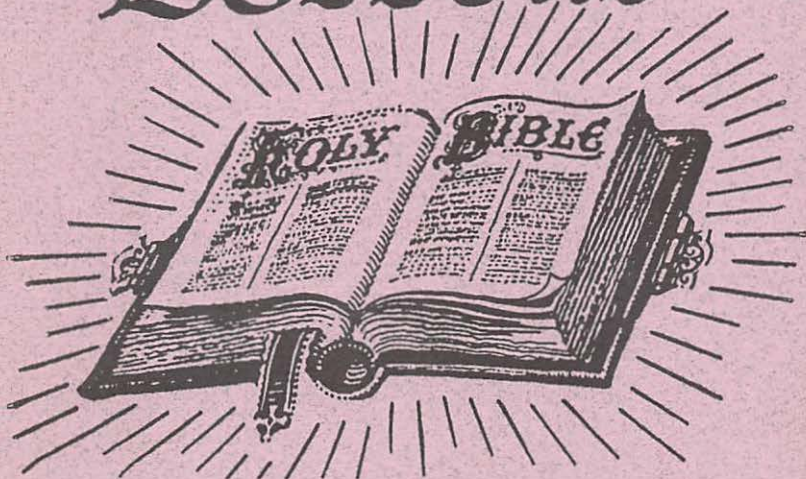


Bible Lessons



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

ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE

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Volume 44

July, Aug., Sept.

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**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of
Jesus Christ and His Church
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BIBLE LESSON THIRD QUARTER, 2012

THEME FOR THIRD QUARTER:

For this series of Bible Lessons we are especially inspired to study the wonderful laws and commandments of God Almighty, our Heavenly Father. We will first study about how God created the heavens and the earth and mankind. When we view the marvelous creation of God we are drawn to love and admiration for Him, and keeping His commandments will be a joy and delight to our hearts and minds. Then we want to survey the ten commandments brought out in Exodus 20 and bring them out along with the teachings of Christ and the various New Testament Scriptures. We pray that these lessons will be a blessing and inspiration to all who have a part in their study.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee



JULY 1, 2012

GOD, THE CREATOR OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

Psalms 33:6 By the word of the LORD were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth.

7 He gathereth the waters of the sea together as an heap: he layeth up the depth in storehouses.

8 Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

9 For he spake, and it was *done*; he commanded, and it stood fast.

13 The LORD looketh from heaven; he beholdeth all the sons of men.

15 He fashioneth their hearts alike; he considereth all their works.

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

25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

27 That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us:

28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device.

30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent:

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

MEMORY VERSE: But to us *there is but* one God, the Father, of whom *are* all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are* all things, and we by him. I Corinthians 8:6.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: God spoke the heavens and the earth and everything therein into existence. It all makes manifest His goodness and wisdom and should draw us to seek diligently to find Him and to please Him by being obedient to His holy Law.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Genesis 1:2, "*without form, and void*": Shapeless and empty. "*moved*": Gently and lovingly came near with great plans in mind.

Psalms 33:6, "*breath of his mouth*": His great Holy Spirit.

Verse 7, "*gathereth the waters as an heap*": Shaped the waters into position. "*layeth up the depth in storehouses*": Made it all for His purpose.

Verse 15, "*fashioneth their hearts alike*": Wills for their hearts to be in unity and love. "*considereth all their works*": Understands all about us.

Acts 17:26, "*determined the times before appointed*": Ordained and planned the seasons beforehand. "*bounds of their habitations*": Where men and women should live and dwell.

Verse 27, "*if haply*": For the precise purpose. Paul is declaring that God made all things so wonderfully that it should draw men to desire to know Him, and to seek Him with all their hearts. "*feel after*": Earnestly grope for.

Verse 29, "*graven*": Planned and shaped. "*man's device*": Man's imagination.

Verse 30, "*winked at*": Overlooked and bore with. "*repent*": Reconsider, think differently, and be submissive to God's will.

Verse 31, "*that man whom he hath ordained*": Jesus Christ, His beloved Son. "*given assurance unto all men*": Made clear and without a doubt to everyone.

1 Corinthians 8:6, "*of whom are all things*": Everything exists by the decree and power of God. "*by whom are all things*": All blessings and benefits come to us through the Lord Jesus Christ and the price He paid for our redemption.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Before we enter into surveying and studying the law that God gave by Moses, we feel inspired to have a lesson on the wonder and greatness of God as portrayed in His creation of the heavens and the earth and all things therein. As Psalm 19:1 and 2 says, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handywork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge." This is saying that every day and every night there is a message from the great Creator of His majesty and goodness being portrayed before us. It is sad that so many fail to hear and heed His voice being thus uttered. In our lesson are the scriptures that speaks brightly of this wonderful truth from the Old Testament, and then we have part of the wonderful message the apostle Paul preached at Athens. It shows to us that God's creation has a special appeal to the soul of man. It declares His goodness. Paul quotes from Psalm 19:4 in Romans 10:18 thus: "But I say, Have they not heard? Yes verily (surely), their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the end of the world." So we see that there is a message for all mankind spoken in the wonderful works of God's creation. If men would open their eyes and their hearts to this wonderful message it will help to prepare them to have reverence and submission to the law of God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What message is spoken to us in the majesty of the heavens?
2. What can we see in the earth that also speaks of His goodness?
3. What does God want His great creation to cause man to do?
4. What keeps mankind from hearing and heeding this message?
5. What is going to be man's end for disregarding God's Word?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In Acts 14:15-17 Paul and Barnabas sought to influence the people of Lystra toward the true God with these words: "...Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways. Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

God has given to mortal man an undeniable proof of His existence and goodness. Look, look, look! All around us are vivid and bright testimonies of God. Look at the many trees, flowers, grasses, fruits, vegetables, grains, and gifts of God's gracious and loving heart! Look at the fields of corn and wheat! Look at the vineyards, orchards, and beehives! Behold the beautiful birds of all kinds, shapes, and descriptions. Think of the fountains and springs of water! It is all from the loving skill of a kind, gracious Creator!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"And the earth was without form, and void..." This verse brings to mind the thought of a Master Artist standing before a blank canvas preparing to reveal what is in His heart and mind. The marvels of creation and the forms of life that unfolded from His Word and the influences of the Holy Spirit speak of His excellence and majesty and are nothing short of spectacular. After the various stages of His creation were complete He said, "...and God saw that it was good." Every-

thing that was created was in its proper place and functioned exactly as it was designed. The order and balance of nature works perfectly together because His Divine laws control them.

Jesus said in Luke 6:44 "For every tree is known by his own fruit...." Then in Proverbs 20:11 it states, "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right." Armed with these facts, coupled with our own observations of His creation, we can be assured that the things in God's heart are good and pure. When God introduced Himself to Moses it was with these words, "And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth," Exodus 34:6. God also identified Himself as forgiving and yet a God of justice. If we have any opinion of God that does not align with His own declaration, then we should search our life to see what evil source has motivated such a thought and get rid of it. God's own proclamation and His handiwork declare that His heart is full of goodness and glory. May we see God for Who He really is and reverence, obey and love Him with our whole heart. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey



JULY 8, 2012

THE LIGHT OF THE LAW OF GOD

Genesis 1:3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

Psalms 119:105 Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

130 The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.

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

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

12:35 Then Jesus said unto them, Yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness knoweth not whither he goeth.

36 While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light...

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

6 For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

I John 2:10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

MEMORY VERSE: We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts. II Peter 1:19.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Every soul of man needs to be enlightened by the light of God's holy Word and Law that we may be guided in the true way that will lead us to everlasting life and escape the downward way of darkness to eternal damnation.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Genesis 1:3, "*light*": Illumination to the heart and mind for wisdom, understanding, knowledge, counsel, guidance, reproof, and instruction. "*divided the light*": Separated from darkness and made clear and distinct.

Psalms 119:105, "*feet*": Steps taken and decisions made in this life.

130, "*entrance of thy words*": The law of God being received in the heart by an earnest desire. "*simple*": Those who sense their ignorance and need for light and instruction.

Proverbs 6:24, "*evil and strange woman*": This can be a fleshly woman of lust and evil passion, and it can also be a false, ungodly religion.

John 3:19, "*condemnation*": Deciding judgment against.

20, "*reproved*": Shown to be wrong.

21, "*wrought in God*": Completed and accomplished, pleasing God.

II Corinthians 4:4, "*god of this world*": satan, the devil.

6, "*shine out of darkness*": Shine to enlighten and instruct us. "*face of Jesus Christ*": The light of His countenance.

II Peter 1:19, "*more sure word of prophecy*": The prophecies of the scriptures being fully and clearly known and brought to pass. "*day dawn*": The light breaking forth through the darkness of our minds. "*day star*": Jesus Christ, the bright and morning star, Revelations 22:16, the Sun of righteousness, Malachi 4:2.

LESSON BACKGROUND

As we see in our first scripture, Light was the first thing that God brought forth in the creation of the heavens and the earth. What was this light? It was not the light of the sun, for this blazing light along with the moon and the stars were not created and brought forth until the fourth day. So we are persuaded that this light that God caused to be on that first day is greatly associated with the light that shines in Himself, as I John 1:5-6 tells us: "...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth." This wonderful light shines in His Word, commandments, and Law.

We love the declaration from Psalms 119:105 and 130 about this wonderful light, along with Proverbs 6:23. God's Word and holy Law is a bright and shining light for the souls of humanity. Consider John's words concerning the light and how it condemns and reproves the evil deeds of the sinful and disobedient person, and praises the truth that is made manifest in the godly. Then John 12:35-36 presents the warning to walk in the light of God through faithful obedience to avoid and overcome the darkness of this evil world. This is a responsibility we must all respond to diligently.

