this and that sin or fleshly weakness, yielding their members to all manner of binding yokes and bondages of sin, when all the while, the truth is, *they don't have to do that*. Even whole religious denominations offer nothing better to mankind than, "We all sin; we can't help it." Have they never considered what God said to Cain?

Let's bring this down to everyday living. Each day—each moment—I must *choose* to serve God. I choose to seek His will and wisdom for this day. I choose to yield my mind and body to Him. If I commit adultery today, I would have to *choose* to do that as well. Adultery is not going to just come and overpower me, knock me over, and oops, I sinned. Anger is also a choice. So is fear, unbelief, unforgiveness. If I am to go to the casino today and gamble away my grocery money, I'm going to have to get in my car and drive myself over there—get the picture? It's a choice.

Okay, so just by my power of choice alone I reign over sin? That's not even what God meant when He talked to Cain. Even Cain was to couple his will with a *faith* in the coming Savior, which he failed to do when he refused to bring an acceptable sacrifice, a blood sacrifice which pointed to the atonement of the coming Savior. So we also cannot, by our own will alone, conquer sin—we must *trust in Christ* to save us and keep us from sin, and daily yield our hearts, bodies, minds and wills to Him. When we do that, all of heaven backs us with the power and grace to keep from sin, in thought, word or deed. —Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**JANUARY 16, 2005**

### **SIN WITHOUT THE LAW: INTRODUCTION OF FAITH**

Romans 5:13 For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

14 Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

Romans 4:1 What shall we say then that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, hath found?

2 For if Abraham were justified by works, he hath whereof to glory; but not before God.

3 For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness.

13 For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.

18 Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations; according to that which was spoken, so shall thy seed be.

Hebrews 11:8 By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should afterward receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went.

9 By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise:

10 For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Romans 4:19 And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb:

20 He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

21 And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform.

Hebrews 11:11 Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

18 Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called:

19 Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. James 2:23.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** God used Abraham's faith and confidence in Him as a pattern and example for all men to follow. By following in the steps of the faith of Abraham, we become his children as we believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

## WORD DEFINITIONS

(Rom. 5:13), "*imputed*": put on account, reckoned, or attributed.

(Ver. 14), The Greek renders this: "But death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those not sinning like Adam in his transgression, who is a type of the One coming" (Christ).

(Rom. 4:1), "*pertaining to the flesh*": according to the flesh, or that which is of this earth or present life.

(Ver. 3), "*believed*": This is a key word in this series of lessons. It is the same as the word "faith," both in the Hebrew and the Greek. It means to trust as true and certain, to place confidence and hope in, assurance, reliance, dependence, persuasion and conviction. "*counted*": estimated, esteemed, reckoned and imputed.

(Ver. 13), "*heir of the world*": Abraham was promised the land of Canaan for a possession, but, as Stephen put it in Acts 7:5, "God gave him none inheritance in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on." Therefore we must conclude that God's purpose for Abraham's inheritance went far beyond the earthly land of Canaan. He was to be, as Paul put it here, the heir of the world. But to be in reality the heir of the world, it would have to be an eternal inheritance, for this present earth will pass away at the end of time when the Lord Jesus comes in power and great glory. Abraham's inheritance is an eternal one, united with the Lord Jesus Christ, and His eternal inheritance with the saints in a resurrection unto everlasting life.

(Ver. 18), "*against hope believed in hope*": The Greek says, "Beyond hope believed in hope." This means that Abraham held on to his persuasion of God's promises to him against all odds of contrary earthly sight and physical conditions.

(Heb. 11:9), The Greek says, "By faith he resided as a foreigner in the land of promise (Canaan), dwelling in tents just as Isaac and Jacob also did, the co-heirs of the same promise."

(Ver. 10), "*foundations*": The substructure or what it is built on. This city that Abraham was anticipating as His inheritance was not earthly or material but rather it was of eternal substance. "*builder and maker*": The One who designed, planned and put it together.

(Rom. 4:19), "*considered not his own body now dead*": This means that Abraham did not count his body incapable of

producing offspring as it would seem to be, he being nearly one hundred years old, but he believed in spite of all of this contrary evidence.

(Ver. 20), "*staggered not*": did not hesitate or falter.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our two previous lessons we saw the entrance of sin into the world and its detriment to those who yielded to its influence. We learned of Adam and Eve yielding to the temptation of the devil and also Cain's submission to sin while Abel sought to resist it and obey the will of God. We know that from Cain the course of this world took a downward plunge into evil until God purposed to destroy mankind. But, finding in Noah faith and an obedient heart, He made a way for this faithful man and his family to be saved. But after the destruction of the flood, the power of sin once more took hold of humanity. God looked for a man who would yield to Him and have a faith that He could portray to all the ages as a pattern to follow. He found it in Abraham. In our lesson today we draw from the New Testament writers the various aspects of this man whom God made to be the father of all the faithful. This faith that Abraham manifested is what we want to follow in our New Testament experience of salvation from sin through Jesus Christ. Before God would send light and awareness of sin and its working, He wisely portrayed the faith that man needed to be able to overcome the bondage of sin. This is what He did in Abraham. We must "walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham." (Romans 4:12.) We must apply our hearts to believe in Him who "raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead." (Romans 4:24.) Abraham gave us the example and set the pattern for us to follow that we might live by faith and receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What must there be for sin to be reckoned against man?
2. What did God want to portray to us in Abraham?
3. Why did God bring forth faith before He gave the law?
4. What were the various ways that Abraham manifested his faith?
5. How many of the steps of Abraham's faith can you identify?

## COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Let us consider some of the steps of the faith of Abraham that are mentioned in our lesson today. There are seven distinct steps portrayed in the life of Abraham but we will mention only those in our lesson. First there was his obedience to go out and leave the land of his nativity and not know where he was going. Then there was the time when God told him that he would have a son of his own with Sarah, his wife. He pointed Abraham to look up at the heavens and count the stars, saying, "So shall thy seed be." And it was then that Abraham believed God and it was accounted unto him for righteousness. And then the final scene was when Abraham obeyed God's command to offer up Isaac as a burnt offering. This showed that Abraham truly believed God's promises to Him even if he did obey God and offer Isaac up to Him. These examples of faith are to be followed in our hearts and lives as a vital part of our trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as our Saviour. We are to give up our ways, leave all the world, and launch out on a life of faith and trust in God. We are to believe beyond all sight and outward condition. And we are to sacrifice our dearest treasure and be faithful to obey God to the uttermost. May we be challenged to walk in the steps of Abraham, the father of our faith.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This reminds me of the story of a little ol' lady who was the first to receive electricity in her community. Her electric bill was so low each month that the power company came out to check and see that everything was all right. She reported that everything was working just fine. She turned on the lights every evening long enough to see to light her candles then turned them off again.

While we may chuckle at this crude illustration, we also could be guilty of doing the same. Faith is a switch that if turned on unlocks the power of God. Abraham found this true in his life. The Lord blessed in mighty and miraculous ways simply because Abraham "staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God." Romans 4:20.

Our Saviour performed such great and miraculous things but in Nazareth "he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." Matthew 13:58. Did this mean that our Lord



could not perform miracles? That He lacked ability? No, it means that their lack of faith hindered. It is the one barrier that holds back God's power to work His will.

"...And prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." Malachi 3:10. Turn your faith switch to "on" and just see what the Lord can do for you.

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



**JANUARY 23, 2005**

### **SIN AND WICKEDNESS OF MAN BEFORE THE LAW**

Genesis 6:1 And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,

2 That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

5 And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

13 And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood;...

17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a flood of waters upon the earth, to destroy all flesh,...

18 But with thee will I establish my covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons' wives with thee.

Hebrews 11:7 By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEMORY VERSE:** Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Ezekiel 18:4.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Before the flood in the days of Noah and after the flood in the days of Abraham the earth was full of violence and sin. The law had not yet been given, but man was so wicked and foreign to righteousness that God took special action to manifest His displeasure by sending destruction upon him. There were very few who sought to please God, but God richly blessed and rewarded those who did.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

(Gen. 6:2), *"the sons of God"*: I believe this is referring to the generation of Seth from Adam. After Abel was murdered and Cain had withdrawn, God gave Adam and Eve another son whom they named Seth. Seth had a son named Enos, and Genesis 4:26 says that "then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." In Genesis 5 we trace the lineage of Seth down to Noah and his sons. The seventh from Adam was Enoch, a godly and righteous man who walked with God and was rewarded for his faithfulness by being translated. So we have a basis to believe that the lineage of Seth, for the most part, was a godly line. Noah was three generations down from Enoch. And it was declared that He found grace in God's eyes. But something happened to the

majority of this lineage of Seth. It is evident and found in some ancient writings that the children of Cain began to allure the children of Seth and they did it by the exposing of their women. Our lesson shows that the sons of God looked upon the daughters of men "that they were fair." We cannot tell all that went on, but it is evident that something overwhelmed the sons of Seth and it could have been this attraction of women.

(Gen. 6:3), The Hebrew renders this verse: "And Jehovah said, My Spirit will not always strive with man in their erring (sinful straying), he is fleshly, and his days shall be a hundred and twenty years." The phrase "in their erring" is not in our King James Version. But this shows why God was already becoming grieved and angry with the way man was doing.

(Gen. 6:6), "*repented the LORD*": He was very sorry.

