**LESSON ONE, PART ONE**

**WHAT IS GOD LIKE?**

In order to deal with this question, we must first ask, "ls there a God?" and "Can we learn about Him?" According to the Bible the answer to each is, "YES, there is a true and living God.” He is the God who made all things, including us and the world in which we live. While mankind seems to intuitively know this, his history has also been wrought with confusion and superstition. But God has given us His Word, The Bible, so that we might know the truth; the truth about Himself, about ourselves, and the truth about how we can be right with Him. So, what is God like? Well, ﬁrst of all, God is so great and wonderful that we can never know everything about Him. But in this lesson, we will look at a few of the major revelations He has given of Himself in the Bible. There is only one true and living God, yet

**HE EXISTS IN THREE PERSONS** — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The doctrine of the Trinity is perhaps the most mysterious and difficult doctrine that is presented to us in the entire range of Scripture. Consequently, one cannot presume to give a full explanation of it. The tri—personality of God is exclusively a truth of revelation, and one which lies outside the realm of natural reason. Its height and depth, its length and breadth are immeasurable by reason of the fact that the ﬁnite is dealing with the Inﬁnite. We can, however, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, set forth in a plain and simple way, (given the limitations of language and a ﬁnite mind), the truth concerning the doctrine of the Trinity.

The word Trinity is not found in the Bible, and though used by Tertullian in the last decade of the second century, it did not find a place formally in the theology of the church until the fourth century. It is however, the distinctive mark of the Christian religion, setting it apart from all of the other religions of the world. This doctrine makes three affirmations: That there is one God; that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is each God and that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are each distinct Persons.

Although the term "Trinity" is not found in Scripture the essence of it certainly is, and it grows from four scriptural facts:

1. The Bible teaches that the Father is God, (John 8:41).

2. The Bible teaches that the Son is God, (Titus 2:13).

3. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is God, (Acts 5:3,4).

4. The Bible teaches that there is only one God, (Deut. 6:4; James 2:19.)

(Please note: this is only a sample of the proof texts. A more complete list is available. Check the box on the answer sheet if you want us to send it to you).

It is from these scriptural truths that the doctrine is formed. This doctrine sets forth a monotheism, (one God), but one in which three distinct "persons," who all share the divine essence and attributes equally, are within the Godhead. This view of God is uniquely Christian and is not shared by any other religion.

**…we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity, neither confusing the Persons nor dividing the divine Being. For there is one Person of the Father, another of the Son and another of the Holy Spirit, but the Godhead of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit is all one, their glory equal, their majesty co-eternal. (Gerald Bray; "Creeds, Councils, and Christ" InterVarisity Press, 1984).**

**LESSON ONE, PART ONE, Page 2**

**FALSE VIEWS OF THE TRINITY**

By considering what the Trinity is not, we will be able to better understand what the Trinity is.

**THE TRINITY DOES NOT DIVIDE GOD.** One church member was overheard explaining to another that the Trinity is like a pie, divided into three different pieces: one is the Father, one is the Son, and one is the Holy Spirt”; Such division may work very well with cherry pies, but it does not work very well with the living God, because God is not like a pie. The Bible does not teach that the Father is a third of God. The Bible teaches that the Father is 100% God, and the Son is 100% God, and the Holy Spirit is 100% God.

**THE TRINITY DOES NOT TEACH THAT THERE ARE THREE GODS.** There are those who teach that the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God - three separate gods. They say there must be three gods because obviously one plus one plus one does not equal one. It equals three. Yet the Bible very clearly teaches that there is but one God: “Hear: O, Israel: The Lord our God the Lord is one“ (Duet. 6:4). As far as math is concerned, it is worth noting that 1 x 1 x 1 = 1. It is vital as we teach the Trinity to Stress there is but one God. Polytheism (belief in many gods) is 100% against the biblical view of God.

**THE TRINITY IS NOT GOD WEARING DIFFERENT COSTUMES.** Others have said, "You see, it is like this: God, ﬁrst of all, revealed Himself to us as the Father. He came- out with a long robe and a long beard and showed Himself to be the Father. Then He went backstage and like a great actor, changed His costume, and came out as the Son. That was the second act of the great drama of human redemption. After the Son had played His part, He too went backstage and, having changed His costume again, came out as the Holy Spirit, and we are now still engaged in the great third and ﬁnal act of this drama.” This explanation makes an interesting story, but it is not true to the facts. The Bible teaches that God the- Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have coexisted eternally (not one after the other), and there is not one person, but three persons in the one spiritual substance of the Godhead.

**THE TRINITY IS NOT GOD IN DIFFERENT FORMS.** Others; in trying to explain this doctrine, have said, "You see, the trinity is like water. Sometimes it is a liquid, sometimes it is solid, and sometimes it is gas — like water; ice, and steam. This is also not acceptable because God is, at one and the same time, three distinct persons -the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Water can never be liquid, solid, and gas at the same time. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all of the time. Such illustrations about the Trinity are inaccurate and just will not do. Instead of these attempts to explain the meaning of the Trinity, let’s look to the Scriptures and see how the triune nature of God is revealed to us-

**THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS BASED ON THE TEACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES** and- not on; tradition. While it took time for the Church to express clearly the teaching of the bible concerning the triune nature of God, the idea was always present in the New Testament Scriptures and in the hearts of Christians.