Paul speaks in II Corinthians 4:3-6 about the god of this world (satan) blinding the minds of men and preventing the light of God from shining unto them. Oh, how we need to open our hearts to the light of His Word and the Gospel of His Son! And John 2:10-11 shows how this Light is so closely associated with loving our fellowman. Then our Memory Verse speaks of the Word of God and how we need to take heed to it and let it be as the Light bringing the dawn of eternal light and life rising in our hearts.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Where would we all be if there was no sun in the skies?
2. Why is the light of God's Word and Law so vital and important?
3. Why should we be quick and diligent to walk in the light of God?
4. What must we do to keep from being blinded by satan?
5. What can we experience if we take diligent heed to this Light?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Darkness is summed up to be the absence of light. What happens in a dark room when the lights are turned on? The darkness is gone. Spiritual darkness in the heart of man is principally the absence of the Light of God's Word and the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. Christ declared in John 8:12, "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." Jesus was the light of God by fulfilling the prophecies that God had spoken of Him in the previous ages by His holy prophets. This is the same light that shone in the dawn of creation and is still the light that illuminates the heart and mind of all who sense their darkness and open up to receive it.

It is so vitally important for us human beings to be made aware of our darkness. If we do not realize that we are in darkness we will not be reaching and groping for light. We need to sense our need of salvation in the light of what the Word of God has to say about our sinful state and the dark and dismal future that is therefore before us. In the world and our sad society the minds of men are blinded by fleshly lusts, plea-

suers, entertainment, wealth, outward beauty, selfishness, pride, and many other tragic conditions. But so very few people are aware of their darkness. They are carried away with the temporal things of life, and the reality of eternal things they are not aware of. Oh, that the Spirit of God would deal with each soul personally and convict them of their darkness and need for light! It shines in His Word and the Gospel message of His Son, Jesus Christ, the Light of the world! Blessed are all who become aware of their darkness and earnestly seek for the Light!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Ever notice how many things associated with evil are also associated with darkness? I remember thinking, as a small child, when we would pass one of the many bars clustered in a rather shabby part of town, how awful it was that all their windows and doors were either covered with boards or painted over. An atmosphere of blackness and gloom and wretchedness seemed to hover over those dens of debauchery. The countenances of the men and women who stumbled out of those rooms seemed haggard and miserable, and an awful stench of stale tobacco smoke mingled with liquor, and worse, drifted out into the littered street.

Drunkenness, it seems, has moved "upscale" now, at least it has tried to in our town, and the elegant buildings and the glamorous, laughing crowd beckon enticingly to youth. But I note that one thing is still the same: the darkness. The atmosphere, the music, the countenances—all speak of an undeniable absence of light, satisfaction and freedom of soul. The awful aftermath of addiction can be seen in the courtrooms, hospitals, and prison cells; the final fruit can be observed in the marital breakups, the domestic violence, and the increasing number of displaced children in the foster care system.

Only the light of God, shining into the heart, can free the soul from the darkness of addiction, immorality, and violence. As these things increase in our society, may the children of light so let their Light shine before men, that they may see and come to know God.

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck

JULY 15, 2012

THE PURPOSE OF THE LAW

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.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law *is* the knowledge of sin.

4:15 Because the law worketh wrath: for where no law is, *there is* no transgression.

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.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

17 And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect.

18 For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise.

19 Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.

24 Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster *to bring us* unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

25 But after that faith is come, we are no longer under a schoolmaster.

MEMORY VERSE: ...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. Romans 7:7

CENTRAL THOUGHT: After God had established His everlasting covenant through the faith of Abraham, He gave the law by Moses to help man to be aware of his sin and unholy condition before God. Keeping faith in his heart, man can find forgiveness and deliverance from the bondage of sin and transgression against God through the grace of Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Romans 3:19, "*every mouth may be stopped*": All self-confidence and opposition be silenced.

20, "*knowledge of sin*": Conviction and full awareness of where and how man is wrong and astray from the right.

Romans 4:15, "*worketh wrath*": Brings to light God's displeasure.

7:5, "*motions of sins*": Passions and appetites for things contrary to God's will. "*in our members*": These are the various parts of the human flesh, such as: the tongue, the eyes, the ears, the hands, and the feet. "*bring forth fruit unto death*": Cause us to say and do things that are detrimental and destructive to the soul.

7, "*lust*": Uncontrolled appetites and desires. "*covet*": To long for something someone else has.

8, "*taking occasion*": Finding a chance or opportunity. "*by the commandment*": Because of the commandment forbidding the action. "*all manner of concupiscence*": Many other kinds of lust and evil desires.

9, "*alive without the law once*": Innocent at one time before the law was made known. "*sin revived, and I died*": Sin came to life and I died a spiritual death.

11, "slew me": Brought me into spiritual death and condemnation.

13, "appear sin": Be known and recognized as sin and transgression.

Galatians 3:17, "*the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ*": This is the covenant that God made with Abraham that in his seed all nations would be blessed. This is referring to Jesus Christ. This was 430 years before the law was given to Moses.

19, "*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions*": God established His covenant in Abraham and then in Moses He added the need for man to be conformed to His law of holiness. If God had given the law first, there would have been no chance for us to be successful in salvation and living for Him. Therefore He first gave the covenant of faith to Abraham and pointing toward Christ, and thus giving us a chance to overcome sin and be obedient to the law of God.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we have the plain explanation and reason for God giving His law and commandments to Moses when He did. God had already established His covenant and promise of salvation through His blessings and promises to Abraham 430 years before He gave the law to Moses on Mount Sinai. But God not only wanted to establish His pledge and promises for the salvation of man, but He also desired and needed to show man and make him aware of where he was sinning and coming short of His good pleasure. The law could not save, but it enlightened and made man conscious and aware of how and in what all he was transgressing His Creator. God is a holy, just, righteous, and truthful Creator. He is the giver of life and breath and our being. He wants man to be instructed and aware of his sin and wrongdoing.

Paul in Romans speaks much about sin and how the law was given to help us to be aware of our sin. In early childhood we are innocent because we are not able to understand about sin and disobedience to our Maker. But as we get older and are instructed, disciplined, and corrected by godly parents and older children of God, we are made to realize that we are guilty of wrong and evil. At the same time we need to be aware that God has made a way for us through Christ Jesus to overcome

the temptations of sin and be saved and justified in Him. Let us be instructed of what sin is and what it can do to us, and also let us be counseled to look to Christ for mercy, forgiveness, and victory over sin and this evil world to live righteously.
—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the purpose of God giving His law to us through Moses?
2. Why did God make His covenant of faith with Abraham first?
3. Why is it important for us to be instructed of what pleases God?
4. How can following Abraham's faith help us to overcome sin?
5. Where would we be if God had given His law first before faith?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Knowing about Abraham and how he was able to trust, believe, and obey God provides valuable instructions and encouragement for us to also believe and trust in the goodness and grace of God. God did not deal with Abraham about His laws as much as requiring him to obey and trust Him in every thing. God was pleased with the faith that Abraham manifested along with Sarah, his wife, and his son, Isaac, and his son, Jacob. They were part of the lineage of faith. And it came on down to the time of Moses, who also moved with faith along with the rest. But God also wisely gave through Moses the laws and commandments of how to live, act, relate, and function as His children. He gave the covenant of faith first to establish His relations with man, and then after a long period of time brought to light what pleases Him and how He wants us to conduct ourselves upon His earth. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Romans 3:23 says, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;" All men recognize the presence of evil working in themselves for they all practice deceit or dishonesty or something of unvirtuous character to some degree. Such

knowledge causes them to feel condemned in their own eyes, much less in divine eyes, yet they know no means whereby to correct the cause and achieve a cure. Jesus introduced truth or true information to the hearts and minds of men. That truth would lead men not only to a good that man would recognize and acknowledge as good, but beyond that to a plane of virtue that God would accept as good. Knowing full well that man, with nothing but his own ability, would never be able to achieve that high estate, our loving Lord came prepared to supply the needed ingredient. Man needed a force that would give power over sin and make him able to achieve the right. Truth was made available through the Spirit to enlighten. Faith on hand would enable man to accept the truth revealed. Along with that, grace was given to make men able to perform what they realized truth was requiring. By this means men could be led into a state of holiness.

"Only one thing was necessary now for man to possess the reinstatement he sought back into the Eden relationship with his heavenly Father. He (Christ) knew how to appeal to the quality that was needed. Thus we hear Him saying, "If ye love me, ye will keep my commandments." This is the only influence known to man of sufficient strength to cause men to obey our Lord's voice and do His will. Love never drives men, it invites them. Truth is informing, which is necessary. Faith is accepting, which is also necessary. Grace is enabling, which is likewise necessary. Now comes the motivation of love which is the vehicle that puts the entire process into action. Love is the only emotion known to man which is able to permanently overcome or alter the action of the will. This points up the importance of the new birth. If any man would love with a true heart, fervently, he must of necessity experience a change of heart. This new creature, which is born of the Spirit, is born back into God's likeness and possesses God's characteristics.

—Taken from "*Moral Law*" by Clifford W. Wilson

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



JULY 22, 2012

NO OTHER GODS

Exodus 20:1 And God spake all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.

3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

II Corinthians 4:3 But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4 In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Romans 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.

24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves:

25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Philippians 3:17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

MEMORY VERSE: If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:1-2.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: God commands us to worship Him alone and not allow our affections and devotions to be on these mortal bodies and their appetites and passions.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:3, "*gods*": Objects of devotion, allegiance, and worship.

II Corinthians 4:4, "*god of this world*": This is satan, the evil spirit that tempted and deceived mother Eve in the beginning. He works and tempts the souls of men to be drawn away from obedience to God's law to selfish and fleshly lusts and desires.

Romans 1:8, "*hold the truth in unrighteousness*": Professing to be for the truth while following ungodly and unholy attitudes and desires.

Verse 21, "*when they knew God*": When they had knowledge of God. "*glorified him not as God*": Did not honor and obey Him as they should. "*vain in their imagination*": Foolish and wicked in their thoughts. "*foolish heart was darkened*": Lost view of the true light of God's laws.

Verse 23, "*changed the glory of the uncorruptible God*": Lost sight of the true ways and purpose of the true God and presented and upheld fleshly and humanistic ideas and beliefs.

Philippians 3:18, "*enemies of the cross*": Rejected the cross of Christ and what He meant for it to be to us. It meant suffering and death to our Savior, and it is to be followed faithfully by all who believe in Him.