(Gen. 6:13), "*The end of all flesh is come before me*": He is saying that the wickedness of mankind is becoming worthy of destruction.

(II Pet. 2:4), "*angels that sinned*": Although there is much speculation that this is referring to angelic beings who rebelled against God and were cast out of heaven, I feel it more properly fits those of the lineage of Seth who finally gave over to the influence of the lineage of Cain and sinned against the knowledge of God. Peter mentions this just before he mentions the old world destroyed by the flood in Noah's time. And let us remember that Adam was the son of God at the beginning and it was through his disobedience that the sin entered into the world.

(II Pet. 2:7), "*vexed*": The Greek word here means harassed and oppressed. "*filthy conversation of the wicked*": The Greek words it: "the lustfulness conduct of the lawless." It is very evident that the sin of the Sodomites was as Jude 7 said, "fornication and going after strange flesh," which included, as Romans 1:27 said, "men with men."

(II Pet. 2:8), "*vexed*": The Greek word here means tortured and tormented.

(II Pet. 2:9), "*The Lord knoweth how*": The accounts of God moving and working in the behalf of Noah and also of Lot to deliver them from the evils of their day and the judgment that fell on the ungodly society that they lived among is a proof that God yet is able to help us in this present evil age to overcome and escape the destruction of the wicked. Jesus said in Luke 21:36, "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man."

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our lesson today covers two eras of time. For the first we have the days before the flood and the second covers the final days of Sodom and Gomorrah. Both times were filled with wickedness that finally merited complete destruction by the wrath of God. We draw from the account in Genesis 6 concerning the wickedness that filled mankind. Josephus says of this time: "Now this posterity of Seth continued to esteem God as the Lord of the universe, and to have an entire regard to virtue, for seven generations; but in process of time they were perverted, and forsook the practices of their forefathers; and did neither pay those honours to God which were appointed them, nor had they any concern to do justice towards men." So we see that sin was like an infectious disease and its influence spread abroad upon the earth.

From Peter's second epistle we have what he said about this time and that of Sodom and Gomorrah in Abraham's day. Peter brings this out along with his warning against false prophets that would be rising up against the knowledge of the truth that had been brought by Christ. Such false teachers, he declared, would merit unfailing judgment and damnation. Then he referred to these two incidents when the righteous were preserved and delivered from the destruction that came to those around them. Jesus said that in the days of Noah up to the day that the flood came "they did eat, they drank, they married wives, and were given in marriage." He said further that in the days of Lot, "They did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded. But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all." (Luke 17:26-29.) This shows that they were indifferent to any warning from the godly about impending destruction. So it will be, as Jesus said, when He comes again. We are living in the end of the world and it will mean much for us to escape the terrible destruction that is soon to be poured out upon this ungodly world.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What warning can we see from these two accounts in our lesson?
2. What steps must we make to keep from being ensnared by the wicked?
3. What will God do for us if we take heed to His warnings?

4. What are some of the things in this world that vex godly people?

5. Is there any hope of saving the world from this impending destruction?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

If God spared Noah and Lot in their time from the destruction of the wicked, we know that He can and will do the same for those who will be willing to follow Him in His way of holiness. The Lord will make a way for us if we will steadfastly obey Him and hold fast to the end. This present evil world is under the sentence of destruction but we can escape if we will live pleasing and acceptable with God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Peter goes on to say in II Peter 3:3-6, "Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old,...Whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished." There is solid evidence in our earth today that supports the scriptural account of the flood (God's judgment against sin). To deny this evidence is to be "willingly ignorant." People who desire to walk after their own lusts will go to great extent to justify their conduct. Homosexuality (wickedness of Sodom) is now being labeled as an alternate lifestyle instead of just calling it for what it is—sin.

Not only do we have the scriptural accounts of God's judgment against sin but we can witness firsthand the effects and consequences of sin all around us. Homes are falling apart, dreams and hopes are being shattered, lives are being emotionally scarred, thousands of babies are being aborted, AIDS is still destroying lives. Sin is very costly in more ways than one. Think about the billions of dollars that go into building and maintaining prisons and mental hospitals; the money spent in court costs, police patrol, investigations, abused welfare, vandalism, etc. Societies grow and prosper when sin is not prevalent and fall when it is.

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." II Peter 3:7. When the cup of iniquity has waxed full once again, this earth that we know "shall melt with fervent heat." Let us all be careful to maintain the love of God in our hearts; it will be the means of our salvation.

—Bro. Bob Wilson



**JANUARY 30, 2005**

### **THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW GIVEN BY MOSES**

Malachi 4:4 Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments.

Psalms 78:5 For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children.

Isaiah 8:16 Bind up the testimony, seal the law among my disciples.

20 To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them.

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.

Psalms 19:11 Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward.

Romans 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

Galatians 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made:...

Romans 7:5 For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.

8 But sin, taking occasion by the commandment, wrought in me all manner of concupiscence. For without the law sin was dead.

9 For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died.

10 And the commandment, which was ordained to life, I found to be unto death.

11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

12 Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.

13 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. John 1:17.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** After God had established His everlasting covenant with man through the faith of Abraham, He added the testimony of His law to bring to light man's sin and transgression against Him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Psa. 78:5), "*testimony*": witness or record.

(Isa. 8:20), "*To the law and to the testimony*": In the Hebrew this is a solemn exclamation, saying "Concerning the law and the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, then to them is no dawn." It was God's purpose that men should set their hearts upon His law and hold fast to it. Without that special love and respect for God's law there would be no light for the redemption of the soul.

(Rom. 3:19), "*stopped*": silenced. "*guilty*": under judgment and condemnation.

(Gal. 3:19), "*Wherefore then serveth the law?*": Why was the law given? "*added*": put in along with the covenant of faith. God portrayed a splendid example of the faith He desired man to have in Him and His promises of good. It was in the life and steps of Abraham that this faith was exemplified. Four hundred and thirty years later He brought out His laws of righteousness by the hand of Moses. Along with the example of faith He introduced His law to cause man to be made aware of what his sin and error was. As we shall see, these two factors had their conflict with each

other, but in Christ they would be reconciled to work together for man's good.

(Rom. 7:5), "*motions*": appetites, passions, desires. "*work*": to act and make itself known.

(Rom. 7:7), "*lust*," and "*covet*": These are both from the same Greek word, which means a longing or setting one's heart upon; appetite; desire.

(Rom. 7:8), "*sin, taking occasion by the commandment*": Had there been no contrary or opposing law forbidding the fulfillment of the appetite or desire, then sin would not have come into being. God created man with various desires and, in the case of Adam and Eve, was given freedom to fulfill those desires in partaking of the many fruits of the garden of Eden. But God put a limit on the fulfillment of man's desires by forbidding him to partake of one certain tree. This was satan's area to seek to deceive man. By the woman and the man listening and yielding to the suggestion of the enemy by partaking of the forbidden tree, sin was thereby realized. "*concupiscence*": from the same word as "lust" and "covet." "*without the law sin was dead*": Without the knowledge that offense and transgression has taken place, there is no reproof nor guilt; thus man is unaware of the destruction he is in, and sin is not discovered.

(Rom. 7:9), "*alive without the law*": Before he realized that he was breaking God's law and grieving his Maker, he was unaccountable and thus not charged for his sin. This is a child before he comes into the age of accountability. But when knowledge came and made him aware that he was doing wrong and displeasing God, sin came to life and spiritual death took place.

(Rom. 7:11), "*sin deceived me,...slew me*": Sin filled the heart with excuses that made it seem right and proper, directly contrary to the holy commandment, and thus the soul was cut off from spiritual life and innocency.

(Rom. 7:13), "*exceeding sinful*": unrighteous to an excessive degree. The holy commandment helped to show how really bad and evil man's transgression against God was. God was grieved and offended and this meant eternal ruin and separation from life and good unless a Saviour could be found who would turn man back to God and the right.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Today we will consider the law and testimony that God gave through Moses and what its purpose and effect was. It is to be



noted that God gave His law in addition to the covenant He had established through Abraham on the principles of faith. If God had given His law first, then man would have been overwhelmed with condemnation and guilt. But God established the rule of faith and loving trust first and through the strength of this confidence in the heart of man of God's love and help we can meet the challenge of the law of holiness and through the Saviour gain victory over sin and condemnation. Our scripture text declares that God gave the law and that it is to be sought after and held in value but that it also brings to light the sinful nature that we are all born with. We draw from Paul's testimony in Romans 7 of how sin works through the law to bring us into guilt and condemnation and spiritual death. This is a very important and critical truth that every person needs to accept. To fail to be aware of one's sin will prevent the saving grace of Jesus Christ from having any influence or effect. The offer of salvation from sin will have no appeal to the man or woman who is unaware of their defiled and sinful state.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. For what purpose did God introduce His law and testimony in Moses?
2. Why did God want man to love and esteem His commandments?
3. Why is sin dead when there is no law?
4. Why does the law cause sin to come to life?
5. Why does God want sin to be esteemed as exceeding sinful?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

God gave His laws, commandments, statutes, judgments and testimonies through His servant Moses. He desired to give them with such splendor and power that it would be very impressive to man. We find it in Psalm 1, Psalm 19, and Psalm 119 especially expressed of how precious and dear we are to hold His law to our hearts. Even though it brings consciousness of guilt and sin, we are to esteem His laws as right and humble our hearts to seek His loving grace and salvation from the power of sin. It is very important that we, as human beings, be conscious of sin and evil in our hearts and lives. If we have no conviction

for sin, we will have very little sense of our need of His saving grace. But as we realize our sinful state and how we are lost and doomed to eternal ruin in that sinful state, then it will move us to seek the Lord with all faith and desire for His deliverance and salvation from that power of sin and ungodliness.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

When a person is lost in sin they normally do not want anyone to reprove them for their evil deeds. The world has expressions like, "Mind your own business," "You go your way and I'll go mine" and "Do your own thing." Each one wants to do the things that are right in their own eyes without any regard to God or to the rights of others.