Although the Old Testament does not teach the doctrine of the trinity, it clearly anticipates the revelation of God's triune nature. This can be seen in the first few verses of Genesis where God created the universe in conjunction with the Spirit and the Word. (Genesis 1:2-3 / John 1:1)

**LESSON ONE, PART ONE, PAGE 3**

It is important to note the name for God which is used in the ﬁrst chapter of Genesis. The word is "Elohim" and is plural, clearly an intimation of the Holy Trinity. "And God [Elohim] said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Gen. 1:26. But, lest the unity of the Godhead be forgotten, the unity is reasserted in the verse which follows, “So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him." While the "us" and “our” of verse 26 intimates' plurality, the “He” and “Him” of verse 27 asserts unity. Read Matthew 3:16-17. For the ﬁrst time the Trinity, foreshadowed in many ways in the OT, is clearly manifested. The Spirit descends upon the Son and, at the same moment, the Fathers voice is heard from heaven. The three are named together in Matthew 28:19 and should be compared with 1 Cor.12:4-6; 2 Cor.13:14; Eph.2:18; 4:4-6; 1 Peter 1:2; and Jude 20-21.

With reference to the order of their activities the Father is ﬁrst, the Son is second, and the Holy Spirit

is third; the general formula being as follows: Of the Father (I Cor. 8:6), through the Son (John 3:17), by the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:5), and unto the Father (Eph.2:18). Even so, however, no one of the Persons acts independently of the other Persons: but there is always mutual concurrence, as our Lord said, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work" (John 5:17); and, ‘The Son can do nothing of himself' (John 5:19); and again, "I and my Father are one" (John 10:28-30)

In the NT revelation of God as a tri-personal Being, there is no retreat from the stern monotheism of the OT (Compare Duet.6:4-5 with Mark 12:29-30 and Rom 3:30). The three divine Persons are one God, not three gods. It was necessary in the O.T. to emphasize ﬁrst the divine unity in order to guard against polytheistic tendencies. But even in the O.T., read in the light of the NT, a plurality of Persons appears within the one true God (Compare Gen. 1:26; Isa 6:8; 48:12 with 48:16).

As stated in the beginning of this lesson, the Trinity of God is a great mystery, something wholly beyond the possibility of complete explanation. But we can guard against error by holding fast to the facts of divine revelation: that (1) with respect to His Being or essence God is one; (2) with respect to His Person, God is three; and (3) we must neither divide the essence nor confuse the Persons. If we are to accept Jesus Christ, we must come to know Him as the people of the Bible who saw Him walking in their midst came to know Him. They came to the realization that this man was God in the ﬂesh - fully God and fully man - the Creator who had come to die for their sins (1 John 1:1-4, Col. 1:15-20, Matt.1:23, John 1:14).

Also, the Holy Spirit, as the third person of the trinity, is also fully God and a separate person from the Father and the Son. The Spirit must be accepted according to the biblical testimony concerning Him. To attempt to transform Him into merely an impersonal "force" is to reject the facts which are clearly taught in the NT. As Christians we must accept God as He has revealed Himself and this is as the Triune God: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. To reject the Triune God is to reject the God of the Scriptures. A series of proof—texts is offered for further personal study. It is not automatically included with mailings into prisons because of page limits but it can be sent separately to anyone who requests them.

Much of the reference material for this lesson was taken from the Scoﬁeld Study Bible and a commentary by Dr. D. James Kennedy, “Understanding the Trinity”.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON ONE, PART ONE**

1. There is only one true and living God yet He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The Trinity view of God is uniquely \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and is not

shared by any \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3.Does the Trinity teach that there is three Gods? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4.The doctrine of the Trinity is based on the teaching of the Scriptures and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. In John 10:30 Jesus said, "I and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are one."

6. If we are to accept Jesus Christ we must come to know Him as the people of the Bible who saw Him walking in their midst came to know Him. They came to the realization that this man was God in the flesh - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

To reject the Triune God is to reject the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Scriptures.

Please note: If you would like to have a copy of the two-page appendix,

"Proof-texts of the Trinity in Scripture," Please write "yes" here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**LESSON ONE, PART TWO**

**WHAT IS GOD LIKE?**

**GOD IS A SPIRIT-BEING**

One reason why we cannot see God is because He is a ‘spirit-being’. You have a body which we can see. You also have a spirit which we cannot see. “God is a Spirit (a spirit-being): and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.” (Jn. 4:24). God is all spirit. He does not have a body such as we have that can be seen, but He is a living person who sees and hears us at all times. A.H. Strong put it this way: As spirit is nothing less than the inmost principle of life, and the spirit of a man is man himself, so the spirit of God must be God. (I Cor. 2:11).

**GOD IS HOLY**

In its simplest form, this means that God is without sin. Many times the Scriptures refer to sin as darkness. The Bible says, “God is light, and in Him is no darkness (no sin) at all." When we refer to the glory of a physical object we are usually referring to the brightness of that object, or the light which emits or reflects. God is all glorious, which means that He is holy and exceedingly bright. God’s glory is such that we could not bear to see it. We cannot look directly at the sun when it is shining brightly for it would damage our eyes. In referring to the New Jerusalem, Rev. 21:23 says, “And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it; for the glory of God did light it, and the Lamb is the lamp of it.”

Isaiah saw a vision of God on His throne. Around the throne of God were angels praising God saying “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory.” When Isaiah saw the vision he was afraid, for he saw that God is holy. He saw himself as very sinful before a holy God. He fell on his face and cried out, “Woe is me! For I am undone” (is. 6:5).

We have said that no one can see God because we cannot bear to look upon such brightness. But God’s holiness means more than shining brightness. God is pure. God is perfect. God is without any speck of impurity. Because God is holy, He hates sin. Nothing wicked or sinful can ever come near Him. It would be destroyed by His holiness and glory in much the same way that light dispels darkness. When we begin to grasp the idea of how sinful we are, and how pure and holy God is, we realize that we could never come into His presence as we are. How blessed we are that God loves us and has made a way for us to be accepted by Him.