Verse 19, "*whose God is their belly*": Their fleshly appetites have full control of their lives. "*minde earthly things*": Follow after physical and worldly pleasures and treasures.

Verse 20, "*our conversation*": The citizenship that we hold as most important. "*in heaven*": Is spiritual and in the eternal world to come.

Verse 21, "*vile body*": This mortal corruptible human body.

Colossians 3:2, "*Set your affection*": Fix your mind, thoughts, and desires.

LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we want to study and consider the first of the Ten Commandments that God gave to Moses and the children of Israel. "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." The God that had called and chosen Moses to be their leader and had miraculously delivered them from Egyptian bondage wanted the Israelites to worship, serve, and obey Him supremely over and above any other attraction or allurement. God knew that there would be other influences that would

seek to draw men from serving Him. Just as Adam and Eve were tempted and influenced to disobey God, so would they be. It is a decision that every person must make in their heart and mind. This has been and still is the responsibility that faces every human being. God, who created the world and everything therein, is worthy of our full allegiance and obedience. To follow after any other attraction is dishonoring and grievous to the Creator.

We have included the New Testament writings of the apostle Paul that speaks of other gods that are in the world in opposition to the true God. The god of this world is satan, the devil that came to our Lord and Savior after He had fasted forty days and was very hungry. Jesus resisted every one of satan's temptations. He was tempted in all points like we are tempted, and overcome them all in faithfulness to God. As our great High Priest, at the right hand of God, He can help us to overcome and hold fast to God always. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the other gods that man is tempted by?
2. What does the god of this world seek to do to man?
3. What can we do to overcome the world and all of its allurements?
4. How can the belly and fleshly appetites be a god to be worshipped?
5. Where should our affections and desires be fully set?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 8:5-6: "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) But to us *there is but one God*, the Father, of whom *are all things*, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom *are all things*, and we by him." Yes, there are many gods in the world today that people are worshipping and going after. The love of money is one of these. Ephesians 5:5 calls a covetous man an idolater, and Colossians 3:5 calls covetousness idolatry. This tells us that coveting and loving earthly, worldly wealth is idol worship, the worshipping of another god beside the true God. Another god that is worshipped in this world is fornication and adultery. It is a god that takes hold of youth and keeps a person from really finding and knowing God. Fleshly and worldly pleasure is another god that people worship and go after. The many kinds

of sports become a god that people worship and go after. Houses, lands, airplanes, cars, styles, fashions, outward beauty, and many other allurements captivate and hold fast the affections of so many of this vain host of humanity. Then there is the theatre, the television, the Internet, pornography and all kinds of attractions out in this world that are drawing children and youth, and ages on up, into the worship of another god other than the true and living God. May the Lord help and enlighten the hearts and minds of our youth to beware of these foreign gods that are being promoted everywhere in this world. Let us set our affection on things above, and be like Jesus who told satan: "...Get thee hence, satan for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve." Matthew 4:10. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The Lord has blessed the earth with fullness. He has given us mountains, streams, lakes, oceans, sun, stars, fruitful fields, timber, stone, metals, seasons, wildlife, and the list goes on and on. He gave us these things to behold, partake of, and enjoy. When the Lord created all that we behold, He saw that it was good and very good. I am sure He wants us to enjoy them. Acts 14:17 says, "Nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness." When God created all that we behold He saw that it was good and very good. This is His handiwork and it is a witness of His love and care for mankind. Our hearts should rise up to Him with grateful 'thank you's and praise.

It seems ridiculous for us to worship the gift instead of the Giver. The heart of mankind tends to gravitate toward the earth, creature, and selfishness instead of the Creator. We as humans can get so preoccupied with ourselves or our desires that we forget to seek the Lord through prayer and the Scriptures as we should.

Webster's definitions for heart include "the essential or most vital part of something," "one's innermost character, feelings, or inclinations: center." The heart is the seat of authority, central command, governing portion of an individual. Where a man's treasure is there will be his heart also. It is so important to set our affection on things above and with watchful care guard the affections of our heart. It was said of

Solomon, "For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father."
—Bro. Bob Wilson



JULY 29, 2012

NO GRAVEN IMAGE

Exodus 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness *of any thing* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me;

6 And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.

23 Ye shall not make with me gods of silver, neither shall ye make unto you gods of gold.

25 And if thou wilt make me an altar of stone, thou shalt not build it of hewn stone: for if thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou has polluted it.

II Corinthians 3:3 *Forasmuch as ye are* manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

4 And such trust have we through Christ to God-ward:

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

6 Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

II Peter 2:9 The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

10 But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleanness, and despise government. Presumptuous *are they*, selfwilled, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities.

12 But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption;

13 And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, as they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots *they are* and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you.

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

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

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

MEMORY VERSE: Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. II Timothy 2:15-16.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Just as people have shaped images of wood and stone and bowed down to worship them, so has deceived men formed from the Scriptures false doctrines and teachings of error that lead the souls of men away from the true knowledge of the Word of God.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:4, "*graven*": Carved or shaped by human hands.

Verse 25, "*hewn stone*": A stone cut, chiseled, and carved by man.

II Corinthians 3:3, "*fleshy tables of the heart*": The tender and submissive heart of an obedient person.

Verse 5, "*sufficiency*": The state of being competent, ample, and fit.

II Peter 2:10, "*despise government*": Critical of those in leadership, authority, or rule. "*Presumptuous*": Daring and self-confident. "*selfwilled*": Overly confident of their own ability and self. "*dignities*": Those entrusted to be over and in honorable position.

Verse 12, "*brute beasts*": Fleshly minded, unenlightened by the Holy Spirit.

Verse 13, "*riot in the day time*": Indulgence in the flesh when they ought to be sober minded and godly. "*sporting*": Reveling in fleshly lusts.

Verse 14, "*beguiling*": Deceiving. "*unstable souls*": Ignorant and unlearned people who have no spiritual understanding.

Verse 18, "*allure*": Attract with deceptive ideas and doctrine.

II Timothy 2:15, "*Study*": Make earnest effort, and be prompt. "*rightly dividing*": Straightly and correctly applying the Word of God. "*shun profane and vain babblings*": Avoid wicked and fruitless discussions.

LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we are considering for study the second of the Ten Commandments God gave on Mt. Sinai. History reveals that man has had a tendency to carve out and build great images of what gods and deities are in their minds to be like. The children of Israel seemed to be somewhat inclined to this sort of behavior. This showed up later as it is recorded in Exodus 32. Here we see the people getting restless while Moses was up on the mount in communion with God. They prevailed upon Aaron to help them by fashioning a molten calf for them to set up to worship. And when Moses came down from the mount and saw what they were doing, he threw the tables of stone upon which God had Himself written His holy laws down on the rocks, breaking them. It was an awful time and three thousand men were killed.

Man has also been guilty of trifling with God's Word and Holy Laws, tooling them with vain thoughts and ideas, bringing out various doctrines that are foreign to the truth. Think of the many different denominations and beliefs that are abroad in our land. God wants to write His laws, as Paul stated in II Corinthians 3 in our lesson, not on tables of stone, but with His Holy Spirit, on the tender tables of our hearts. Through the Holy Spirit inspiration we can know the truth and the truth will make us free from sin and ungodliness. And II Peter 2 shows how people can be moved from the real meanings and standards of God's Word to fleshly ideas and beliefs. It is wise to take Paul's counsel to Timothy in our Memory Verse and seek earnestly to be able to understand God's will and to correctly apply the Word of God in every detail to our hearts and lives.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why did God forbid making images and worshipping them?
2. How can we make false images today through the Scriptures?
3. How can we really know the truth of the Word of God?
4. Why are there so many different churches and beliefs today?
5. Where does God want His holy Word to be written?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

While Jesus was at Jacob's well, as recorded in John 4:1-26, a woman of Samaria came to draw water. In the course of Christ's conversation with her she mentioned how her fathers worshipped God there and that Jesus said that Jerusalem was the place where men ought to worship. Then Jesus told her that neither one of those places was where God was to be worshipped. He said in verse 24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth." When the woman mentioned the coming Messiah who would tell all things, Jesus plainly told her that He was the Messiah. Let us consider with our lesson what Jesus said. God is a Spirit. We must not fashion our beliefs by our own thoughts and ideas. We must seek God for the work of His Holy Spirit to reveal to our hearts and minds the truth, the real truth. We must be sincere and without offense before Him. Philippians 1:10. And, if we will earnestly seek Him in this way, we can find the true worship of God without the graven images of the ideas and opinions of the carnal and earthly minded society we live in today. His sweet Holy Spirit can reveal to our hearts and minds the true image of our Creator. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The world is full of man's ideas that are contrary to the teachings of Jesus Christ. As a result, many souls are kept in cages of deception and never have a true experience of salvation. Below is a list of a few of these false ideas that I believe are tools the enemy has used to keep people from being diligent about fully obeying the Word of God

1. We all sin more or less every day.
2. The day of miracles is passed.
3. We are saved by baptism.
4. I was baptized as an infant.
5. Attend the church of your choice.
6. We are all working for the same goal.
7. God is too loving to send a person to hell.
8. "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs."
9. We will be saved by our good works.
10. Financial prosperity equates holiness.

This is by no means a complete list of polluted teachings, but may it help us to be aware of some of the blinders that satan is using to lull people into a passive sleep of death. Let us be a source of light to those who may be under the influence of these deceptions.

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



AUGUST 5, 2012

TAKING GOD'S NAME IN VAIN

MEMORY VERSE: Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Exodus 20:7.

Psalm 111:9 He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do *his commandments*: his praise endureth for ever.

WORD DEFINITION: "*take the name of the LORD in vain*": To profess to believe in the LORD God without true faith, submission, and obedience to His laws.

BIBLE LESSON SCRIPTURE TEXT

Daniel 3:1 Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height *was* threescore cubits (90 feet), and the breadth (width) thereof six cubits (9 feet); and set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon.

3 Then the princes, the governors, and captains,...and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together...and they stood before the image...

4 Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people,...