When a society falls into a condition where there is no enforcement of law, they are said to be in a state of anarchy. There have been times in disaster areas that these conditions existed and rioting and looting has taken place with every man for himself. Without law and order a society cannot advance. Everything is chaos and every effort is doomed to failure. Try to imagine what it would be like on our highways if there was no control or order. No one would want to stop at an intersection and when the inevitable wrecks occurred everyone would be stopped.

With a little thought it should not be hard to see why the law and its enforcement is important to a society. In the time of Noah, when man became so wicked, God had to destroy them with a flood. When man began to multiply after the flood, God chose the seed of Abraham to be His people and He introduced the Mosaic law to bring about a consciousness of sin with respect to God and among their fellow men. When God's chosen people followed His law the blessings of God were upon them and they prospered but when they strayed from its precepts they were allowed to suffer many sorrows.

We all can appreciate law and order and the Mosaic law was very important for the government of God's chosen people. But only the infinite mind of God could conceive the superior plan that was in His heart for the government of the Spiritual kingdom that He set up with the coming of His Son. The law brings condemnation and it is still important for the sinner to realize that the sentence of death is on him. But when we meet Christ, He removes the sentence of death and frees us from

condemnation and creates within us a new heart. This work of grace makes us free from sin and prepares us to receive His Holy Spirit. Then we become the temple of God and His Spirit reigns in our heart placing His law of righteousness within us where He can direct every aspect of our lives. What a wonderful God!

—DR. WILLIE E. MURPHEY



**FEBRUARY 6, 2005**

### **THE WOEFUL FLIGHT OF SIN**

Isaiah 59:1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

7 Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

9 Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

13 In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

16 And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

17 For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

19 So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

20 And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

**MEMORY VERSE:** His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with cords of his sins. Proverbs 5:22.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Sin and transgression against the gracious and loving Creator and LORD is an awful, terrible and woeful practice and condition of heart. It has the worst and most damaging effect upon mankind and carries the most horrible penalty for all who will not repent and turn from its destructive ways.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Isa. 59:2), "*sin*": an offence. "*iniquity*": perversity, that which is unequal and against righteousness.

(Isa. 59:4), "*vanity*": emptiness. "*conceive mischief*": think up devices and things to work in selfish effort.

(Isa. 59:12-13), "*transgression*": a revolt or breaking away from authority. "*oppression*": injury, fraud, distress, unjust gain. "*revolt*": a turning away and rebelling against truth and right.

(Isa. 59:16), "*intercessor*": one who importunes, seeks to amend a break or division between two parties. This is speaking of Christ Jesus who was to be an intercessor between God and man. "*arm*": the means by which power and strength are wielded. This is also referring to our Saviour, Jesus.

(Isa. 59:17), "*vengeance*": retribution or return against the devil and sin for the damage that has been done to the souls of men. "*zeal*": fervent effort to promote a cause.

(Isa. 59:19), "*lift up a standard against him*": The Hebrew simply says, "shall make him flee."

(Isa. 59:20), "*Redeemer*": This term is used in the Old Testament scriptures to refer to the near kinsman who is to take charge of and restore the property of a widow. It was a law in Israel that if a man should die then the next of kin was to take over the property left by the dead and marry his widow. This is

a beautiful and accurate title for our Lord Jesus Christ. He takes over our lost estate and marries us and brings safety and happiness to our souls.

(Prov. 5:22), The Hebrew renders this: "His own iniquities will capture the wicked; he shall be seized with the cords of his sin."

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our lesson today we go to the gospel prophet Isaiah and his vivid exposition of the awful detriment and deplorable condition that the human race got into because of their departure from the fellowship with God and His holiness. In Romans 3 Paul quoted from this 59<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah along with other quotations from Psalm 5:9, Psalm 14:1-3, Psalm 10:7 and Psalm 36:1. He quotes from verses 7 and 8 in this 59<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah. Paul quoted from these various Old Testament scriptures in declaring that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin. So we have before us a great and sad picture of the way God looks on the scope of mankind. In God's sight all have sinned and come short of His glory. They have not all gone to the same depth, but let us remember that it took but one sin to separate man from God. Sin is progressive and the farther one goes down its sinking path, the worse he or she is likely to get.

It is very important for a person to come to grips with the knowledge of his sinful state. Satan works to dull man's perception of his true condition before God. This is the worst deception a man can have. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to convict man of his sin. Jesus said in John 16:8 that when the Holy Spirit is come He would reprove (or convict) the world of sin, righteousness and judgment. It is so important for a person to have a sensitive and tender heart so that the Holy Spirit can make them to realize their need. The heart can become hard and not feel the guilt and condemnation that one needs to feel. It should be a sincere desire and prayer as is expressed in Psalm 19:12-13: "Who can understand his errors (or transgressions)? cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression." Being presumptuous means to be hardened and not aware of one's sin. It is something to really take to heart and be honest and sincere about.

How wonderful it is and so good to see in the final statements of our lesson the coming of Christ the Redeemer to Zion, to them who are willing to turn from their transgressions and be saved. Through the Spirit of the Lord we can overcome the power of satan and sin and live a victorious life. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How does God want us to think and feel about sin?
2. How does sin affect our relationship with God?
3. Is it possible that we can be unaware of the awfulness of sin?
4. What is needed for us to be able to overcome our sin?
5. To whom is the Redeemer to come?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

There is something about human nature that causes a person to not want to face up to the reality of sin in their life. We are so inclined to have an exaggerated opinion of ourselves to want to think good things about ourselves, and are not willing to confess how deplorable and bad we really are. Proverbs 14:9 says that fools make a mock at sin. This means that they take guilt and conviction for sin very lightly. They do not think it is important or of much matter. "Oh, yes, I know I am not perfect, but——." They make an excuse for sin. Instead of placing the blame and responsibility where it should be, they blame others and circumstances. One of the hardest things for a person to say is, "I am wrong." But until we are willing to confess our sin and own up to the fact that we are lost and undone, we will never be able to abhor and take a stand against sin. Proverbs 28: 13 says, "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." Sin must be acknowledged and totally renounced. This is part of the meaning of repentance. Christ could die a thousand times to atone for our sins but until we repent and turn with our whole heart from our sins we will never find deliverance. That is why this matter of recognizing the terribleness of sin is so important. We can be guilty of heinous sins and still try to make as though we are not really bad. And we will thus go on and on in our sinful state and finally at last end up in eternity without hope and without God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The part of our lesson today that caught my attention was the comparison of our enemy—satan, or sin—being like a flood that would come in and overwhelm us. Have you ever felt temptation like that? I read once of a converted alcoholic who had to sweep the sidewalks near the bar he used to frequent. The nearer he got to the door, where the smell of liquor poured out each time it opened, the stronger grew his temptation, until sweat poured from his body and he trembled violently. Just as he was about to succumb, his friend, the evangelist, came around the corner and grabbed him. He fought wildly for just a moment, then collapsed in tears as the minister led him away to safety.

Well you might think that he could have avoided the whole temptation by staying away from that side of town and that probably would have been best. But there are times in our lives when there is no avoiding the temptation and it sweeps over us to overwhelm us time and again. Is there help? Can there be deliverance? Yes, the promise is that when the enemy comes in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will “make him flee.” What a comforting knowledge that I am not alone and defenseless. I can call upon the Lord—“Lord, save me!”—and resist satan this moment, and the next, and the next, until he has to go.

“Sin resisted tempts no longer, faith in conflict waxes stronger, Standing firm!” —Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**FEBRUARY 13, 2005**

### PROPHECIES OF VICTORY OVER SIN

Psalm 32:1 Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

2 Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

6 For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found: surely in the floods of great waters they shall not come nigh unto him.

Psalm 51:1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Isaiah 53:1 Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the Lord revealed?

2 For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

Micah 7:18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? He retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

19 He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

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

**MEMORYVERSE:** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Through His prophets God promised that a Saviour would come who would make it possible that we can be forgiven of our sins and also to be cleansed and delivered from its woeful bondage.



## WORD DEFINITIONS

(Psalm 32:2), "*guile*": deceitfulness or dishonesty. We must be sincere and willing to face up to our lost and undone condition.

(Psalm 51:2), "*thoroughly*": fully, thoroughly, and completely.

(Psalm 51:3), "*acknowledge*": recognize, and be fully aware of. "*ever before me*": continually in front of me and over against me.

(Psalm 51:4), The Hebrew says, "Against You, only You, have I sinned and done the evil in your eyes that You might be justified in Your speaking and be without fault in Your judging."

(Isaiah 53:2), "*tender plant*": as a shoot or a sprout coming out of a fallen tree. This along with the next phrase, "*a root out of a dry ground*": could well refer to Christ's being conceived in the womb of a virgin. "*no form nor comeliness*": no attractive shape nor majesty to attract our attention. "*no beauty that we should desire him*": No handsome outward bearing that would cause us to find delight in Him.