**GOD IS EVERYWHERE** (Omnipresent)

“Do not I fill heaven and earth? Says the Lord.” (Jer 23:24). God is present everywhere in His universe. No matter where we are or where we may go, God is there. You and I live in bodies and we can be in only one place at a time. Because God is God, and because He is Spirit, He can be everywhere at the same time.

**GOD HAS ALL KNOWLEDGE** (Omniscience)

He knows everything: Everything that has happened and everything that will happen. He has the answers to all the whys. He knows things we cannot know. He knows how many stars are in the sky and calls them by name. He knows our names as well. In fact He knows us better than we know ourselves. “All things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.” (Heb. 4:13). He’s never made a mistake. His ways are perfect.

(Ps. 18:30).

**LESSON ONE, PART TWO, Page 2**

**GOD IS ALL POWERFUL** (Omnipotent)

There is no limit to God’s power. He is “the almighty God.” God has all power in Heaven and in earth. He can do whatever He chooses to do. “Our God is in the heavens: He has done whatsoever He has pleased.” (Ps. 115:3). God holds all things in His hand. He rules over all kings, all leaders, and all the nations of the earth. The most powerful men of the world are as nothing compared to God. The Bible says, “He does according to His will in the army of Heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay His hand, or say unto Him, What doest Thou?” (Dan. 4:35)

**GOD IS RIGHTEOUS AND JUST**

God always does what is right, even in judgement. One day every person will stand before Him to be judged. Ps 96:13 says, “He shall judge the world with righteousness.” Because God is both right (righteous) and just, he must punish all sin and evil. He cannot overlook our sins or pretend that He doesn’t know about them. He can never do anything that is unrighteous. Ps. 145: 17 says, “The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and holy in all His works.”

**GOD IS FAITHFUL**

God always keeps His word. He does what He says He will do. Do you ever make promises? Do you always keep them? I am afraid we have to admit that we do not always keep our promises. Sometimes we simply forget. And sometimes we make promises we cannot keep. But God never forgets; He is never incapable of keeping His promises, and He always keeps them. Heb 10:23 says, “He is faithful and promised.” Because God is faithful, we can put our trust in Him. We know that He will keep His word. “They that know Thy name will put their trust in Thee.” Ps. 9:10

**GOD IS MERCIFUL**

God is not only righteous and just; He is also merciful. He is kind and gracious to all people. Exodus 34:6-7 says, “The Lord, the Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin.” A.H. Strong, compiler of “Strong’s Complete Concordance”, and author of “Systematic Theology”, said, “Mercy is that eternal principle of God’s nature which leads Him to seek the temporal good and eternal salvation of those who have opposed themselves to His will, even at the cost of infinite self-sacrifice. Goodness is the eternal principle of God’s nature which leads Him to communicate of His own life and blessedness to those who are like Him in moral character. Goodness, therefore, is nearly identical with the love of complacency; MERCY, WITH THE LOVE OF BENEVOLENCE.” In other words, God is merciful because He wants to be, and for no other reason. He is just, to some degree, because He has to be - not to be just would be unjust. With God, justice must always be done; mercy is optional with Him. He was not under obligation to provide redemption for sinners. (Compare II Peter 2:4). Salvation, therefore, is a matter of grace, not of debt.

**GOD IS GOOD**

The Bible tells us that God is good, gracious, generous to all people, even His enemies. He makes His sun to shine on evil people as well as good people, and He sends His rain on the unjust as well as the just. Hence the statement by Strong in the above paragraph, “Goodness is nearly identical with the love of complacency.” But, though God is good to all He takes special delight in those who love Him and trust in Him. Ps. 31:19, “Oh how great is Thy goodness, which Thou hast laid up for them that fear Thee, which Thou has wrought for them that trust in Thee before the sons of men!”

**LESSON ONE, PART TWO, Page 3**

**GOD IS LOVE**

The Bible assures us that God loves us and desires only what is best for us. Though He is the exalted ruler of the universe, with all power and majesty, God loves us and is friendly toward us. He wants us to love Him and to be His friends. Many people think that God hates them because of their sins. It is true that God hates wickedness and sin, but He does not hate us. Because He is holy and just God must punish sin. But because He is love He made a way for us to be forgiven of our sins. God loved us so much that he sent Jesus to die as a sacrifice for our sins, (Jn 3:16). This verse, and many others, assure us that not only does God not hate us, we are very precious to Him. God is great enough to know each of us individually and to love each of us as a person. Someone has well said, “A friend is someone who knows all about you, but likes you anyway.” But God’s love for each one of us goes even further. His love lets us know that we are important to Him; in spite of all we have done, thought or said. In spite of our short comings and weaknesses, God loves us. Love is supreme among His attributes.

**GOD IS UNCHANGEABLE**

We should certainly praise God for this wonderful truth. The Bible tells us that God has never changed, and He never will. In a world where everything around us is unstable and constantly changing, God is always the same in His nature and character. God is always Holy; always just; always righteous; always merciful; always faithful; always good; always loving. What God is now He has always been and always will be. God himself said “I am the Lord, I change not.” Mal 3:6.

The more we learn about what God is like; how great He is and how much He loves us, the more we will want to worship Him. He doesn’t want us to worship Him according to our own ideas of how and what He is. His word says we are to worship him in spirit and truth. Therefore, we must learn the truth about Him. As we learn those truths His Spirit will minister to our spirit and we will be able to really worship Him as never before. Of all the ‘foundational’ truths we will study this class, this is primary. All of our Christian life depends on ‘knowing God.’ Knowing God is THE reason for studying His word. We must first KNOW Him before we can trust Him. Before we can pray to Him. Before we can praise Him.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON ONE, PART TWO**

1. As spirit is nothing less than the inmost principle of life, and the spirit of man is man himself, so

the spirit of God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-..