5 *That at what time ye hear...all the kinds of music, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up:*

6 And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace.

7 Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of...all kinds of music, all the people,...fell down and worshipped the golden image...

8 Wherefore at that time certain Chaldeans came near, and accused the Jews.

12 There are certain Jews..., Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; these men, O king, have not regarded thee: they serve not thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

13 ...Then they brought these men before the king.

14 Nebuchadnezzar...said unto them, *Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image...?*

15 Now if ye be ready...ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful (we are ready) to answer thee...

17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king.

18 But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

19 Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury,...and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was wont to be heated.

20 And he commanded the most mighty men...in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace.

21 Then these men were bound...and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace.

22 Therefore because...the furnace exceeding hot, the flame...slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego.

23 And these three men,...fell down bound into the midst of the...furnace.

24 Then...the king was astonished,...and spake,...unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king.

25 He answered and said, Lo, I see four men, loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.

26 Then Nebuchadnezzar came near to the mouth of the burning fiery furnace, *and* spake, and said, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, ye servants of the most high God, come forth, and come *hither*. Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, came forth of the midst of the fire.

27 And...being gathered together, saw these men, upon whose bodies the fire had no power, nor was an hair of their head singed, neither were their coats changed, nor the smell of fire had passed on them.

28 Then Nebuchadnezzar spake and said, Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who hath sent his angel, and delivered his servants that trusted in him, and have changed the king's word, and yielded their bodies, that they might not serve nor worship any god, except their own God.

29 Therefore I make a decree, That every people, nation, and language, which speak any thing amiss against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, shall be cut in pieces, and their houses shall be made a dunghill: because there is no other God that can deliver after this sort.

30 Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, in the province of Babylon.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We are greatly inspired for the Scripture text for this lesson on not taking the name of the Lord in vain to be the wonderful account of three godly men who stood steadfast for the name of the LORD God Almighty in a severe test of faithfulness to Him. As Bible History brings out in II Chronicles chapter 36, the armies of Babylon had invaded Israel and brought great destruction to Jerusalem. A goodly number of

Israelites were carried away captive to Babylon. There were four of this number who proved to be great witnesses to Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon, and his nation. These were Daniel and the three we have in our lesson: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These four had already brought a great witness of the power of their God, revealing dreams and their interpretation which none of the king's men could do. Nebuchadnezzar had already witnessed the wonder of their God, but his heathen mind had not really taken it so seriously.

So he undertook to build this giant image of gold and called the various leaders in his realm to come for a special time of worship before this great statue. For some reason Daniel was not in on this great test of faith. He later was to be brought to such a trial. In seeking the Lord for guidance and inspiration for this lesson on the third of the Ten Commandments given by God through Moses, I was greatly inspired by this account of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing firm and faithful in the test they were put under. I deleted the account somewhat, but endeavored to make it enough to bring out what happened and how God miraculously brought these three young men out from the horrible fiery furnace and witnessed to the king and his people the greatness of the God of Israel and these wonderful witnesses. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the great test of faith that these young men encountered?
2. What was their response to the king's demand and threat?
3. How severe were the fiery furnace flames?
4. What was the outcome of this great testimony of God's power?
5. How did these young men prove God's power that day?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Note: These God-fearing young men were not careful and afraid to stand up before the king in the face of this horrible threat. I think about one of Christ's sayings in Mark 8:34-35, and also quoted in other places: "...Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever

shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it." Oh, this great witness shown in our lesson has been repeated many, many times over and over through the years of this time world. And the challenge is still before us today. Let us be strong and be willing to follow the Lord Jesus and His many witnesses of proving that we do not take His name in vain! We will stand true to it regardless of the peril of our lives!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Tim Lewis had recently given his heart to God and was trying his hardest to do what he thought Jesus would do. His younger sister Katie did not fully understand his decision, although she was beginning to benefit greatly from his new kind and brotherly attention to her.

The circus was in town. Katie begged Tim to find a way to earn money for tickets, and Tim was in a dilemma, which was complicated when a store owner gave him two tickets for doing some deliveries for him. On his way home, tickets in hand, he passed the hotel bar where some of the circus men were playing cards and drinking. Now his mental conflict increased: *would Jesus go to such a place where men such as these performed?*

At home, alone with his Bible, his eyes fell on the words, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away." Proverbs 4:14-15.

Tim made a firm decision, much to Katie's dismay, to return the tickets and not go to the circus. His heart was satisfied...for a time. Then a strong suggestion came to his mind, that it would do no harm to just go listen to the music and see the people who were going to the circus. Although his Bible verse came over and over to his mind, pretty soon he found himself within sight of the colorful tent and he could hear the rhythm of the music. Closer and closer he was drawn until he was near the door. Accidentally, he stepped right in front of a man trying to enter the tent, whom he knew to be one of the circus men. As he stumbled, drunkenly, into Tim, an angry oath came from his lips and he shoved Tim out of his way.

As soon as he heard the name of his Lord, taken in vain, spoken in wrathful, intoxicated tones, it seemed that the Lord himself spoke to Tim.

"Tim, what are you doing here?" Tears of sorrow fell as he ran home and to his place of prayer under the elm tree. There he prayed until God's Spirit comforted him that he was forgiven.

—Paraphrased from *Tim and His Lamp*

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



AUGUST 12, 2012

THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH FULFILLD

Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

9 Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work:

10 But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor the stranger that *is* within thy gates:

11 For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day, and hallowed it.

Luke 6:1 And it came to pass on the second sabbath after the first, that he (Jesus) went through the corn fields; and his disciples plucked the ears of corn, and did eat, rubbing *them* in *their* hands.

2 And certain of the Pharisees said unto them, Why do ye that which is not lawful to do on the sabbath days?

3 And Jesus answering them said, Have ye not read so much as this, what David did, when himself was an hungred, and they which were with him;

4 How he went into the house of God, and did take and eat the showbread, and gave also to them that were with him; which it is not lawful to eat but for the priests alone?

5 And he said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the Sabbath.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORY VERSE: Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath *days*: Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. Colossians 2:16-17.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The Sabbath Day rest on the seventh day of the week, in which men were commanded to rest from their labors and do no work, is now fulfilled in Christ Jesus and the spiritual soul rest of ceasing from our works of self and fleshly lusts and being fully led by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:8-11, "*Sabbath*": From the Hebrew word "shabbath," Which means to rest, repose, and desist (cease or refrain) from exertion.

Luke 6:4, "*showbread*": The bread that was placed in the tabernacle under the law, which was a type of the Bread of Life partaken of in Christ.

Verse 5 "*Lord also of the Sabbath*": What Christ meant by this statement was that He had authority to fulfill the real meaning and purpose of the seventh day ceasing from physical works.

Hebrews 4:1, "*come short of it*": Be deficient or lacking in really entering into the true rest of the soul.

Verse 3, "*we which have believed*": We which have believed fully in Christ as the everlasting Lord and Savior. "*do enter into rest*": Truly enter into the rest of the soul that Christ

came to bring. *"if they shall enter into my rest"*: They shall not enter into my rest. This is the expression from the Old Testament where this is quoted from in Psalm 95:7-11 The Psalmist is referring to the time when the people of Israel were being influenced by ten of the spies that brought back an evil report of the land of Caanan, as recorded in Numbers 14. While two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, sought to encourage them that they by God's help were well able to take the land, the people listened to the evil report and drew back in unbelief. God threatened to destroy them all, but Moses interceded, and God changed His mind, but declared that they would not inherit the land. This is what our text in Psalms is referring, with the exhortation for us to not harden our hearts as they did.

Verse 4, *"spake in a certain place of the seventh day"*: He quotes from Genesis 2:2 about God resting from all his works of creation on the seventh day.

Verse 5, *"And in this place again"*: He is combining the seventh day rest with the Caanan land rest.

Verse 6, *"Seeing therefore it remaineth"*: Knowing that there is yet a rest that God is wanting us to enter into.

Verse 7, *"Again, he limiteth a certain day"*: Once more God is marking out and offering an opportunity to enter into His rest.

Verse 8, *"if Jesus had given them rest"*: This Jesus is Joshua who was their leader in going in and possessing the Caanan land. If Joshua had given them the real rest, God would not have been offering it again.

Verse 9, *"There remaineth therefore a rest"*: There is still a rest for us to enter into that is in Christ Jesus.

Verse 10, *"ceased from his own works"*: Brought one's own works of self and the flesh to an end.

Colossians 2:17, *"shadow of things to come"*: A type or a figure of what was to be in the future. *"the body is of Christ"*: The real substance of the things in the Old Testament are brought to us fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today brings the fourth of the Ten Commandments and shows what is the Sabbath or rest that God wants His Saints of the New Testament to enter into. The Old Testament Sabbath was a seventh day ceasing from works,

and was instituted by God in the beginning. But in God's beloved Son we are invited to enter into a spiritual rest of the soul. We include in our lesson how Christ handled the sharp criticism the Jews gave Him for allowing His disciples to work by picking corn on the Sabbath day. Notice His answer, referring to David partaking of the showbread that was not for anyone but the priests, and how that He, as the Son of man, was Lord of the Sabbath, and could apply it in the true purpose and direction. And then in our text from Hebrews 4 we see that it all is pointing to a better and more important rest, a rest of ceasing from our works and being submissive to the works of God in us.

Our Memory Verse cinches the declaration that we are not to seek to keep the Old Law and its meats, drinks, holydays, new moons, or Sabbath days. These, along with many other scriptures in the New Testament, show us that Christ came with a spiritual application to the inner man which would enable us to attain to the wonderful blessings and favor of the LORD God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Was it because God was weary that He rested on the seventh day?
2. What was the rest that God wanted Israel to enter into?
3. Why did God swear that they would not enter into His rest?
4. In what way was Jesus Lord of the Sabbath day?
5. What is the Sabbath rest that we are to enter into in Christ?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Matthew 11:28-29.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The children of Israel learned a powerful lesson regarding their rest in the Lord. The Lord desired to be their shelter, their comfort, their Redeemer, their guide, their peace, their food, their rest—He desired to be their God. But there were a few

ingredients that destroyed their confidence in the Lord. They began to murmur, complain, and rebel. They started to bicker, to doubt and become dissatisfied. Thus the Lord could not bless them with the rest and the strength they so longed for.