(Isaiah 53:3), The Hebrew says, "Lightly esteemed and abandoned of man, a man of pains and known of sicknesses; and as hiding faces from Him, being despised, we did not value Him.

(Isaiah 53:4), "*griefs*": sicknesses. "*sorrows*": pains.

(Isaiah 53:5), The Hebrew rendition of this is very good: "But He was pierced for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was on Him, and with His wounds we are healed."

(Micah 7:18), "*passeth by*": passes over, does not hold it against us. "*remnant*": that which remains and is surviving when all else is gone. "*retaineth not his anger for ever*": does not make His anger strong without end.

(Micah 7:19, "*subdue our iniquities*": trample underfoot our iniquities that they rise not up to condemn us again. "*cast all their sins into the depths of the sea*": This means that the blood of Christ will so fully atone for the guilt and condemnation of our sins, that they will never be remembered against us again.

(Isaiah 53:6), "*The LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all*": The Hebrew says, "The LORD has made meet in Him the iniquity of us all." This means that in Christ will be found intercession and importunity for the atonement and forgiveness of all iniquity and sin.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we draw from the Old Testament prophecies the various precious promises of God concerning the coming Saviour and His role of bringing power and victory for the sin problem. Our first prophecy in Psalm 32 is quoted by Paul in Romans 4:6-8. Then we have from Psalm 51 what is said to be the prayer of David in his repentance from his heinous sin of adultery and murder as related in II Samuel 11. In this prayer David makes expression that his sin, although it involved other people, was for the most part really against God and Him only. This He said that God would be justified in whatever punishment and judgment that He might decree. Paul quotes from this in Romans 3:4 when he answered the question, "Shall the unbelief of some make the faith of God without effect?," saying, "God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." It is very clear that all the fault and error and straying is on man's part and God is not to be held responsible for any of it.

From Isaiah 53 we have a portion of the blessed prophecy of the prophet of Christ our Saviour in His atonement and reconciliation for sin. This portion of scripture is quoted different times in the New Testament, especially in I Peter 2:24-25. The Hebrew uses the term sickness in Isaiah 53:4 and is referred to as such when the healing ministry of Christ was described and spoken of like this, "He cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, 'Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.'" Matthew 8:16-17.

Micah 7:18-19 beautifully foretells what God was going to do in the ministry of His Son Jesus in bringing about an end to the reign of sin over our lives. And thank God for the wonderful prophecy of Zechariah 13:1 concerning the fountain of blood that, as William Cowper put it in his wonderful hymn: "There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Immanuel's veins, And sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains." All praise and thanks to God for the fulfillment of these wonderful prophecies in Christ Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of attitude must we have toward God to obtain forgiveness?

2. Why must we lay all responsibility for our sin on us and not on God?

3. What does Isaiah say Christ was to do concerning our sin and transgressions?

4. What does Micah say is to happen to our sins and iniquities?

5. What was the fountain that was opened which Zechariah spoke about?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

How wonderful that God has fulfilled the wonderful prophecies in His word concerning this great salvation that enables us to triumph over sin here below! When Paul quoted from our scripture in Psalm 32 in Romans 4:6-8 he said, "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works." Just think, we can be forgiven, our sins can be covered by the blood of Jesus, and not imputed nor held against us ever again. Our sins and things we were guilty of in our ignorance and blindness of heart would drag us down to a lost world for eternity. We were doomed and destined to be lost forever in eternal night. But we have the privilege to come to the throne of grace and obtain mercy and deliverance. There was One who took upon Himself our sins and bore the blame and judgment of God for us that we might be cleared of all guilt and condemnation. He carried them all before God up to the cross and bled and died for our redemption. We can never thank Him enough but we ought to remember to thank Him often for what He did for us. From His wounds, bruises and broken flesh gushed forth a fountain that pleads before the throne for our peace and reconciliation with God, our heavenly Father.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Let us examine more closely the scripture in Isaiah 53:5. "For he was wounded for our transgressions": Jesus Christ was made to suffer. His blood was shed in cruel crucifixion. Do you comprehend that? Do you know why He underwent such cruelty? It was for our sins. Every crime ever committed, every lie ever told, every foul deed ever performed was covered by the wounds of our Saviour.

"He was bruised for our iniquities": Christ's body underwent cruel torture. His physical body responded in bruising. For

what? For our iniquities. For all of those sins that we did not commit but that we were a victim to; the curse of Adam, the injustices and unfairnesses handed to us by others sins. All of these were covered by the bruising of our Saviour.

"The chastisement of our peace was upon him": The chastisement our Saviour suffered was in a mock trial, in false accusations and in the betrayal of friends. This was for our peace. Have you ever fought a battle in your mind—with your thoughts? Have you ever struggled with your emotions? The Lord endured chastisement for your peace!

"And with his stripes we are healed": A Roman scourging is one of the most cruel of inventions: beating a victim to near death with lashings deep enough to allow internal organs to fall out. But Christ suffered these stripes so that we might have healing in our bodies. We can claim them.

In enduring the cross, Jesus provided for us every spiritual need, every mental need, every emotional need and every physical need. Our hearts melt in gratitude and adoration for the Supreme sacrifice. Oh, what a Saviour! —Sis. LaDawna Adams



**FEBRUARY 20, 2005**

### **JESUS BORN UNDER THE LAW TO REDEEM US**

Galatians 4:4 When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,

5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

7 Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

Hebrews 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

5 Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:

6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin thou hast had no pleasure.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God.

8 Above when he said, Sacrifice and offering and burnt offerings and offering for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law;

9 Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second.

10 By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

11 And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins:

12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

13 From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

14 For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified

**MEMORY VERSE:** Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ. Galatians 4:7.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus was born and raised under the Mosaic law system with its gifts and sacrifices and control. He grew up to respect and honour that law, but His mission was to fulfill that law system with a sacrifice of Himself, in obedience to the will of God, that we might be more than servants to the law, but rather children of God through the generation of His Holy Spirit.

## **WORD DEFINITIONS**

(Genesis 4:4), "*made*": generated, becoming or being brought into being.

(Ver. 5), "*adoption*": a sonship relation to God.

(Ver. 6), "*crying*": calling aloud; exclaiming. "*Abba*": From the Chaldea word which means "father." Many names in the Old Testament had this prefix (Ab), such as: Abram (high father), Abraham (father of a great host or multitude), Abigail (father, or source, of joy), Abimelek (father of the king), Abinadab (father of generosity), Absalom (father of peace), etc. "*Abba, Father*": In the Greek it is an expression of exclamation, i.e. "Abba, Father!"

which is an expression of love, adoration, joy and rapturous delight. This is the relationship that Christ came to bring and make possible for us to have with God, as a child reaching out for its dearly beloved parent.

(Ver. 7), "*servant*": a slave, one who is subservient, subject and submissive to another's control with no rights or privileges or special relationship. The law demanded obedience and brought the soul under bondage with no special bond or loving kinship. In the Lord Jesus Christ we are brought into a loving and affectionate relationship with God in which we are joyful, free and heirs of His fabulous wealth. "*son*": kinship or relation through being the begotten offspring. "*heir*": one who rightfully receives and inherits the possessions of another.

(Hebrews 10:1), "*shadow and not the very image*": having similar form or shape but not the entire and detailed likeness.

(Ver. 5), "*Wherefore*": because of the imperfection of the sacrificial system of the old law. "*when he cometh into the world*": The writer is applying the scripture following from Psalm 40:6-8 as referring to Christ in His entrance into the realm of humanity. This is one of the many examples of how the Holy Spirit used the Old Testament scriptures to reveal the Saviour.

(Ver. 7), "*volume*": the roll. Those ancient volumes that we call "books" were rolls of material on which the laws were handwritten. He is referring here to the Old Testament writings in which are the prophecies of Christ Jesus.

(Ver. 9), "*first*": The old law system. "*second*": The new law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus that makes us free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:2.

(Ver. 10), "*by the which will*": This means the will of God that Christ came to do and accomplish by His obedient sacrifice of His life on Calvary as an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour. (Ephesians 5:2.) By Christ doing that perfect will of God we can attain to a sanctified and Holy Spirit-filled experience right here in this present life. "*once for all*": One time for all time. Under the old law system there were many sacrifices and none of them accomplished perfection for those exercised therein. But by the virtue and influence of this one perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ of His life and life's blood, we can be perfected forever and ever. "*sanctified*": made holy, purified and consecrated to love and serve God.