2. When we begin to grasp the idea of how sinful we are, and how pure and holy God is, we

realize that we could never come into His presence \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. How

blessed we are that God loves us and has made a way for us to be accepted hy Him.

3. God always keeps His word. He does what \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

4. God is merciful because \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_, and for no other reason.

5. The Bible assures us that God loves us and desires only what is best for us. In spite of our shortcomings and weaknesses, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_..

6. In your own words briefly define the word; Omnipresent. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
  
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7. Also briefly define the word; Omniscience. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**LESSON TWO – THE CREATION**

In the two parts of our ﬁrst lesson we took a preliminary look at some of the attributes of God; “What Is God like?” In doing so we have presupposed one of the most important of all Biblical facts; **GOD HAS ALWAYS EXISTED!**

God existed in all His power and glory before a single thing in the universe was created. Genesis 1:1 says, "In the beginning God." Before the beginning of anything God was there. He has always existed. He will always exist. "From everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.” Ps 90:2.

**1. THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE** We live in a fantastic universe. Our sun is so large that it could contain a million worlds the size of our earth. And there are stars in space so large that they could easily hold 500 million suns the size of ours. The giant star, Antares, is said to be, so large that if it were a hollow ball and the sun and earth were put inside it, the earth could continue it's orbit around the sun and never come even halfway to the outer edge of Antares. So precise is the clockwork of the heavens that we can foretell an eclipse or the visit of a comet years in advance. And we can know with mathematical precision the position of any given star at any moment of time. Such order and precision cannot be the products of chance. There had to be some incredible power to bring such stars into being, and there has to be an incredible power to control them.

How did the universe come into being? God created it! The Bible begins with this majestic statement, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” Gen. 1:1 How did He do that? The Bible says He created them by the power of His word. “By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the hosts of them by the breath of His mouth.” Ps, 33:6 “For He spake and it was done; He commanded and it stood fast.” Ps. 33:9.

How do we know these things? We know them by faith in God's word. “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God." Heb. 11:3 (This is the same way we "know“ scientiﬁc “facts.” We know them because we believe the scientist and have faith in their work).

**2. THE CREATION OF THE EARTH** No one knows when the earth was created. God has not revealed this to us. Gen. 1:1 simply says, "ln the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." We do not know what the earth was like at this time but everything in this verse points to God's power, His wisdom, and His perfection. The Bible says, “the morning stars sang together and all the sons of God (the angels) shouted for joy” when God created the earth. (See Job 38:4-12).

In Genesis 1:2 there is a different scene. The Bible says: “And the earth was (or became) without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.” How long the earth remained in this condition we do not know. But over this dark scene the Spirit of God brooded. Then God spoke "Let there be light,” and there was light. Read through to Genesis 1:31 for the balance of the six days of creation.

**3. THE CREATION OF MAN** The phrase “after his kind” is repeated eight times in the ﬁrst chapter of Genesis. This meant that every living creature could produce creatures like itself, and only like itself. No animal could change into a different kind of animal. This principle is just as true today as it was then. Man did not come up from lower terms of animal life. God created him “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.” Gen. 1:26.

**LESSON TWO - PAGE TWO**

**WHY DID GOD CREATE MAN?** After all the trouble God has had with man, it makes one wonder. But when we really begin to understand the person of God, what He is like, we can realize that God not only considered the effort worthwhile, we can learn that we were and are a labor of love. So it is understanding His person that now becomes important.

His foremost and primary attribute, as we studied in lesson one, is love. Many things can be said of love but we understand that love needs an object and it needs to be the object. What good is love if it has nothing upon which to express itself? And doesn’t love just as necessarily need to be loved in return?

God also created man for His glory. lsa. 43:7. God wanted man to worship Him and to glorify Him as well as love Him and fellowship with Him. Much is said in God's word about man being created to glorify Him, unfortunately much is also said about man failing to glorify Him as God, Rom. 1:21; and “falling short of His glory," Rom. 3:23. Which brings us to a necessary study of the ﬁrst man, ADAM:

"So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him." Gen. 1:27 What does it mean to be created in God’s image? Certainly we know that we are not omnipresent nor omnipotent, nor perfect in any way. So how are we like God? - We are spiritual, we are also personal, rational, emotional and volitional. These are important ways in which we are like God. A closer look at these attributes will take place in future lessons. But since Adam was the ﬁrst man and thus the head of the whole human race, it is important that we know what Adam was like.

Adam was formed with three main parts - body, soul, and spirit. The body is the outer part of man which can be seen. The soul is the inner part of man which cannot be seen and the spirit is the innermost part of man by which he can commune with God.

**ADAMS BODY**  Adam's home was to be the earth and God made a body for Adam out of the earth. Gen. 2:7. With this body man can both enjoy and be useful in the physical realm God has made for him. He can see, hear, touch, taste and smell. Thus he has contact with the world around him. The body which God has made for man is really a combination of many marvels. The human ear is somewhat like a grand piano except that it is a million times smaller and has 100 times as many ‘strings.’ The human eye is more remarkable than any camera ever made. The heart of man was made so that it could beat 100,000 times a day and work a lifetime without requiring replacement. God made the brain of man so that it could do what tons and tons of complicated computers cannot do. It contains more nerve lines than all the telephone lines of the world combined, and yet it weighs less than 3 pounds. Every part of the human body is a testimony to the inﬁnite wisdom and skill of the One who created it. We can say with the psalmist, "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Ps 139:14.