These very same ingredients can also destroy our peace and rest. To experience this rest we must find our contentment in Him. Our confidence needs to rest in His almighty power. He desires us to try Him, to prove Him, and to learn of His yoke. He wants us to cease from our fretting and worrying and completely give our burdens to Him. He wants to be our everything. Notice Proverbs 3:23-26, "Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet. Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



AUGUST 19, 2012

HONOUR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER

Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

19:26 He that wasteth *his* father, and chaseth away *his* mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Mark 7:9 And he (Jesus) said unto them (scribes and

Pharisees), Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

10 For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death:

11 But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, *It is Corban*, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; *he shall be free*.

12 And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother:

13 Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

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

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

Colossians 3:20 Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

MEMORY VERSE: Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. Ephesians 6:2-3.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Children are commanded of God to love, respect, obey, and faithfully care and provide for their parents as they may have need. Any transgression of this commandment will bring woe and shame upon a person.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:12, "*Honour*": Highly esteem as being worthy of fervent love, respect, obedience, and efficient aid and help in all things.

Proverbs 10:1, "*heaviness*": Grief and sorrow.

19:25, "*wasteth*": Refuses to respect and properly render aid or care.

Mark 7:11, "*It is Corban, a gift*": What Jesus is referring to here was the tradition of the Pharisees to accept money from

people that should have been used to support, provide, shelter, and care for their father and mother. Accepting this financial gift, the Pharisees released the giver from any responsibility to the honor they owed to their parents. It was a covetous practice of those blinded Jewish professors. Jesus quoted from Isaiah 29:13 as a prophecy of these blinded religious leaders: "This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Colossians 3:20, "*obey your parents in all things*": Be obedient always in every detail.

LESSON BACKGROUND

We have for our lesson study today the first of the last six of the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses on Mt. Sinai for Israel and for all men. The first four commandments were concerning man's relation with God, and these last six are concerning man's relation with his fellow men. The commandment we are studying and considering today is accompanied by a promise of long life on earth if faithfully followed and obeyed. We have included with our lesson several quotes from the book of the Proverbs of Solomon, son of David, the king of Israel. Solomon stated in Proverbs 4:3-4: "For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live." And in surveying the account of Solomon and his father David, we can see that there was good relationship between them.

We want to mention concerning Proverbs 23:14 and 15 that we have in our lesson. This counsel of not withholding correction from a child was for the father and mother to consider and take heed to. Proverbs 22:15 also states it thus: "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him." This is wise counsel, counsel that our society has steered away from. Personally I can look back in my childhood past and thank the Lord for the strictness of my parents and their discipline and rod of correction used numbers of times as I was growing up. It was not very enjoyable at the time, but it had a good effect upon my life. Children need to respect and honor their parents, especially if they are holy and righteous and are standing for the truth of God's Word. How many people have missed the mark in life because they did not honor and respect the godly

counsel and discipline given to them in their youth. It just pays to be submissive and obedient to those in authority and leadership. And one's father and mother are the first to fill that vitally important position. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the promise God gave to those who honor their parents?
2. What effect does a foolish son or daughter have in their home?
3. How important is discipline and the rod of correction?
4. How will obedience to one's parents help to be obedient to God?
5. How wrong was the Pharisees' tradition that Jesus stood against?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Speaking of personal experiences concerning honor and submission to father and mother, I am so thankful for God's goodness to me in my youth and the blessing of my mother and father. My mother was a saved and godly woman from her youth. She taught us children to pray, took us faithfully to Sunday services and mid-week prayer meetings, revivals, camp meetings in the summer and assembly meetings in the winter. She corrected, disciplined, and punished us with the rod, which was a switch. I was a hot-tempered boy and she had to deal pretty harshly with me at times. But I am thankful for her faithfulness and prayers she offered for the welfare of her children.

There were seven of us: five boys and two girls. My father did not profess to be saved, although he had been in earlier years of their marriage. I remember how he set the rule down that I had to be home at night, which meant I could not be on the basketball team as I so desired. I resented that, but was subject.

One day at noon while I was home for lunch, I did something that displeased my mother and she took after me with the switch. I ran from her and took off back to school without any lunch. When I got home that evening, hoping she had forgotten about it, I did not try to avoid her. But she grabbed me and reprimanded me for running off and really gave me a switching.

I liked a girl at school and one day school was let out because our team won state championship and I spent the day running around with her. When I got home I found that mother knew what I had been doing, and she told me that she was praying that God would sicken me out on her. All of this had a great bearing on my mind and helped me to later seek the Lord for His grace and salvation. Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Several years ago when my son was around six or seven years of age, we were in the garage working together. I noted to him how that I was paying the utilities so he could have a warm place to stay, buying his food so he wouldn't be hungry, putting a roof over his head for shelter and comfort. I went on to tell him that someday when I was old, I may need him to help me out. I'll never forget his enlightened expression as he said, "Dad, I never thought of that before." My children usually tell me that they will be there for me to help me out when I am old; hopefully, they won't forget when that time comes. I Timothy 5:4 says, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: **for that is good and acceptable before God.**"

This word requite means to make return for: repay; to make suitable return to for a benefit or service. The Lord desires us to be a support and source of help for our parents when it is needed. As Jesus was dying on the cross he told his mother to behold her son (Apostle John). It is understood that Jesus was committing the care of his mother to the apostle John and the Scripture says that John took Mary into his home from that time on. We need to be concerned about the welfare of our parents.

I read a bumper sticker that said something to the effect of—Parents be careful how you handle your children. They will be choosing your nursing home. —Bro. Bob Wilson



AUGUST 26, 2012

THOU SHALT NOT KILL

Exodus 20:13 Thou shalt not kill.

I John 2:9 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now.

10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him.

11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

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.

13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death.

15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Matthew 5:21 Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment:

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

MEMORY VERSE: We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not *his* brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. I John 3:14-15.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: To purposely kill or take the life of another human being through hatred is the fruit of darkness in the heart and will keep a person from entering into heaven and obtaining eternal life.

WORD DEFINITIONS

1 John 2:9, "*hateth*": Strongly dislikes, detests, and desires to recompence. "*even until now*": In the past and up to the present.

Verse 10, "*abideth*": Rests securely. "*none occasion of stumbling*": No danger of offense.

Verse 11, "*blinded his eyes*": Has no spiritual understanding or vision.

3:12, "*that wicked one*": The devil, or satan.

Matthew 5:44, "*despitefully use*": Abuse or treat you wrongfully.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is from the sixth commandment God gave through Moses as a means of helping mankind to be aware of their sin and separation from fellowship with God. "Thou shalt not kill." Along with the scriptures we have included from the New Testament, we know that this is speaking of killing our fellow man. We have in our lesson mention made of the first murder committed by man, and that was the horrible slaying of righteous Abel by his brother Cain, the first two sons of the offspring of Adam and Eve. Why did Cain kill his brother? It was jealousy, pride, and rebellion against God. He refused to really seek for God's favor in offering the right kind of offering. And when he saw and realized that Abel's sacrifice was acceptable and his was rejected, jealousy sprang up within his being. Self rose up and hatred began to work in his heart and mind. Is this not the true picture and basis for all hatred, strife and murder that has flooded its evil torrent upon the sons of men? God tried to reason with Cain, but Cain would not listen. Genesis 4:8 says that Cain talked with Abel his brother. Jealousy and hatred grew and increased as Cain went on talking. Anger and wrath boiled up and murder took place.

Oh, how the pages of history are stained with this terrible sin of slaying others. And God commanded, "Thou shalt not kill." But we have the wonderful words of Jesus to consider along with the counsel given by His beloved disciple, John. They both give no place for hatred and ill will to work in the hearts and lives of the people of God. "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you." This our Savior said to

help us to be the true children of our Heavenly Father who lets His sun rise on the evil and good, and sends rain of the just and unjust.

1 John 3:15 declares that "whoso hateth his brother is a murderer." He may not literally kill his brother, yet the seeds of murder are in his heart. Oh, God wants his creatures to love one another. Just think of all of this hatred, wars, strife, and killing that have been carried out in ages past, and is still being executed in our world today. If people would wake up to this truth and let the love of God live and work in their hearts, there would be no more hatred and murder carried out as it is being done today!

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What causes a person to want to take another person's life?
2. Why is murder such a foolish and unwise thing to carry out?
3. What does Jesus say we should do instead of hatred and murder?
4. Why can we not say, "I love God," and yet hate our fellow man?
5. How can a person overcome the temptation to hate and murder?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Oh, the terrible stain of sin and transgression against the law of God that has filled the pages of history! And, oh, the awful scenes of bitterness, hatred, and murder that are daily reported of in our newspapers and news broadcasts in our present time! It just shows the great lack that our society has of godly fear and rightful respect for the law and good pleasure of God, who created this world and has given life, breath, and being to all of us!

From the account in our lesson of the first murder committed in the history of mankind, there are many more that can be mentioned. And in the pages of history recorded since Bible times are found many, many incidents of hatred and murder across our land and around the globe. It shows that humanity is blind and ignorant of the real fear of God and His sacred law. But the beloved disciple, John, expresses the deep truth of love and its wonderful light in contrast to hatred

and its dense darkness. In these scriptures in our lesson we can see the reason why there has been and still are the awful murders that have been committed on the scope of humanity. Anyone who fails to see the love that God has manifested and what it can do for the life and happiness is kept under the bondage of darkness and error. Such cannot see what they are lacking in their life of bitterness and hatred and selfish lusts. It is, as Jesus said in Matthew 11:25, "hid from the wise and prudent (of the world), and is revealed unto babes (lowly and child-like in faith and spirit)." Jesus brought to our knowledge the light of faith and love. Bitterness, hatred, and strife are held to by those who walk in darkness.