(Ver. 13), "*henceforth expecting*": from then on, (having ascended up to the right hand of God), looking eagerly and with

loving anticipation to that day when He will come in power to raise the dead and gather His loving Bride, the Church, to that eternal world of love and happiness.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Today we will consider Christ coming under the old law system to bring about a deliverance from that old system to a better and more perfect way. Christ did come under the law. His parents took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord and offer the sacrifices required. He was raised to respect the feasts at Jerusalem and the ceremonies. But He knew that those ceremonies and sacrifices were not sufficient to do the work needed to be done in the heart of man. And He knew that He was Himself to be the real sacrifice to accomplish the good pleasure of God in man. We draw our scriptures from Paul's writing to the Galatians and that of the Hebrew letter. In Hebrews the writer quotes from Psalm 40:6-8 and applies it to Jesus coming into the world to offer Himself as the real sacrifice that was needed to bring perfect holiness to the souls of men. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. For what purpose did Jesus come to redeem those who were under the law?
2. What is the difference between a servant and a son?
3. Why were the sacrifices offered under the law not sufficient?
4. What did the prophet foretell was Christ's purpose in coming into the world?
5. What was accomplished through Christ offering His body as a sacrifice?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

In comparing the expressions in Psalm 40:6-8 with the quotation in Hebrews 10:5-7 we note a difference: In the Psalm reading he says in verse 6, "mine ears hast thou opened," and in Hebrews the quote is "a body hast thou prepared me." Adam Clarke gives the reason for this. It was a correction that the Greek Septuagint translation used by the writer supplied in correcting an error made in the copying from the Hebrew. One commentator pointed out that in the Hebrew the two words

"ears" and "body" were quite similar and somehow it was wrongly translated as "ears," but in translating it into the Greek Septuagint the error was detected and it was rendered as "body." This points so accurately to the body that Christ had that was offered as the supreme sacrifice for the sins of mankind. It was a prepared body, divinely formed in the virgin womb of Mary and brought forth to be the perfect sacrifice that would suffice to atone for the sins of the world.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I marvel at the revelations God gave Paul concerning the relationship between the Old Testament and New Testament dispensations. Much of his writings use illustrations to explain this relationship. The early morning church struggled to comprehend the role of the Old and New Testaments. The transition was accompanied with much confusion and misunderstanding.

In Romans 7:13 speaking of the law, he said, "Was then that which is good (law) made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin,...that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful." Verse 24, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" The law was to bring us to this very point: the recognition of my sin. Romans 3:19, "Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God." The law was a schoolmaster to bring us to Christ. The law and prophets foreshadowed Christ.

Are you glad that God didn't just leave us there? After He established the concept of sin He presented us with the remedy. The law made nothing perfect but the bringing in of a better hope did. We stand in awe at the beauty of God's plan; it gives a sure foundation for our faith in the Son of God—Jesus Christ our Lord!

—Bro. Bob Wilson

**Notice:** If your subscription expired with this quarter, please send your renewal at once. It is necessary that your subscription for the second quarter of 2005 be in this office by March 1st. For your convenience there is an order blank at the back of this book.



**FEBRUARY 27, 2005**

**THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THE POOR**

Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

Psalms 9:18 For the needy shall not alway be forgotten: the expectation of the poor shall not perish for ever.

Psalms 10:14 Thou hast seen it; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite it with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

Psalms 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.

Psalms 72:1 Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.

4 He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

12 For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.

13 He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.

14 He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

74:19 O deliver not the soul of thy turtledove unto the multitude of the wicked: forget not the congregation of thy poor for ever.

21 O let not the oppressed return ashamed: let the poor and needy praise thy name.

Proverbs 18:23 The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.

Isaiah 29:18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness.

19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

Isaiah 66:1 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?

2 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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. II Corinthians 8:9.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** It is to the poor and needy that the gospel of the Son of God is directed to. They who sense their need of salvation to save them from their woeful sins and have nothing to plead but the mercy and grace of God can find peace and deliverance from their sins.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Matt. 5:3), "*poor in spirit*": beggarly, destitute and needy in heart and attitude. It means to be conscious of one's dire need and a willingness to take whatever steps are required to get that need fulfilled. It is meekness, humility, lowliness and being empty of self and vanity.

(Psalm 10:14), "*spite*": grief, trouble and vexation. "*committeth*": loosens, relinquishes and leaves one's self in the hands of God.

(Psalm 72:4, 12-13), "*needy*": sensing and realizing one's want, being like a beggar; destitute.

(Psalm 74:19), "*turtledove*": This is a term of endearment and heart affection. The poor, who are broken in spirit and submissive to God, are very precious in His sight.

(Prov. 18:23), "*intreaties*": The Hebrew meaning is "earnest prayer and supplication."

(Isa. 29:19), "*meek*": A very vital word this is, meaning in the Hebrew to be depressed in mind, gentle, lowly, needy and saintly.

(Isa. 66:2), The Hebrew rendition is very good: "And all these things My hand has made and all these things exist, states Jehovah, but to this one will I look intently at and regard with pleasure, to the afflicted and contrite of spirit, and is reverent and fearful at My Word."

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We feel inspired of the Lord to consider for our lesson today the importance of being poor in spirit and attitude before God and our fellow man. We have several scriptures that express the special concern and care God has for the poor. In the laws and statutes that God gave to Israel are several special considerations for the poor. God commanded them to exact no usury from the poor and never to pervert a poor man's judgment in his cause. Every seventh year they were to let the land lie idle and allow the poor to come and take what grew of itself. They were not to glean their vineyards but let the poor have what grapes were left after harvesting. They were not to cut the corners of their grain fields but let the poor have what grew there. God counseled them to be generous to the poor and open their hand wide to them.

But, as it is with everything else, the Lord God is looking at the heart and the attitudes within, so He is going farther than poverty that consists of the lacking of material things. He wants people to be poor in spirit. He wants us to realize and be aware of just how poor we really are. He does not want us to think of ourselves above what we ought to think but to think soberly that God has given us what we have and we owe everything to Him. We have nothing of ourselves, it is all the goodness of God to us. Pride causes a man to think more highly of himself than he ought to think. We are all poor and needy whether we realize it or not, and a man who is unconscious of how poor he really is makes himself a lie and a seed of falsehood.

Our first two scriptures were spoken by Jesus in His sermon on the Mount and in the synagogue at Nazareth where He went on the Sabbath day and stood up for to read. He read from what we have as the 61<sup>st</sup> chapter of Isaiah about the Spirit of the Lord anointing Him to preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to deliver the captives, to open the eyes of the blind and to set at liberty the bruised. These were the needy of humanity. He told them that day that this scripture was to be fulfilled in their ears. But, sad to say, the people of Nazareth did not feel their need and rejected His words. They were not poor in spirit nor did they sense their true need. He spoke to them further of the prophet Elijah and the one poor widow he was sent to. He spoke of Naaman, the Syrian leper who was cleansed above all other lepers in Israel. He illustrated this thought of being poor and needy in these two examples.

Each of our scriptures show the importance of being poor. For it is to the poor that the grace of salvation can really be successfully administered. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why is it so important for us to be aware of how poor we really are?
2. Why is God so merciful and favorable to the poor and needy?
3. What are some of the ways that we must be poor in ourselves?
4. Why does the gospel of Christ have little or no effect on so many people?
5. Can you think of some of the poor people who were helped by Christ?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

In Matthew 15:21-28 and Mark 7:24-30 we have the account of a poor and needy woman coming to Christ for the healing of her daughter who was grievously vexed with a devil. When she first presented her distress to Jesus He answered her not a word. She could have taken offense at being ignored, but no, this woman had a need. His disciples came and asked Jesus to send her away and Jesus bluntly told her that He was not sent but to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. (The woman was a Greek, a Gentile and not a Jew.) She could have been discouraged and hurt by this but she came and prostrated herself before Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" And then Jesus gave the final word that could have really turned her away. He answered and said, "It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs." Now if there had been any pride or self-esteem in this woman's heart she would have remonstrated in anger and turned away. But, no, this woman had a need. She humbled herself and willingly accepted the position of a dog, saying, "Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." Oh, how this touched the Saviour's heart! This woman received the healing for her daughter by assuming the poor and needy attitude. Her daughter's healing was linked up to her attitude and disposition of heart.

There was a woman one time who was sent by her children to come and stay with one of God's ministers and his wife. The old sister's only support was her old age pension. In the move she

lost contact with her social welfare board and she got it in her mind that she did not need the pension anymore. When the welfare worker visited her about it, she flatly stated that she did not need it. She said she had thousands of dollars in a bank back in Texas that she inherited from her granddaughter. The minister's wife tried to explain that this was not so, but the welfare worker said that this was her testimony and they would have to look into it. That woman was delayed in getting her welfare check for several months simply because she got it in her mind that she did not need it. That is the way many people are spiritually speaking. They have needs but in their own mind they do not need anything. And, sad to say, this keeps them from obtaining the things that they need so desperately. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

While God has great concern for the poor of this world, poverty itself will not bring you into favor with God. There are many impoverished people who are filled with sin and pride and are separated from what God would like to do for them. For some, it may even be that their sins are responsible for bringing them into their state of poverty.

From time to time there have been people that have come into the Print Shop and wanted a hand out—basically money. When they were offered a book that would help them spiritually they might take it out of courtesy but it was obvious they had little interest in spiritual things. Their eyes seemed to be totally focused on earthly things.

There is a special blessing awaiting those who are poor in spirit. One who is poor in spirit is going to be hungry and thirsting after righteousness and their eyes are going to be lifted above the things of this world—they will be looking to God to fill their need and the promise is that they will be filled. God delights in revealing Himself to those who seek after Him with all their heart and they will find the kingdom of heaven with all of its eternal riches.

The Bible mentions the fatherless, the widows and the strangers in several places. All three of those classes of people were usually poor and had needs and the Lord considered their oppression to be an offense against Him, especially when they were calling on Him in their need. The Lord may allow His

children to go through hard times but they should not be discouraged because the Lord has special promises for them. Jesus said, "Are not five sparrows sold for two farthings, and not one of them is forgotten before God? But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not therefore: ye are of more value than many sparrows." Luke 12:6-7. God will care for His children and often those who have been in those hard places are full of faith in God. They become spiritual giants because they have had their prayers answered many times and have learned how to trust Him in their need.