**ADAMS SOUL** Adam not only had a body but he also had a soul. The Bible says: “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a living soul.” Gen. 2:7. The soul of man consists of three parts; the mind, the emotions and the will. With his mind Adam could think, (Rational). With his emotions he could feel: (Emotional).With his will he could choose, (Volitional). Because he could think, love and choose. Adam was a living soul, (Personal).

**LESSON TWO - Page Three**

Adam was a person of very high intelligence. He had the power to think clearly and to express his thoughts in words. Adam named all the animals, Gen. 2:19. As a person, God loves and expresses His love. God gave Adam an emotional nature so that he too could love and express his love. God is also capable of other emotions. For example, He hates sin. Adam was also given the power to hate that which is wrong. God has a free will and Adam was like God in that he too had a free will.

Understanding man’s free will is vital to our understanding of God and our relationship with Him. In order for love to be love it is ﬁrst and foremost a choice. We cannot force someone to love us and what would we have if we did? In order for God to have a creature that would truly love Him, and truly worship Him, and truly bring glory to Him, the creature had to be volitional; FREE to choose.

Adam had the power to choose what he would do. He could choose to obey God, or he could choose to disobey God. Since he was free to choose what he would do, Adam was responsible for his choices. (This is vital to our understanding of how much God loves us. As we accept responsibility for our choices we have the opportunity to enjoy the dignity we feel as a result of making right choices). Adam could not say that anyone had forced him to act against his will. He did what he chose to do.

In describing Adam’s body we said that God made man so that he could both enjoy and be useful in the physical realm God had created for him. Another way in which we can see that we were created in God's image is that we are creative. We were made to create, to do: to make a difference. God put in man a deep inner need to feel that he is worth something. Man needs a reason for living, a purpose in life. Furthermore he needs to feel adequate and that he and his works are acceptable. We "need" these things in the same way we "need” to be loved by someone who is important to us. These are the ingredients of being a person (personal). God is a person and while we may not accurately be able to say God has "need" of these things we can certainly say that He desires them. We were made in His image. God intended that the “needs” in us were to be met by Him through our close and personal, spiritual relationship with Him. In the beginning man had a wonderful fellowship with his Creator because man was in right relationship with Him. These deep inner needs were met. Man was happy and satisﬁed.

**ADAM'S SPIRIT: THE CREATURE - CREATOR RELATIONSHIP** Let us think for a moment about this relationship between God the Creator and the man He created. Should God love the man He had created? Yes, He should. Should God provide for man's needs? Yes, He should. What about man’s responsibilities to his Creator? Should man love his Creator? Yes, he should. Should man worship his Creator? Yes, he should. Should man obey his great Creator? Yes, he certainly should. Man, in right relationship with his Creator would love, worship and obey Him. This is what we were created for. That's the way it was in the beginning.

God placed Adam and Eve in that beautiful place called the Garden of Eden. Their physical needs were met there as well as their deep inner (spiritual) needs. As God “walked” with them and fellowshipped with them they would have felt perfectly loved and accepted. He had told them to go forth and subdue the earth, to have dominion over the earth and all the living creatures. Whatever Adam called the animals, that was to be their name. Adam and Eve would have felt a deep sense of purpose and adequacy. But one day something happened to change it all. This great relationship, this wonderful fellowship, would be broken.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON TWO**

1. How did the universe come into being? God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. The Bible says He created them by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Man did not come up from lower forms of animal life. God \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_'

4. So how are we like God? We are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

we are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Adam not only had a body, but he also had \_\_\_**\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

6. The soul of man consists of three parts; The mind, the emotions, and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. God put into man a deep inner need to feel that he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8, God intended that the "needs" in us were to be met by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ through our close and

personal, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ relationship with Him.

9. Man, in right relationship with his creator would love, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Him.

**LESSON THREE**

**SATAN, AND HOW SIN CAME INTO THE WORLD**

The Bible tells us that, before the creation of Adam and Eve, there was in God's universe a being who had rebelled against God, his Creator. This being is called Satan or the Devil. Satan is not just an inﬂuence for evil. Neither is he a red demon with a pitchfork.

There are two main passages in the Bible which tell us of the original position of Satan and how he became the enemy of God. These passages are Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28. From them we learn that Satan was originally created as an angel named Lucifer.

Angels are created beings and a listing of scripture references for personal study will be given at the end of this lesson. There are both good and evil angels. They are of great multitude. They constitute a company, as distinguished from a race. They are of various ranks and endowments. They were all created holy. Some preserved their integrity. Some fell from innocence. The good are conﬁrmed in good, the evil are conﬁrmed in evil.

The evil angels oppose God and strive to defeat His will. This is indicated in the names applied to their chief, Satan. The word “Satan" means "adversary" - primarily to God, secondarily to man. The term "devil" signiﬁes "slanderer” - of God to men, and of men to God. It is indicated also in the description of the "man of sin" as "he that opposeth and exalteth himself against all that is called God." The Bible describes Lucifer in this manner: "Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty.” Ez. 28:12. Since he was “perfect:” in beauty, he was as beautiful as any creature could be. Since he was “full" of wisdom, he was as wise as any creature could be. But his "perfection" came to an end when he began to recognize it; when pride set in. “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” Ez. 28:15. So where did sin begin? It began in Lucifer’s heart. Verse 17 says, “Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy Wisdom by reason of thy brightness." Here is what Lucifer said in his heart:

'I' will ascend into heaven,

'I' will exalt my throne above the stars of God:

'I' will sit also upon the mount of the congregation.