Jesus showed the true love and what it really brings to all who receive it. It was love for our eternal souls that caused Him to submit to the death of the cross. But that was what He came into the world for, and that is what He was determined to bring out and manifest so clearly. People who hate others and are selfish and filled with their own ways are in dense darkness to the way of love. But Jesus showed it to us in plain and undeniable actions and ways. God's love was in with His love and that love caused Him to be submissive to the death of the cross as an expression of the deep care and concern He had for us.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

For us to be true followers of Jesus Christ, we must have our heart filled with the love of God and that love must also extend to other people that Christ died to redeem. Hatred can have no place in a Christian's heart and it takes an effort for every child of God to keep the flame of godly love burning brightly in their heart. One of the keys to maintaining love in the heart is to maintain a spirit of forgiveness for all who transgress against us. Forgiveness should be followed up by praying for the one who has wronged us and doing good for them instead of evil. This kind of response proves to ourselves,

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to others and to God that we have His spirit dwelling in us, and will do much toward bringing about a peaceful relationship with the one who has been an offense to us.

Notice this personal testimony of Charles E. Byers as recorded in *"To the Chief Singer."* "I spent another wretched night. The next morning was the ninth of March. (1905) I tried to work but could not. I went to the barn and into the hayloft. There I tried to pray, but did not know how. All I could do was weep and groan. Night came and we went again to the service. I thought I never could wait until Brother Warren finished his sermon. No sooner did they start the invitation than I was walking down the aisle to the altar. There I wept and prayed, but to no avail.

"After about ten minutes of intense struggle Brother Warren asked me: 'Do you have any hatred in your heart against any one?' This stirred my feelings, especially against one young man with whom I had had trouble. So I said, 'Yes, I do.' 'You know, Charles,' he spoke very kindly, but very definitely; 'what the Bible says: 'Except ye forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.'" I said; 'Brother Warren, must I forgive those fellows who treated me so mean?' 'You surely must,' he replied. 'I'll never do it. I hate them,' I said, But no peace came. At length I found grace to say: 'O God, if you will forgive me, I will forgive Jimmy,' meaning the man I hated so bitterly. But nothing happened. Again Brother Warren quoted the words of our Lord: 'Except ye forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive you your trespasses.' Then I lifted my voice with my soul to God: 'Lord, I will forgive.' No sooner had I said it than it seemed as if Heaven opened and peace came into my soul."

—Bro. Willie E. Murphey



SEPTEMBER 2, 2012

THOU SHALT NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

Exodus 20:14 Thou shalt not commit adultery.

Proverbs 6:32 *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

Matthew 5:27 (Jesus said:) Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:

28 But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.

19:3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except *it be* for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

10 His disciples say unto him, If the case of the man be so with *his* wife, it is not good to marry.

11 But he said unto them, All *men* cannot receive this saying, save *they* to whom it is given.

12 For there are some eunuchs, which were so born from *their* mother's womb: and there are some eunuchs, which were made eunuchs of men: and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive *it*, let him receive *it*.

Romans 7:2 For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to *her* husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of *her* husband.

3 So then if, while *her* husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.

MEMORY VERSE: Whosoever putteth away his wife, and marrieth another, committeth adultery: and whosoever marrieth her that is put away from *her* husband committeth adultery. Luke 16:18.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: It was God's plan in the beginning for man to be joined to his wife until death parts them. To separate from one's husband or wife and go and be joined with someone else is adultery and is forbidden by the law of God.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:14, "*adultery*": Violation of the sacred rite of marriage by unlawful relations with someone else.

Matthew 5:28, "*lust*": Uncontrolled desire.

19:3, "*tempting*": Examining or putting to a test. "*every cause*": any reason.

5, "*cleave*": Continue to be joined. "*twain*": two.

6, "*put asunder*": Separate and put them apart.

7, "*writing of divorcement*": Statement authorizing separation.

8, "*hardness of your hearts*": Absence of spiritual understanding because of fleshly purpose and desire.

9, "*except it be for fornication*": This cannot be an excuse to justify adultery, but rather the need for separating from the unfaithful companion.

10, "*If the case of the man be so with his wife*": If a man is persuaded that he should separate from his wife.

11, "*All men cannot receive this saying*": Not many will be willing to hear and heed this instruction. "*save they to whom it is given*": Except those who are so instructed personally by the Spirit of God.

12, "*eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake*": Separate from an adulterous companion for the sake of the salvation of their soul.

LESSON BACKGROUND

For our lesson today we have the seventh of the Ten Commandments that God gave to us through Moses. It involves the wonderful and sacred blessing that God gave to man in the beginning, that sweet and precious relationship of husband and wife in wedded unity and love. We note that Jesus quoted from Genesis 2:24 in speaking of marriage in answer to the Pharisees' question about the writing of divorcement allowed by Moses. He stated that God which made them at the beginning made them male and female, and that God said, "For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and

shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh." And He added, "Wherefore (or for this cause) they are no more twain, but one flesh." And, inferring that this one flesh was to be permanent in life unto the death of one of them, He stated: "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Let us consider what a wonderful blessing God designed for man and woman to enjoy, and it was so holy and sacredly planned that we as His offspring need to honor and respect Him in holy reverence and be faithful to one another until death do us part. But we must remember that there is another element and influence that has exerted its power to offset the great plan of God and bring sorrow, disappointment, grief, and condemnation to the souls of men and women. Looking out on our world today, we see this terrible condition prevailing in humanity in a most devastating manner. I do not know what the statistics are, but it is evident that the rate of adultery and double-marriage is very high and alarming. And, sad to say, so many of our society are totally unaware and heedless of God's plan and what He is pleased with concerning marriage and adultery. It is the work of satan to foil the plan of God in marriage and the designed happiness and loving relationship He wanted it to hold.

In Proverbs 6:32 we have the solemn statement that whoso commits adultery destroys his own precious eternity bound soul. Jesus made it quite clear that whoso puts away his wife and marries another commits the awful sin of adultery, and whoever marries the one who has been put away commits adultery as well. And let us not fail to consider what Jesus said about men who make themselves eunuchs for the sake of the kingdom of heaven. What does that mean? It means that there will be those who come out of fleshly relations with the opposite sex to cleanse their lives from this awful sin of adultery. There have been people who have done this down through the years. It is better to be alone and be pure from sin than to indulge in sexual relations and be lost in hell forever.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What was the original plan of God for man concerning marriage?
2. For what reason did Jesus say that the law permitted divorce?

3. How can men and women avoid this terrible sin of adultery?
4. Who are made eunuchs for the kingdom of heaven's sake?
5. What do these scriptures plainly declare about adultery?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

The Word of God in the Holy Scriptures is very plain about adultery and its consequence in the condition of souls who are caught in this awful trap. Galatians 5:19-21 lists the works of the flesh and how "that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." What heads the list of these things? It is adultery, followed by other fleshly lusts.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Think for a moment about the deep implications of adultery. We know the commandment. We understand, with our heads, that it is "wrong." But do we know it *with our hearts*?

First of all, adultery is a sin against God. This is the basis of all integrity, that GOD SEES, and that GOD WILL JUDGE. In one survey, 74% of men, and 68% of women, said they would have an affair if they were sure it would not be found out. This speaks of a great dirth in our land of this basic motivation for integrity. They also do not consider that our bodies were created to be God's holy temple, and that we are not our own. Taking our bodies and using them for unholy practices is essentially taking what is God's—stealing.

Secondly, adultery is a sin against one's own body. As God's temple, my body was created by Him and for him, and for holiness. It was not designed for the abuse of multiple relationships. Medical facts show that having adulterous relationships contributes to disease and domestic violence.

Adultery is also a sin against other individuals. If I cheat on my spouse, it is a sin against him. I rob him of what is, rightfully, only his. There is no other hurt as painful as adultery. Committing adultery directly transgresses the command, "Love one another" in the very worst way. It is a sin against the person with whom I am cheating and against his spouse. I am robbing them of their happy home and very possibly, their hope of salvation and eternal life. It is a sin

against his or her children and my children. I am robbing them of their daddy or mommy, and I am doing almost irreparable damage to their young lives.

For one moment of excitement, is it worth it????

—Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



SEPTEMBER 9, 2012

THOU SHALT NOT STEAL

Exodus 20:15 Thou shalt not steal.

Leviticus 19:11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.

Mark 7:20 And he (Jesus) said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man.

21 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders,

22 Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:

23 All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

I Corinthians 6:9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind,

10 Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

Ephesians 4:25 Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

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

27 Neither give place to the devil.

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORY VERSE: Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Ephesians 4:28.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The true born again child of God must never yield to the temptations of the flesh and worldly things that are against the commandments of God, but rather follow after righteousness, holiness, and that which is good and acceptable to the Holy Spirit of God.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:15, "*steal*": As a thief, to take from others secretly without permission or right.

Mark 7:20, "*defileth*": Makes profane, unholy, and condemned.

22, "*lasciviousness*": Fervent and lustful desires of the flesh. "*blasphemy*": Speaking evil against God. "*foolishness*": Senseless and reckless talk and ways.

I Corinthians 6:9, "*effeminate*": Having qualities attributed to women; Soft; A boy who has sexual relations with a man. "*abusers of themselves with mankind*": Homosexuals men with men.

10, "*revilers*": Those who rail on others to hurt and do mischief. "*extortioners*": Those who prey on others to get gain.

Ephesians 4:25, "*members one of another*": Parts of the same body.

26, "*let not the sun go down upon your wrath*": Do not allow your anger to cause you to speak or act in a way that is hurtful to others and displeasing to God.

27, "*neither give place to the devil*": Give no room for satan to work his destruction on your soul or the souls of others.

30, "*grieve*": Displease or act contrary. "*sealed unto the day of redemption*": Marked and chosen by God to be acceptable to Him on that last day and worthy of being changed to immortality.

31, "*clamour*": Tumult, arguing, and fussing.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is about stealing, taking goods from others unlawfully and without their consent. There is much of this kind of behavior going on in our world. This kind of action goes with the tenth commandment, "Thou shalt not covet." We have the account in 1 Kings 21 about Ahab, king of Israel, at first trying to purchase a vineyard from Naboth, his neighbor. When Naboth explained to Ahab why he felt that the Lord would forbid him to do so, Ahab went home and pouted, lying on his bed with his face turned away and would not eat. But when his wicked wife Jezebel found out about it, she connived to have Naboth accused of blasphemy against God and the king, and succeeded in having him stoned to death. Ahab went down to take possession of the vineyard but came face to face with the prophet Elijah who passed judgment from God upon him. He came under the wrath of God for this. To steal from your fellow man and take something from him unlawfully is against the law of Almighty God.