God's true ministers are willing to take the gospel to the poor as well as the rich. Sometimes they will travel many miles to minister to the poor when they know that those they are ministering to will not be able to compensate them for their sacrifice and yet they have a hunger for the truth of God's Word. In an article that Bro. C. E. Orr published in the *Faith and Victory* before his death later that same month of September 1933, he said, "Forty years ago, I was planning to go 100 miles to preach to some poor saints. I had money to pay my way only about 60 miles, thus leaving me 40 miles to walk. One of the old pioneers said to me: 'Bro. Orr, I advise you not to do that. I would not go if they did not send me the money to come on.' His remark troubled me. I went in prayer to God and He said to me, 'I am planning your life for you; obey Me.' It is often good to get advice from others, but I want to warn all to not do this to the exclusion of not letting God plan your life.'

May we each one share the same burden that Christ has for those in need and may we also have a fervent desire for spiritual things so that God will be pleased to give us the kingdom of heaven.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey

**MARCH 6, 2005**

### **THE GOSPEL; A MESSAGE OF HOPE**

Psalm 102:16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer.

19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth:

20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death.

Isaiah 25:7 And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.

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

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: repentance shall be hid from mine eyes.

Zechariah 9:12 Turn you to the strong hold, ye prisoners of hope: even to day do I declare that I will render double unto thee.

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Luke 20:34 And Jesus answering said unto them, The children of this world marry, and are given in marriage:

35 But they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage:

36 Neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:54 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.

**MEMORY VERSE:** 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. II Corinthians 5:1.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The Lord God Almighty spoke through His prophets of the wonderful hope that His anointed Son would bring to us poor prisoners under the sentence of death. He promised to abolish death and bring us up from the grave to eternal life. This hope is the stronghold anchor of our souls, both sure and steadfast.

### **WORD DEFINITIONS**

(Psa. 102:17), "*He will regard*": He will turn His heart toward.

(Psa. 102:20), "*those appointed to death*": The Hebrew says simply, "the sons of death." This is referring to us mortals who pass our days with the sentence of death facing us, always in the valley of the shadow of death. He will loosen this sentence and give us hope of life beyond the tomb.

(Isa. 25:7-8), "*covering, veil*": Paul spoke of the veil upon the heart of man untaken away in the reading of the Old Testament; which veil is done away in Christ. (II Corinthians 3:14-15.) Then he spoke of the Spirit which opens up and gives us access and liberty to behold the glory of the Lord. In the anointing and inspiration of the Holy Spirit we can be delivered from the veil of blindness that has prevented us from seeing the truth. This also can be applied to the veil of the flesh that we are all under in this mortal, earthly pilgrimage, the veil that Christ entered through when He suffered the death of the cross. (Hebrews 10:20.) "*swallow up death in victory*": The Hebrew says, "make away with or destroy death forever." "*rebuke*": reproach.

(Hosea 13:14), "*ransom them from the power of the grave*": The Hebrew says, "sever or release them from the hand of Sheol, which is the corresponding word to the Greek term "hades" which has the same meaning, that is, the world of departed souls. "*repentance shall be hid from mine eyes*": This means that concerning these things God will not change His mind or purpose.

(Zech. 9:12), "*stronghold*": an anchor, fortress; something sure and steadfast. "*prisoners of hope*": This is the same expression as we had in Psa. 102:20 where it spoke about the groaning of the prisoners in the prison house of this mortal life under the sentence of death on account of sin. A few verses above this, in verse 9, the prophet foretells Jesus, just and having salvation, coming unto the daughter of Zion, saying He would



speaking peace to the heathen, and that by the blood of His covenant He would send forth the prisoners out of the pit wherein is no water. This is the prison house of sin. Christ delivers us from that, but we are still in the prison house of this mortal flesh, and we are to flee "for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil." Hebrews 6:18-19. "*render double*": This means that God will more than make up for what we might suffer in this life of vanity.

(II Cor. 5:1), "*tabernacle*": a hut, tent, or temporary residence, speaking of this mortal body.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we want to consider a very vital part of the great plan of salvation that is coupled with the deliverance from the power of sin. And that is the blessed hope that we have in Christ of being delivered from the bondage of the corruption of this mortal to that of immortality. I would like to quote from an old ancient history book that I had in the sixth grade of school. The volume is entitled "Old Europe and Our Nation" published by Row, Peterson and Company of Evanston, Illinois. In the chapter entitled "The Spread of Christianity" the writer was telling of the state of humanity in those times when Christ was born during the Roman Empire. He states: "When the Roman Empire grew weaker and its peoples suffered from hunger and poverty and ill treatment, men longed for a religion which would give them comfort and hope. They began to say to themselves that there must be kind, sympathetic gods who would help people in trouble. Many also began to hope that there was a happy life after death. They had so much trouble that they said there must be a better world to which they would go when they died. *They longed for a heaven that would make up for all that they suffered on earth.*"

Thus we can see why the gospel of Christ was prophesied to be the wonderful hope and consolation that was needed. We have chosen various scriptures from the Old Testament, most of which are quoted and referred to in the New Testament. Psalm 102 is quoted from in Hebrews 1:10-12, Isaiah 25 and Hosea 13 are quoted in I Corinthians 15, while Zechariah 9 is referred to and the fulfillment described in all four of the gospels. We have two distinct statements of our Saviour, also, concerning this blessed hope.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who are the prisoners of hope and what is the stronghold to be turned to?
2. What kind of prison are we confined to as mortals in this present life?
3. How is death going to be "swallowed up in victory?"
4. How can we be assured that we will be accounted worthy of the resurrection?
5. What is this mortal body likened to compared with the immortal body?

## **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

It will mean much for us to be accounted worthy or qualified to obtain the resurrection from the dead, as Jesus said. Revelation 20:6 says, "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power." We must be risen from the dead state of sin to a new creature in Christ Jesus. Romans 8:11 tells us that "He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." We must also then have His Spirit living and working within us. And, Paul, in Philippians 3:9-11 stated that he sought to have the righteousness of the faith of Christ, and also to know (actually experience) Christ and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto (in the likeness of) His death, *"If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead."* From these sayings we can get a very definite understanding of what it will take to be accounted worthy to obtain that world and to have a part in that final resurrection. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

In his commentary, Adam Clarke gives an illustration of the verse in Hebrews 6:18-19. We Christians, he says, are like a large ship that has been at sea. The world is the tempestuous sea and we seek to dock safely in the harbor of heaven. The passage is too strait and difficult for the large vessel, so a little boat is sent into the harbor with the anchor on board. Jesus is that little boat, our "forerunner" who has gone beyond the veil of flesh into heaven itself, to intercede for us who come afterward. He firmly secures our anchor, HOPE, in heaven, and we are securely tied to our heavenly hope by the strong cord of faith. In this manner

we bravely ride out the storm. Our anchor is sure and steadfast and our tether is able to endure and overcome the world. When the storm at last abates, we ride in the tide to the safe harbor of heaven at last.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



**MARCH 13, 2005**

### **THE AMAZING GRACE OF CHRIST JESUS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

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

Titus 3:1 Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,

2 To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men.

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6 Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour;

7 That being justified by his grace we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

**MEMORY VERSE:** For if by one man's offence death reigned by one: much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Through the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ there has been provided a quickening power and wonderful grace that can transform an ungodly sinner into a loving and obedient saint of God.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Eph. 2:2), "*prince of the power of the air*": This is satan, the authority of the power of evil spirits and the influence that they wield in the realm of mankind.

(Eph. 2:3), "*we all had our conversation*": we all conducted ourselves.

(Eph. 2:5), "*quickened*": made alive; resurrected from the dead state of sin to a life of righteousness and fellowship with God. "*grace*": graciousness, help, assistance and the influence of divine love upon the heart. It is the unmerited, undeserving favor and outreach of uplifting strength offered from the heavenly Father to the humble and poor in spirit who are willing to love, follow and obey Him.

(Eph. 2:7), "*in the ages to come*": In the succeeding generations of mankind upon the earth clear up to the end of time and in the eternal ages that will follow.

(Titus 3:2), "*no brawlers*": not contentious nor quarrelsome.

(Titus 3:3), "*divers*": different, various. "*malice*": badness, depravity, being full of ill will and being harmful and dangerous. "*envy*": jealousy, evil and mean feeling with an intent to hurt.

(Titus 3:5), "*washing*": a bathing and cleansing. There are three agents in this washing accomplished in salvation: They are (1) the washing of obedience to the Word of God, (2) the cleansing wrought through the atonement of the precious blood of Christ

Jesus, and (3) the refining and purifying fire of the Holy Spirit. "regeneration": rebirth, renovation, and restoration; a new beginning and life from what was dead and useless.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our lesson today is on the wonderful and amazing work of the grace of God in people's lives. No other power or influence on the scroll of time has accomplished what the influence of that one solitary life of the meek and lowly Jesus has made available to mankind. We have the words of one whose background was far from what he speaks of in these scriptures! The apostle Paul in these two epistles expresses in beautiful language the work of grace that he experienced in his own life and what many, many others have experienced in the ages following his. In the first chapter of Ephesians Paul brought out about spiritual blessings in heavenly places, the predestined plan of God before the foundation of the world, the sonship we can have through Christ, the redemption through His blood, the dispensation of the fullness of times that gathers all humanity into one, the inheritance we have obtained through Him, and the great power that God wrought in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places. These are wonderful themes, far beyond the imagination of the human mind, yet so true and real and certain. Christ, from His exalted position at the right hand of God, wields a power and influence that has transformed people of every age and kindred and tongue. He is still wielding that power and influence today. He still is able to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them. (Hebrews 7:25.)