'I' will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

'I' will be like the most High." Isaiah 14:13-14.

What was Lucifer’s sin? Pride! He simply fell in love with himself. He decided that since there was none so great, none so beautiful, none so wise, he should be God. HE SET HIS WILL AGAINST GOD’S WILL. Five times he said "I will." What a terrible thing it is for a creature of God to set his will against God’s will! (But it sounds familiar, doesn’t it?)

A great change took place in Lucifer’s heart when he sinned. Before this time Lucifer had loved God and enthroned God as King in his heart. Now he loved himself. He no longer chose to have God on the throne of his heart. Instead, he put self on the throne. His pride led to self-love. Self-love led to self-will, and self-will led to rebellion against his Creator. No longer was he content to be the highest angel UNDER GOD. Now he wanted to be God. God cast him down from his exalted position and changed his name from Lucifer, (which means light bearer), to Satan.

Satan has a kingdom. He was the ﬁrst to rebel against God, but many others followed. These angels are called evil, or "fallen" angels. The angels who remained true to God are called "holy." Ever since his rebellion there have been two kingdoms in the universe – the kingdom of Satan and the kingdom of God.

**LESSON THREE - PAGE TWO**

Satan’s kingdom is the kingdom of darkness; God’s kingdom is the kingdom of light. Satan’s is the kingdom of rebellion; God’s is the kingdom of obedience. Satan’s is the kingdom of hate, lies, and wickedness; God’s is the kingdom of love, truth, and righteousness. Between these two kingdoms there is constant warfare.

God is the Almighty God, and He will not permit this rebellion against Him to go on forever. One day Satan, his fallen angels, and all those people who have followed him will be cast into the lake of ﬁre where they will be punished forever and ever. But right now, God is giving people the opportunity to choose whom they will follow - God or Satan.

**THE REBELLION OF MAN** (or how sin entered the world).

In last week’s lesson we learned that Adam was created in the image of God. As he came forth from the hand of his Creator, Adam was sinless. His nature was pure. However, it was possible for Adam to sin because he had free will. He was volitional.

We also learned that God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper, suitable for him. “(Gen. 2:18) The same chapter talks about the beautiful garden where God placed Adam and the woman Eve, (which means "mother of all living"). Here God commanded them not to eat of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil." There may be many reasons why God imposed this command, but the two most basic are these:

1. God wanted the man and woman to remain innocent. To know good from evil would make them responsible to choose good and to do good. Innocence also speaks of purity of heart which, to say the least, would have a very positive affect on their relationship with God.

2. In order for God to allow man to be truly volitional He had to provide a real and viable choice. God wants, and wanted, man to rely on Him to guide him between right and wrong. To turn to his Creator and say, "Is this O.K.?" would have been the proper, logical, and intelligent choice.

**ENTER SATAN!** It becomes of utmost importance for us to remember Satan’s heart and the sin that came from that heart. And, we must remember the consequences of his sin. "Misery loves company", someone has said. So what does Satan Do? He entices man to have the same heart toward God; and to commit, in essence; the same sin. Remember that on the previous page we said that "Satan" means "adversary" - primarily to God, secondarily to man. And that the term "devil" signiﬁes "slanderer" - of God to men, and of men to God. In the Garden of Eden we ﬁnd him living up to his names. One does not have to look very deep to see that he is here the adversary, or enemy, of both God and man. And look at how he misrepresents, or slanders, God to the man and woman.

But, alas, both the man and woman fall for his lies, and what a fall it was. Their first act of volition was based on believing a lie. It is important for us to pause here and make sure we understand just what Adam’s sin was. It wasn’t just eating the fruit, although that was certainly a part of it. And it wasn't just believing the lie and the liar against the word of God, although that was part of it, too. The sin ﬁnds its roots in the sin of Lucifer. "DON’T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!" And it was THIS DECISION that is pure rebellion against God and that which clearly separates man from God. It isn’t so much that God has issued a right sentence upon us, although that is also true, as it is that we now suffer the consequences of such a decision and action. It isn’t so much that God has placed a division between us, although light cannot dwell with darkness, as it is that our own rebellion leaves God no place to be God in our life.

So what did the ﬁrst man and woman do after they had committed the ﬁrst sin? Well, ﬁrst they hid themselves, which is very signiﬁcant, but we’ll look more into that in our next lesson. Then they sinned again by lying and trying to "pass the buck." The attitude was born. Now it isn’t so much that man is a sinner because he sins as it is that he sins because he is a sinner.”

**APPENDIX REGARDING ANGELS**

(From Strong’s “Systematic Theology”)

**1. They are created beings**.

Ps. 148:2-5 - “Praise ye Him, all His angels . . . For He commanded, and they were created”; Col. 1:16 - “for in Him were all things created . . . whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers.” God alone is uncreated and eternal. This is implied in I Timothy 6:16 - “who only hath immortality.”

**2. They are indigent and voluntary agents.**

II Sam. 14:20 - "wise, according to the Wisdom of an angel of God"; Luke 4:34 - "I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God"; II Tim. 2:26 - "snare of the devil . . . taken captive by him unto his will"; Rev. 22:9 - “See thou do it not" - exercise of the will; Rev. 12:12 - "The devil is gone down unto you, having great wrath“ - set purpose of evil.