Along with this subject we are including several New Testament scriptures. We have Christ's own words that bring out the things that are in the heart of man that are wrong, sinful, and displeasing in God's sight. And one of them is thefts. How many burglaries, house break-ins, and robberies are daily carried out in our society. People get away with it many times, but there is coming a reckoning day for all such things. I remember several years ago when we came home from Wednesday night prayer meeting and found that our house had been broken into and several valuable items had been taken. Then another time we arrived home from a ministers' meeting in Guthrie to find that our house had been broken into and several things taken. Things like this happen numbers of times among humanity. We recovered from these thefts but there is coming a day when these pitiful souls will answer for their unlawful deeds.

It is an ignorant person who looks on things belonging to someone else and seeks to take what they desire by thievery. They are ignorant of the fear and godly principle of respect for their Creator. Thievery and crime does not pay. Not too long ago I put up a swing in one of our trees for our grandchildren to play on, and the next day we found that someone had taken it down. I found it later in the front yard tree of a house several blocks away. I did not try to deal with them about it. I just

committed all to God. It just does not pay and it is not worth facing the wrath of a righteous Creator to steal and take things from one's fellow man without their consent or paying for things.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What does stealing from others show about a person?
2. What other evils are mentioned in connection with stealing?
3. Who is hurt the most in the act of stealing from others?
4. Instead of yielding to the temptation to steal, what should one do?
5. What will be the end of all the robbers and thieves in this life?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Any kind of dishonesty is displeasing in the sight of God and a violation of His sacred commandments. To take something from a store counter and hide it in your pocket and walk out without paying for it is stealing. Any kind of false statements made to cover up a wrong committed will bring a person under the wrath and displeasure of our Maker. There is a song: "You can't do wrong and get by, no matter how hard you may try. Nothing hidden can be, everything God can see. You can't do wrong and get by." There is nothing worth taking wrongfully regardless of how valuable and high priced it might be. A reckoning day is coming. "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole *duty* of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil." Ecclesiastes 12:13-14. It pays to be honest and God fearing in all we do.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

This study brings back to mind a hard earned lesson I received in my first grade year of elementary school. The students were each given a sheet of paper to complete. I was not paying particular attention to the instructions given by the teacher and thus did not know how to complete the lesson on the page. So I decided to copy the answers from a neighbor's paper. The wise teacher had observed all of this and when she

graded my paper I received a very disappointing grade as well as a note written to take home to my parents. A very tearful and repentant girl arrived home from school that day. After wise reproof, I was never tempted to do that again. It was a powerful lesson in stealing and the certain punishment of being caught by the all-seeing eyes of the teacher.

Think of all of the crimes committed by way of thievery: shoplifting, home/business robberies, dishonest business practices, etc. While these crimes are committed in darkness, in a dressing room, in secret or through deceitful methods, we must remember that nothing will get past the all-seeing eye of the Lord. He knows even the thoughts and intents of the heart. "But we are sure that the judgment of God is according to truth against them, which commit such things...who will render to every man according to his deeds." Romans 2:2.

—Sis. LaDawna Adams



SEPTEMBER 16, 2012

THOU SHALT NOT BEAR FALSE WITNESS

Exodus 20:16 Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

23:1 Thou shalt not raise a false report: put not thine hand with the wicked to be an unrighteous witness.

Psalms 12:1 ...Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.

2 They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: *with* flattering lips *and* with a double heart do they speak.

3 The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things:

4 Who have said, With our tongue will we prevail; our lips are our own; who is lord over us?

5 For the oppression of the poor, for the sighing of the needy, now will I arise, saith the LORD; I will set *him* in safety from *him* that puffeth at him.

6 The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times.

7 Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.

8 The wicked walk on every side, when the vilest men are exalted.

Psalms 15:1 ...LORD, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?
who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

2 He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness,
and speaketh the truth in his heart.

3 *He that* backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil
to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his
neighbour.

4 In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he
honoureth them that fear the LORD. *He that* sweareth to his
own hurt, and changeth not.

5 *He that* putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh
reward against the innocent. He that doeth these *things* shall
never be moved.

Proverbs 12:17 *He that* speaketh truth showeth forth
righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a
lying tongue is but for a moment.

Prov. 25:18 A man that beareth false witness against his
neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

MEMORY VERSE: Wherefore putting away lying, speak
every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one
of another. Ephesians 4:25.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: Lying, speaking deceptive words,
and bearing a false witness or testimony against our fellow
man is a dark transgression against our holy and righteous
God and Creator.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 23:1, "*raise a false report*": Lift up or broadcast an
untrue announcement.

Psalms 12:1, "*Help, LORD*": Deliver and set us free, O
Jehovah! "*godly man ceaseth*": The Saint ceases to be found.

2, "*speak vanity*": Utter false and destructive words.
"*flattering lips*": Smooth and cunning talk. "*double heart*":
Speak one thing but with an evil purpose.

4, "*with our tongue*": By our big talk and much speaking.
"*our lips are our own*": We can say what we want to say! "*who
is lord over us*": Who is going to stop us?

8, "*walk on every side*": Walk around freely without fear of
contradiction or reproof. "*when the vilest men are exalted*":
When evil is held up and approved by man.

15:2, "*speaketh the truth in his heart*": Speaks honestly, not trying to cover up any wrong intention.

3, "*backbiteth*": Slander behind someone's back. "*nor taketh up a reproach*": Nor throws accusation against his fellow man.

4, "*contemned*": Despised or lightly esteemed. "*sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not*": Will keep his word or promise even if it brings him trouble or persecution.

5, "*putteth not out his money to usury*": Does not charge interest on money he loans out to help others. "*taketh reward against the innocent*": Takes no action against the blameless.

Proverbs 12:19, "*but for a moment*": The Hebrew says, "only while I wink".

25:18, "*maul*": A hammer to beat with.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is commandment number nine of the Ten Commandments God gave to Moses. It has to do with one of the great currents of evil that are abroad in our society. To bear falsity and lies and deceit is prevalent in the heart diseased by lust and sin. With wrong purposes and desires filling the heart, the tongue is used to offset any opposition and to attain to selfish objectives and goals. But God has included in His holy law this strong command to not bear false witness against one's neighbor or fellow man. Revelation 21:8 gives a list of all who will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, the second death. And the last one mentioned is "all liars." Proverbs 14:5 states: "A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies."

Along with the two scriptures from Exodus, we felt inspired to bring two of the psalms of David, and the wise counsel they contain, referring to the dishonesty and corruption that is abroad in this sin-defiled earth. And we finish up with two scriptures from Proverbs. May the Lord impress upon our hearts the holy counsel and sound warning that is given herein.

In I Kings 13 we have the account of a man of God who was sent to deal with king Jeroboam. He showed the great power of God and Jeroboam was greatly impressed. He asked the man of God to come home with him, but his invitation was refused for God had instructed him to eat no bread nor drink water, and he left to go his way. But an old prophet heard

about it and in verses 11-25 it tells how this old prophet went after the man of God and told him a lie. He said that an angel told him to tell the man of God to come home with him. The man of God yielded and went home with the old prophet and later was killed by a lion. This is an instance of the evil effects of a lie.

We surely need to give diligent heed to this commandment of our God. Let the words of the two Psalms of David be remembered. It pays to fear God and always speak the truth in our hearts before our fellow man. —Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. Why is man in his sinful state so prone to dishonesty and lies?
2. Why is it better to tell the truth even though it may bring trouble?
3. What is going to be the final end of all liars?
4. What lie from satan got mother Eve to yield to transgression?
5. Is it possible for man to live honestly without speaking lies?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

Jesus spoke to the people in John 8:44, "Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." satan spoke through the serpent to Eve and told her a big lie. He said, "Ye shall not surely die: 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." He made partaking of the forbidden tree to be as a desirable and innocent thing. And when Eve listened and consented to partake of the tree, it brought sin and condemnation into the world. Satan is still bringing lies and falsity before mankind today. We have many church and religious doctrines in the world that are not according to the real truth of God. There are thousands who believe that we as humans cannot live free from sin. They believe we have to repent every day for our many sins. This is one of satan's big lies. The Holy Bible teaches very plainly that by the help and grace of God we can overcome all sinful habits

and ways and live holy and unblameable before God in love. Another big lie promoted in the church world is that Jesus will come and set up His kingdom in Jerusalem and we will live and reign with Him for a thousand years. And there are other false doctrines that satan has going. Let us be earnest to know the real truth of God's Word.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Bro. Rodney Smith shared with us a litmus test for our words, that I thought was excellent.

I. Is it true? This is the first question. If the thought is not true it can be dropped, it doesn't pass. If it is true then it comes to the next question.

II. Is it necessary? Just because something is true doesn't mean that it is needful. If it is not needful it doesn't pass. If it is true and necessary then it comes to the last test.

III. Is it kind? If it is not kind it doesn't pass. When questioning what should be said and what should be left unsaid, we can use this little test to help us decide.

The book of James brings out how great a matter a little fire kindleth! The uncontrolled tongue has been the source of great damage, pain and suffering. Reputations have been ruined and marred by the little member—the tongue. The work of the Lord has suffered greatly at times, from the tongue. The tongue has divided family members and separated friends.

Bro. Clifford Wilson also shared that there are things told to us in confidence that we will just need to take to the grave with us rather than repeat. The tongue also has the power to edify and be a great blessing to others when used appropriately.

—Bro. Bob Wilson



SEPTEMBER 23, 2012

THOU SHALT NOT COVET

Exodus 20:17 Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.

Luke 12:13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully:

17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits?

18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods.

19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

20 But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.

I Timothy 6:6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, and it is certain that we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

MEMORY VERSE: *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13:5-6.*

CENTRAL THOUGHT: God wants His people to trust in His faithfulness to provide for all of their needs in this life and be content with what He provides without coveting what other people have.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Exodus 20:17, "*covet*": Long for with fervent desire.