No matter what one's past behavior has been, the quickening grace of God in Jesus Christ can bring about a new life. Blessed are all that experience His transforming grace! He makes it clear that this wonderful salvation is not according to our works but rather by His grace and instead of our efforts and works, it is God working in us, creating and producing in Him the intended life that God had in mind from the beginning.

And we have included also Paul's wonderful exposition of this amazing grace that he wrote to his beloved son in the faith, Titus. What a dark picture he flashes to our minds! Foolish, disobedient, deceived, we served the lusts and desires of the foolish and frivolous flesh, stained along with our lustful pas-

sions were the sharp piercings of malice, envy, hatred and wrath. But God was rich in mercy and kindness and love. He made a way that we can be saved if we want to be saved. He is not going to force anyone but He has worked out a plan that we can amend our ways and find grace and help for our souls. Let us rejoice and be glad in what the Lord has provided and make sure that we have our portion of grace and faith that we might overcome this wicked world and live to please Him.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What did our Lord Jesus do in order to bring this grace to us?
2. What part did our heavenly Father have in it all?
3. What can the grace of God accomplish for those spiritually dead in sin?
4. What are the heavenly places that we are raised up to?
5. What are we heirs to in being partakers of this amazing grace?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

We have the testimonies of many poor, lost sinners whose lives were transformed by the grace of God. Think of the apostle Paul who was at one time going about to stamp out the name of Jesus through severe persecution of His followers. He did it ignorantly in unbelief. He was a blasphemer, persecutor and injurious. "And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus." I Timothy 1:14. I heard of a revival meeting being held in Chicago in which was a policeman who was really contesting the efforts being made. But in the midst of the conflict, one of the saints was inspired to write the song, "Since Jesus Came Into My Heart," and they said that when that hard hearted policeman heard that song, it took hold of him and melted him down and he turned to the Lord and was saved. Oh, it has happened so many times through the ages. Think of John Newton, the slave trader, who was bent on his wicked way, but through the prayers of his sainted mother, he was changed and became a worker for Jesus, giving us that wonderful song, "Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see!"

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"But he giveth more grace." James 4:6. I remember Bro. Ostis Wilson saying, "How much is more grace? Well, it's more and more and more and more—and more grace on top of that!"

While observing the wickedness all around us can be overwhelming, we can rest in the grace of God. Romans 5:20 has another comforting verse for us in that "where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." Is wickedness increasing? Certainly, all around us. But God's grace increases too! Is sin abounding? Yes, we see it on every hand. But His grace abounds too! Just think, we have opportunity for more grace than any generation before.

With the grace of God we can handle whatever comes our way. It is a solution to every problem; an answer to every snare the enemy uses against us. "All his grace is free as the air we breathe, we may each have a full supply." Be encouraged to breathe deep.

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



MARCH 20, 2005

### SPIRITUAL LIFE IN CHRIST

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.

**MEMORY VERSE:** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. I Corinthians 2:14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The real fulfillment of the law of God is an inward life of the Spirit of God abiding in the soul and we, as born again and Spirit led children, follow the leadings of the Holy Spirit in the things we do and say.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Rom. 8:1), "*no condemnation*": No adverse sentence nor verdict of guilt.

(Ver. 2), "*law of the Spirit of life*": The indwelling Holy Spirit gives life and energy to the individual to go against the temptations of the flesh and to do what is pleasing in God's sight. "*law of sin and death*": Under the law without the indwelling Holy Spirit, there was no inward strength to resist temptation and one just followed his own selfish impulses and desires.

(Ver. 3), "*condemned sin in the flesh*": put judgment or sentence against the sinful practices of the flesh life.

(Ver. 5), "*after the flesh*": This means to be in accord with or in tune with the fleshly desires and catering to their gratification. Those who are inclining after the earthly, material, worldly and natural things are going to be exercising their mind and desires in that direction. But those who are seeking and desiring



spiritual, heavenly and eternal values are going to be exercising their mind and desires in that same direction. This takes pure decision and fervent, steadfast faith to follow.

(Ver. 6), "*carnally minded*": fleshly, earthly, materially, and worldly concern, care, interest and desire. This kind of doings and goings bring the soul into a state of spiritual death and separation from communion with God.

(Ver. 7), "*enmity*": hostility and opposition.

(Galatians 5:16), "*Walk*": This means to live for, conduct one's self in accord with, and follow ardently after.

(Ver. 17), "*lusteth against*": has desires and thoughts in opposition to. "*so that ye cannot do the things that ye would*": This is telling us that if we are going to be led by the Holy Spirit, we cannot do many things that we may be tempted or feel inclined to do. The Spirit must rule our desires, our thoughts, our motives and our reactions. We will be tempted to say or do something from the feelings and sensations of our natural self, but we must be on guard and exercise much restraint and self-control. Whoever refuses or fails to do so will not succeed in the Christian life.

(Ver. 19), "*works*": actions, deeds and doings. "*unclean-ness*": impurity "*lasciviousness*": a seeking to fulfill the desires of the flesh without any guideline or self-control; loose morals and unbridled lusts.

(Ver. 20), "*idolatry*": Love, devotion, interest and admiration for anything above the worship and service of God. "*witchcraft*": The Greek word here is "*pharmaceia*," from which comes our word "*pharmacy*," which has to do with drugs and medications. "*variance*": quarrels, contentions and wrangling. "*emulations*": jealousy. "*seditions*": dissensions and divisions. "*heresies*": parties, sects or disunions that split off from the holy saints of God and the way of true holiness.

(Ver. 21), "*revellings*": Loose and uncontrolled enjoyment of fleshly pleasures.

(I Cor. 2:14), "*the natural man*": The Greek says, "the animal man." God wants man to be more than the brute beasts whose only intent is to satisfy its lusts and appetites. If a man lives to the fleshly desires with no concern nor regard for spiritual values, he is on no higher level than the beast of the field.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Today we take up the subject of being spiritually minded and under the leadership and rule of the Holy Spirit. This is the solution to the age-old problem of being under the domination of the desires of the flesh that causes sin, which brings condemnation, guilt and separation from God. Jesus made the infilling of the Holy Spirit available to us, and it is only through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit in our hearts and lives that we can overcome sin and live a life well pleasing to God.

We take our scripture text from the apostle Paul's writings to the Romans and to the Galatians. This is a very vital teaching that people need to give heed to and understand. Many false doctrines have arisen that keep people from really understanding the plan of God. So many churches and religions teach that we cannot but yield to the flesh and sin more or less every day. Through perverted views and ideas from Romans 7, where Paul tells of his law experience with sin and frustration, many false teachers have poisoned the minds of their followers with this awful "sin you must, and sin you cannot help it" doctrine. Let us view these truths with open minds and willing hearts. There is victory for us over all sin through being led and strengthened by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why was man not able to live free from sin with just the law experience?
2. What did Christ do to bring victory over sin into our hearts and lives?
3. What is the secret of living a successful Christian life?
4. What sacrifices must we daily make to live a spiritual and holy life?
5. What did Paul say about people who do the works of the flesh?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, introduced and made available to us a wonderful world of spiritual realities. He introduced in John 3 a spiritual rebirth. In John 4 Jesus announced to the woman at the well the spiritual well and water, and He brought to light the true worship of God which is spiritual worship. In John 6 Jesus spoke of spiritual food, the Bread of life

which was Himself. Then we have through the scriptures other spiritual things. There are spiritual blessings, spiritual treasures, spiritual pleasures, spiritual strength, spiritual beauty, spiritual light and spiritual understanding. There is the spiritual house, Rock, building, kingdom, priesthood, Jew, Jerusalem, circumcision, protection, guidance, eyesight, hearing, taste, discernment, wings for flight, warfare, weapons, healing, fellowship, and many other things that we, as the children of God, need to seek for in our Christian life. Being born again and led by the Spirit of God is the only way we can truly be children of God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

A minister once commented, "I am my worst enemy." He was referring to the flesh. Jesus once turned and told the following crowd, "He that will come after, let him deny himself, take up his cross and follow me." Paul mentioned that he "died daily." Death precedes life. If there is not death of the flesh, there will be no life of the spirit. Jesus taught to "watch and pray, the spirit indeed is willing but the flesh is weak." Our watching involves a consideration or evaluation of our thoughts, actions and motives. It is a full-time job for the Christian. When I begin to recognize an area of the flesh beginning to gain strength and control it is for me to crucify through the spirit.

Once a sister related to Bro. Ostis Wilson how she had prayed and prayed that the Lord would crucify her flesh completely. Bro. Ostis responded to the sister, "That is your responsibility." Pilate asked the crowd who they wanted to release, Christ (spiritual man) or Barabbas (fleshly man). The crowd cried for Christ to be crucified. Sad to say we hear the same verdict today. Let the flesh go free and let the spiritual man be crucified. That is exactly what happens when the flesh is allowed to go free. "If you live after the flesh, ye shall die."