**3. They are possessed of superhuman intelligence and power, yet an intelligence and power that has ﬁxed limits.**

Matt. 24:36 - "of that day and hour knoweth no one, not even the angels of heaven“- their knowledge, though superhuman, is yet ﬁnite. 1 Peter 1:12 - "which things angels desire to look into"; Ps. 103:20 - “angels . . . mighty in strength"; II Peter 2:11 - "angels, though greater [than men] in might and power"; Rev. 20: 2,10 - "laid hold on the dragon . . . and bound him . . cast into the lake of ﬁre.“ Compare Ps. 72:18 - "God . . . Who only doeth wondrous things“ - only God can perform miracles. Angels are imperfect compared with God (Job 4:18; 15:15; 25:5).

**4. They are an order of intelligences distinct from man**.

I Cor. 6:3 - "we shall judge angels"; Heb. 1:14 – “Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to do Service for the sake of them that shall inherit salvation?“ They are not gloriﬁed human spirits; see Heb. 2:16 - "for verily not to angels doth He give help, but He giveth help to the seed of Abraham”; also 12:22,23, where “the innumerable hosts of angels" are distinguished from "the church of the ﬁrstborn“ and "the spirits of just men made perfect."

**5. They are of great multitude.**

Dan. 7:10 — "thousands of thousands ministered unto Him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him"; Rev. 5:11 - “I heard a voice of many angels . . . and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands."

**6. They constitute a company, as distinguished from a race**.

Matt. 22:30 - “they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as angels in heaven“; Luke 20:36 - "neither can they die any more: for they are equal unto the angels . . ." We are called “sons of men" but angels are never referred to as “sons of angels," but only "sons of God."

Much more can be said of angels and a multitude of Scriptures given as reference. They are of various ranks and endowments and have organization. As to their moral character, they were all created holy. Some preserved their integrity and some fell from their state of innocence. The good are conﬁned in good while the evil are conﬁned in evil. Some execute God’s will and assist in protecting individual believers while others attempt to interfere with God’s will and hinder the believer.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON THREE**

1. The word "Satan" means \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Note; another term for this word is "enemy.")

2. What one word best describes Lucifer's sin? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Satan's kingdom is the kingdom of darkness: God's kingdom is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Satan's is the kingdom of rebellion; God's is the kingdom of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Satan's kingdom is the kingdom of hate, lies, and wickedness; God's is the kingdom of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and righteousness.

4. Right now God is giving people the opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

whom they will follow - God or Satan.

5. It was possible for Adam to sin because he had a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. The term "volitional" means to have a choice. In order for God to allow man to be truly volitional He had to provide a real and viable

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. When Satan entered with his lies man had to make a choice. Would he believe Satan, or follow God's instructions.

7. Sin finds it's roots in the sin of Lucifer: " Don't \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_."

**LESSON FOUR – PART ONE**

**THE FALL OF MAN (WHAT WE LOST)**

We have learned that Adam was created in the image of God. As he came forth from the hand of his Creator, Adam was sinless. His nature was pure. We can say that he did not even have a tendency to sin. However, it was possible for him to sin because he had a free will. He was to choose to obey God or to disobey Him. Not only was Adam pure in nature, there were no flaws in his character. What is meant by this is that he had no feelings of inadequacy; no insecurities; no hidden anger or guilt; no envy or evil lust. Adam had everything! He knew that he was perfectly loved and accepted, otherwise God would have created him differently.

In our last lesson we learned about God creating woman from Adam's rib, how He set them in the beautiful garden and commanded them not to eat from “the Tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil.” We saw how Satan entered and enticed them to disobey God. In this lesson we want to get a closer look at the consequences of that action.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God. A righteous God could not overlook their sin. He could not pretend that nothing had happened, or that He did not know about it. The immediate result of Adam's Disobedience was death. But what kind of death was it? It was spiritual death. We know that Adam’s body did not die at once. He lived for hundreds of years after his act of disobedience, but he died spiritually that very day.

In the Bible death always means separation. We understand the physical death is separation of the spirit from the body. Spiritual death is separation of God's spirit from man's Spirit. To be cut off from the life of God is to be dead spiritually. This is what happened to Adam and Eve they died spiritually.

This spiritual death can be seen in Adam and Eve's first reaction to their sin. "and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons." Gen. 3:7. Why have they not needed clothing before? Because they had been clothed in the light of God's glory. Now that sin had entered their lives, they were separated from God, and His glory had left them. What is meant by this? The answer cannot be found in the physical realm. The answer is spiritual; that is, it lies within the spirit of man. To recognize nakedness is to lose innocence. A very small child knows nothing of shame and nudity. His spirit is pure. But when nakedness is recognized, the spirit doing so is acknowledging its evil tendency.

In addition to trying to cover their nakedness, Adam said to God in verse 10, "I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself." Afraid of God? What happened to the man who felt perfectly loved and accepted? And doesn't hiding from God say as much about a lack of understanding His loving attributes as it does about man's own self sense of guilt and failure?

“And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.” Here in this one sentence, much of the goodness of our great God is manifest; and an undeniable and horrifying truth is revealed. God did not allow His fallen creature to go naked. And although sewing leaves together to make aprons speaks seriously about the ability, intelligence and creativity of Adam and Eve, God clothed them not with leaves, but with warm and durable skin. But how does one remove the skin from an animal? Doesn’t the animal have to die in the process? So what is really being said here? Did God count the animal or animals which died to provide covering for Adam and Eve of no value? Of course not! God is love. God is light and in Him is no darkness at all. For God to do this speaks of the seriousness of His prized creatures exposed nakedness; his exposed shame; his lost innocence; his separation from the purity of God.

Throughout the Old Testament we see the slaughter of countless animals sacrificed to “cover” man's sins. Finally we see sin, (and its result) not only covered, but taken away in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus

“Without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins.” Heb 9:22.