Luke 12:15, "*beware*": Be on your guard against and avoid.

20, "*thy soul shall be required of thee*": The soul that God has given you shall be called and demanded back to face Him in judgment.

1 Timothy 6:9, "*will be rich*": Purpose and resolve to be wealthy. "*snare*": Trap. "*hurtful*": Destructive.

18, "*distribute*": Impart to others. "*willing to communicate*": Generous to help the needy.

19, "*laying up*": Treasuring away for future benefit. "*a good foundation against the time to come*": An assurance and hope for the eternal age to come. "*lay hold*": Possess with no hindrance.

Hebrews 13:6, "*boldly say*": Declare with confidence.

LESSON BACKGROUND

Our lesson today is the final commandment of the Ten Commandments given to us through Moses. By no means is this commandment the least of importance. All of God's commandments are important and it is vital for us to highly esteem all of them. But this commandment has to do with the affections and desires that we as human beings have and must bring in complete submission to the will of God. The lusts and appetites of our mortal flesh has gotten many people in trouble throughout the history of man. We have in II Samuel, chapters 11 and 12 the account of a man who got in serious trouble with

God coveting his neighbour's wife. This man had been labeled as a man after God's own heart, and had been richly blessed in many ways from his youth. This was David, the king of Israel. While his general, Joab, and the army was engaged in battle, David had chosen to tarry at home. One evening as David walked upon the roof of his house he saw a woman across the way washing herself. He inquired about her and found that she was the wife of one of the members of his army who was out on the battlefield. His desire for the opposite sex took over and he had her come and spend some time at his house. It was a horrible sin that took place. The woman conceived, and sent word to David. David got in serious trouble with God over this affair.

The 51st Psalm is generally attributed to David concerning his grievous sin. The desire for the opposite sex is not the only lust that must be brought in control. Most of the scriptures in our lesson have to do with the desire for wealth and financial gain. This has been one of man's greatest temptations. Jesus spoke different times about it. And we have Paul's words about it also included in our lesson. He makes the strong statement, but it is surely the truth, that the love of money is the root of all evil. Satan knows how to allure the appetites of a person in a direction that will produce sin and transgression in the heart and life. Paul made the statement in Romans 7:7 that he had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. So, as mortals, we should take heed to our ways and be diligent to restrain and bring in subjection the desires and appetites of the flesh, and be led by the Spirit of God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What are some of the things a person is tempted to covet for?
2. Why is wealth and riches such a strong temptation?
3. What should we covet and seek for rather than material things?
4. What kind of foundation should we lay up in store for?
5. Why should we be content with such things as we have?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

In our lesson Paul stated that "godliness with contentment is great gain." Paul also testified in Philippians 4:11-13

like this: "...I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, *therewith* to be content. I know both how to be abased (depressed and humiliated), and I know how to abound (have more than enough); every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." We need to learn how to prosper and excel and keep lowly and humble in mind and spirit; and, we need to learn how to bear up and keep cheerful and courageous when everything around us is heavy and depressing. The Lord can help us to meet life day by day and be cheerful, happy, and pleasant to all about us. This calm and peaceful attitude will not only help the inner man to be in good spiritual health, but it will also have a good bearing upon our physical system. Bitterness, strife, discontent, and gloom have a bearing upon our entire being. This mortal life will soon be over, and only what is done for Christ will last.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Not long ago, while waiting near an intersection for the traffic light to change, I observed a couple of birds that looked like they were fighting one another. I wondered why they were acting so aggressively toward each other and then the reason became apparent. A small butterfly fluttered away from them. One of them had the insect in its beak and the other bird wanted it and was trying to take it away. The result of their conflict caused both of them to lose out. The riches of this world are just as fleeting as this insect. Often we lose them even before we pass into eternity ourselves, and once we pass it is a certainty that they will be left behind.

There is an account of a family that suffered a devastating fire to their home. The parents and children all escaped the burning house with only the clothes they had on at the time. As the mother hurried from the front door of the house, she reached out and picked a solitary rose that was near the burning structure. Later, as the family drove away from the ashes of what had been their home, the mother let all the children smell the fragrance of the rose. The daughter reported that at the time she thought her mother should have taken something more valuable from the house than just a rose. However, in later years she better understood the wisdom of her mother. While our possessions may be important to us,

the value of our faith and hope in God far exceeds our earthly belongings. For we know that God is the source of all of those things and His blessing on our life is worth more than the treasures of the whole world. The rose that this dear mother plucked testified to her trust in the living God and to her confidence that He would not fail them even in the time of their temporal loss.

May we exercise this same kind of faith in God and not allow the sin of greed and covetousness to steal the real Treasure from our lives. —Bro. Willie E. Murphey



SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

BY THE LAW IS THE KNOWLEDGE OF 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.

20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

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.

6 But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held: that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.

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.

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.

10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEMORY VERSE: 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. Galatians 3:13-14.

CENTRAL THOUGHT: The law of God given through Moses was to enlighten and help us to be made aware and conscious of the sin that was in us. But Jesus Christ took upon Him this mortal body with all of its appetites, temptations, and desires, and overcame the temptations of the devil. By His help and grace we can overcome sin and live pleasing to God.

WORD DEFINITIONS

Romans 3:19, "*every mouth may be stopped*": All humanity may be silenced in recognition of their sin and condemned state before God. "*become guilty*": Be brought under God's judgment.

7:5, "*motions of sins*": Passions and fleshly desires contrary to what pleases God. "*in our members*": Hands, feet, eyes, ears, and tongue and any other part of the body that we may employ.

6, "*newness of spirit*": Freshness and joy of spiritual life in Christ. "*oldness of the letter*": The written law of God worn out and overcome by sin and transgression.

7, "*God forbid*": Let it not be! "*not known lust*": Not being aware of fleshly desires being contrary to the will of God.

8, "*taking occasion by the commandment*": Having opportunity by the knowledge given by the law. "*wrought*": Worked and produced. "*all manner of concupiscence*": All kinds of ungodly lusts and desires.

8:1, "*no condemnation*": No sentence of judgment.

3, "*weak through the flesh*": Overcome by sinful desires. "*condemned sin in the flesh*": Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit, overcame all temptation to sin and disobedience to God.

4, "*fulfilled in us*": Accomplished in us through the power of the Spirit.

10:4, "*end of the law for righteousness*": Brought the real victory over sin that the law could not do.

10, "*confession*": Acknowledgement and open witness and testimony.

LESSON BACKGROUND

After our series of lessons on the Ten Commandments we desire to have a survey of the New Testament writings that express what the real purpose that God had in mind in giving His Law as He did and when He did. It is interesting and important to note the way that God worked through the passing ages in His manner of schedule and procedure. Paul hits on that in Galatians 3:16-19 as we stated in the July 15 lesson: "Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. And this I say, *that* the covenant, that was confirmed before of God in Christ, the law, which was four hundred and thirty years after, cannot disannul, that it should make the promise of none effect. For if the inheritance *be* of the law, *it is* no more of promise: but God gave *it* to Abraham by promise. Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It

was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator." So we see that the Lord made the everlasting covenant with us in Abraham first, and then after 430 years He gave the law. If He had given the law first, it would have sealed our doom. But He made the covenant of faith first, and that assured us of mercy and help. He did not want the law to seal our fate to be lost and without hope. He gave the law to help us to see our sinful condition, and, backed with the seal of His promise through Abraham, we all have hope of attaining to victory and favor with God.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

QUESTIONS:

1. What did God do to help us to be aware of our sinful state?
2. Why did He establish His covenant on terms of faith first?
3. How can we overcome the sin and wrong that the law shows up?
4. What did Jesus do to help us to be delivered from sin?
5. Is there any sin that a person cannot overcome by God's grace?

COMMENTS AND APPLICATION

God is a holy, righteous, and faithful Creator. He wants man to be aware of his sinful condition. But He also wants man to be assured of mercy and help. He worked the two factors in good order, for the effect will be in our hearts and minds that of faith, confidence, hope, and assurance of His goodness and love, plus keen awareness of sin and how to overcome its stealthful bondage.

As our lesson brings out, sin is the transgression of God's holy Law. We need to be keenly aware of that. People who are not conscious of their sinful condition are not going to be very earnest and desirous to get help from God. It is because they do not feel any need. It is a problem with many people, and that is why such a great number of people are not seeking after their Creator. May the Lord help souls to awaken to their sinful condition and muster faith and confidence in the goodness of God to come to Him for the help that they so desperately need.

—Bro. Leslie Busbee

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

The lesson today brought to mind a story about a father who began to be very concerned about his children, who were growing into later childhood and early teenage. They seemed to not be concerned about their souls; *conviction* for sin and an awareness of their need of salvation just wasn't there. He had trained them to know about God, had read the Bible stories to them, had taught them to pray, and all in all, they were *good* children, but he knew another step was needed. He sought God earnestly to know what that step was. God directed him to begin in Genesis and read through the Pentateuch with his children in nightly family worship. They read all of the law—the feasts and ceremonies, the plan for atonement, the civil statutes—everything. He was amazed at the result. The *character of God* began to be so clear, and in stark contrast, the sinfulness of the human heart and the need for forgiveness was revealed. One by one, his children began to see their need for salvation, and his prayers were answered.

How many times have we passed over the Old Testament teachings, thinking, "Oh, we're so past that now. The law isn't that important. We'll just do the basic Bible stories and teach our children about the love of Jesus." But God hasn't changed, and human nature hasn't changed. We'll miss an important step if we fail to instruct our children diligently in God's law.

We don't leave them there, however. Paul said that the law was "our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith." (Galatians 3:24). The word *schoolmaster* refers not to the teacher at school, but a servant who conducted the children from home to school. In American society we are familiar with the school bus driver, who takes children to and from school.

We must teach our children the law—the do's, the don'ts—of God, but we also know we can't "leave them on the bus." The object of all our instruction is to *bring them to Christ*, to a personal, saving knowledge of Him. —Sis. Angela Gellenbeck



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