As a young Christian, I read over and over about the "flesh" and wondered what it meant; we are flesh and blood created by God. Then I began to consider all the functions we do in the flesh. Eat, drink, touch, taste, see, etc. God created us with these senses. They are given to us to enjoy the creation He put us in. There is nothing wrong with sitting down and enjoying a good meal. The wrong comes when I become excessive with the appetites and they begin to dominate my life or I exercise them outside of His expressed will. Temperance and moderation are very important to the Christ life.

—Bro. Bob Wilson

**MARCH 27, 2005**

**JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN FROM THE DEAD**

Revelation 1:17 ...Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

I Corinthians 15:1 Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;

2 By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.

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.

Romans 14:9 For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more: death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Romans 7:4 Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.

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

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

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

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

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

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

**MEMORY VERSE:** If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. I Thessalonians 4:14.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Through His death and resurrection Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament scriptures, brought an end to the old law system, broke the power of sin and set us free from it, abolished death, brought life and immortality to light and took to Himself a bride forever of all who love and obey Him.

### WORD DEFINITIONS

(Rev. 1:18), "*forevermore*": The Greek expression is: "to the ages of the ages."

(I Cor. 15:2), "*believed in vain*": believed idly, without reason or effect.

(Rom. 14:9), "*rose and revived*": rose and lived again.

(Rom. 6:10-11), "*hedied untosin once*": Christ not only died for sin but He also died to sin. He died as an atonement for our sins, but He also died a death to sin for us that we might be able to die to sin and quit the sin business forever. He died this death to sin once for all of us. "*reckon*": estimate, count or conclude.

(Rom. 7:4), "*dead to the law by the body of Christ*": Christ was put to death, we might say, by the law. In Galatians 3:13-14 Paul declared, "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Our Saviour's body was bruised and broken and murdered by the decree of the Jewish Sanhedrin because they believed that He had broken their laws. He really had not broken the law of God but they accounted Him guilty of such and sentenced Him to the death of the cross. Thus Christ became a curse for us so that we could be delivered from the curse of the law. Thus by His body we are made dead to the law but we are married to Christ who rose from the dead to everlasting joy and communion with us.

(Col. 3:5), "*inordinate affection*": unlawful passions. "*concupiscence*": unbridled lusts and desires.

(I Thess. 4:14), "*those which sleep in Jesus*": Those who have passed away who loved and followed Jesus. "*will God bring with Him*": God will resurrect those who have died in the faith

of Jesus and they will be right with Jesus and all the rest of the redeemed. In II Corinthians 4: 14 Paul declared again, "Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." What a great host that will be in that resurrection day who will be standing before Christ as was pictured in Revelation 7:9, "a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands." In verse 14 this throng was identified thus, "These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

For our final lesson and in accord with Easter Sunday inspirations we will consider the triumphant resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ and some of its implications and wonderful meaning. It was one week prior to the morning of His resurrection from the tomb that He had ridden into Jerusalem on the back of a donkey. The people had welcomed Him with palm branches and garments spread in the way crying, "Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord." In less than one week He had incurred the wrath of the leaders and they had conspired to arrest Him. He was arrested and hurried through a mock trial one night and executed as a criminal on a Roman cross the next morning. His disciples were plunged in grief and fear. Despite all of the miracles and healings He had done, in His humiliation His judgment was taken away. He was crucified between two thieves, one of which confessed faith in Him and begged for His remembrance. Though the hopes of those who had followed Him seemed shattered, yet when the report began to spread that He was alive and being seen by His disciples, the light of a new day began to dawn upon them.

In our lesson we have several things written after Christ's resurrection and His ascension into the heavens by His followers, one by His beloved disciple John telling what Jesus had said to Him when He had appeared to Him on the Isle of Patmos. The rest of our text we have taken from the writings of the apostle Paul, who, though for a time had bitterly contested the cause of Christ, had changed to be a faithful servant of His. We can

behold what wonderful conclusions they had come to concerning Jesus and His life and resurrection. The theme of the risen life of Christ carries great potential for spiritual life and hope in all who believe the gospel. As Paul cautioned us about believing in vain, we should take this matter seriously and let it be the most important matter we have to deal with in life. Is Christ alive? Is it all true? Is He really in heaven at the right hand of God interceding for us? Is He really going to come again and bring the world and all of us to judgment? If we will listen to the sweet inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we can receive a witness that drives away all fear, question and doubt. He is alive; it is all true; He is really in heaven making intercession for us; and He will keep His promise and come again.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Who spoke the words, "I am alive forevermore?"
2. Why was it so necessary for Christ to arise from the dead?
3. How did Christ's death and resurrection give us such victory over sin?
4. Since Christ is risen and ascended up to heaven, what should we do?
5. What is the hope that His resurrection gives to all who truly believe?

### **COMMENTS AND APPLICATION**

If I really believe that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead and is alive today, seated in the heavens at the right hand of God, listening to my prayers and is ready to help me and be my Friend—if I really believe that, what joy and peace and courage I can have to live in this world of sorrow and confusion with victory and success! What a glorious message is contained in this blessed gospel of Christ! There is truly life for a look! As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness for the healing of those bitten by the fiery serpents, so Christ has been lifted up, first upon the cross in humiliation and death, and then up higher than the heavens for us to look to and keep our confidence in. It is for the poor and needy to take advantage of this great offer of salvation and hope. Let us accept it, stand by it and hold it fast in our hearts forever! It is the truth that will set us free.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The resurrection of our Savior was an event that should bring joy to every Christian's heart. The pain and agony that our Lord suffered in this mortal life is forever past. The darkness and gloom of death that preceded this glorious morning gave way to blissful sunshine as Jesus came forth from the tomb. No power of man nor devil could keep Him bound in death when God spoke the Word for His resurrection.

The hope of a Christian is based on this event. Paul said, "And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins." I Corinthians 15:17. By God bringing our Savior back from the grave we are assured that His sacrifice for the sins of mankind was accepted and our faith in Him is not misplaced.

It was hard for some of the disciples to believe that their Lord had been brought back to life. But Jesus patiently and gently proved Himself to them. They wanted to believe but the events were so miraculous and they had been so disappointed that they had difficulty understanding.

The Lord knows there are still many who have difficulty believing these things. But if one will honestly seek the Lord, He will reveal Himself. It is His delight to open the Scriptures to a hungry soul today just as He did for those who were on the road to Emmaus. Then when our faith can grasp the reality and the wonderful meaning behind the resurrection, there will be an awakening in our heart that will fill us with hope. This blessed hope assures us that one day we shall also be raised from the dead and given a glorified body to live with Christ eternally.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey





## Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title <b>BIBLE LESSONS</b>		3. Publication Number <b>0 5 4 - 6 8 0</b>	5. Filing Date <b>SEPTEMBER 30, 2004</b>
4. Issue Frequency <b>QUARTERLY</b>		6. Number of Issues Published Annually <b>3</b>	7. Annual Subscription Price <b>\$5.00/YEAR</b>
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4) <b>FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC 4318 S DIVISION - GUTHRIE, LOGAN COUNTY, OK 73044</b>			Contact Person <b>WILLIE MURPHEY</b> Telephone <b>(405) 282-1479</b>

8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)

SAME AS LINE #7

9. Full Name and Complete Mailing Address of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)

Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)

SAME AS LINE #7

Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

LESLIE HUGBEE  
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC. - 4318 S DIVISION - GUTHRIE OK 73044

Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)

WILLIE MURPHEY  
SAME AS ABOVE

10. Donor (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of all individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
FAITH PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC.	4318 S DIVISION - GUTHRIE OK 73044

11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities. If none, check box

None

Full Name	Complete Mailing Address
THIS IS A NON-STOCK, NON -PROFIT, RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE CORPORATION.	

12. The Status (For completion by nonprofit organizations authorized to mail at nonprofit rates) (Check one)  
The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes:  
☒ Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months  
☐ Has Changed During Preceding 12 Months (Publisher must submit explanation of change with this statement)

13. Publication Title <b>BIBLE LESSONS</b>		14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below <b>OCT - NOV - DEC - 2004</b>	
15. Extent and Nature of Circulation		Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months	No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date
a. Total Number of Copies (Net paid and unpaid)		1864	1912
b. Paid and/or Unpaid Circulation			
(1) Paid	1734	1043	
(2) Unpaid	2	1	
(3) Total	8	6	
(4) Other	46	3	
c. Total Paid and/or Unpaid Circulation (Sum of 15b(1), (2), (3), and (4))	1790	1853	
d. Free Distribution by Mail (Complete, comprehensive list and address of each free distribution)			
(1) Out-of-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0	
(2) In-County as Stated on Form 3541	0	0	
(3) Other	0	0	
e. Free Distribution Outside the Mail (Complete, comprehensive list and address of each free distribution)	0	0	
f. Total Free Distribution (Sum of 15d(1), (2), and (3))	0	0	
g. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15f)	1790	1853	
h. Copies Not Distributed	74	59	
i. Total (Sum of 15g and 15h)	1864	1912	
j. Percent Paid and/or Unpaid Circulation (Sum of 15b(1) and 15b(2) divided by 15c)	100%	100%	

16. Publication of Statement of Circulation  
☒ Publication required. I will be printed in the **1st Qtr. 2005** issue of this publication.☐ Publication not required.

17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner

Date

*Willie Murphey*  
I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

## *Subscription Order*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription rate: \$1.50 per copy per  
quarter; or \$5.00 per copy for one year  
(issued quarterly).

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

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

1st/05