**LESSON FOUR - PART ONE , Page 2**

God called Adam and Eve before Him. Then He pronounced His judgement upon them. They would have to leave the beautiful Garden of Eden. No longer would they have fellowship with their Creator. Sin had come between them and God. No longer would they be able to eat from the trees in the garden. Hereafter Adam would have to work hard to get food. Eve would be subject to her husband and would bear children in sorrow and pain. Even the ground and all of the animals would be cursed because of their sin.

Of all the things that happened to Adam and Eve as a result of their disobedience, the worst was this: They were separated from God. But God still loved them and that love is shown not only in the fact that He clothed them, but that He made them a wonderful promise in Gen 3:15. This verse, the first prophecy in the bible, intimates the coming of a Savior to redeem God’s fallen people. That’s the good news in the midst of all this darkness. But for now let’s continue to look at man in his fallen state.

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DEEPEST NEEDS.**

God’s written revelation makes it insistently clear that any right thinking about the problems of people must begin by recognizing that man is not now in a normal condition. He is fallen from the norm. He has missed the mark. He is a sinner. The effect of sin is separation. The result of that separation is that we have no connection to The One who was intended to meet our needs, both physical and personal. People have deep personal needs which must be met. All personal problems are really thinking or belief problems; wrong beliefs about how to meet those needs.

Man is a physical, finite being on the one hand and genuinely personal on the other. As a finite creature he has needs, for example, food. Without food man physically dies. He desperately and absolutely requires food if he is to continue his existence as a physically living creature. But man is more than physical. He is also personal. And as a personal being, he has personal needs. Unless these needs are met he will die as a person. Physical needs often are well met and yet there is an emptiness, a deep sense of discontent which often is temporarily relieved by satisfying the physical needs to the point of gluttony. (more than food is implied here).

Most psychological symptoms are either the direct result of, or defensive attempts to cope with, unmet personal needs. Scripture gives us insight into our personal needs in the instruction of child training: “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.” Col. 3:21. “Discouraged” carries the idea of “broken in spirit.” That means completely disillusioned about oneself, having no inward sense of personal worth whatsoever. Proverbs asks, “a wounded spirit who can bear?” (Prov. 18:14).

When God breaks me He has all the resources necessary to put me back together as a new creature in Him. But when I am broken by another or when I fail to turn to God for rebuilding I remain a shattered, fragmented, fatally wounded personality. The basic personal need of each personal being is to regard himself as a worthwhile human being. Nothing is sinful about the need to be worthwhile. A quick backward glance at the Garden of Eden is all that is necessary to see that God provided for that need when He set man in that beautiful place. Certainly such things as “whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name,” and from his rib making a “helper suitable for him” all speak of the great value god placed upon man. And even today, God has made wonderfully available the necessary and sufficient provision of meeting that need. To love oneself in the sense of regarding God as unnecessary and sufficient provision for meeting that need. To love oneself in the sense of regarding God as unnecessary and the SELF AS SUFFICIENT is sin and results in personal death. But to accept oneself as a worthwhile creature is absolutely necessary for effective, spiritual, joyful living. Being put back together with God is the necessary first step to getting our real needs met.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

**LESSON FOUR, Part One**

1. The immediate result of Adam's disobedience was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What kind of death was it? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Spiritual death is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of God's spirit from man's spirit.

4. A very small child knows nothing of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in nudity because his spirit is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Adam and Eve tried to cover their own nakedness by sewing fig leaves together. But the Bible says, "And the Lord God made \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for Adam and his wife and clothed them."

6. " . . . without the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ there is no remission of sin." Hebrews 9:22

7. Any right thinking about the problems of people must begin by recognizing that man is not now in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. "Discouraged" carries the idea of "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," completely disillusioned about oneself, having no inward sense of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whatsoever.

9. The basic personal need of each personal being is to regard himself as a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ being.

10. To accept one's self as a worthwhile creature is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for effective and joyful living

**Was it fair for God to condemn the whole world just because**

**of one man's disobedience?**

The answer, of course, is that it was not only fair; but it was also wise and gracious. To begin with, if God had tested each human being individually, the result would have been the same: disobedience. But even more important, by condemning the human race through one man, (Adam), God was then able to save the human race through one Man, (Jesus Christ). Each of us is racially united to Adam, so that his deed affects us all. (See Hebrews 7:9-10 for an example of this racial headship). The fallen angels cannot be saved because they are not a race. They sinned individually and were judged individually. There can be no representative to take their judgement for them and save them. But because you and I were lost "in Adam," our racial head, we can be saved "in Christ," the Head of the new creation. God's plan was both gracious and wise.

How do we know that we are racially united to Adam? The answer is in Romans 5:12-14, and the argument runs like this: We know that all men die. But death is the result of disobeying the Law. There was no Law from Adam to Moses, but men still died. A general result demands a general cause. What is that cause? It can be only one thing: the disobedience of Adam. When Adam sinned he ultimately died. All of his descendants died, (Gen. 5). Yet the law had not yet been given. Conclusion: they died because of Adam's sin. "For all have sinned," Romans 5:12 means "all have sinned in Adam's sin." Men do not die because of their own acts of sin: otherwise babies would not die. (Romans 9:11). Men die because they are united racially to Adam and "in Adam" all men die. (I Cor. 15:22).

Taken from: **The Bible Exposition Commentary**

**By Warren W. Wiersbe**

**Lesson Four - Part Two**

**- RECONCILIATION -**

**RECONCILLIATION, THE WORD** - The word translated "reconcile," (Greek, katallasso), means to change thoroughly, and in it's various forms occurs in Rom. 5:10-11; 11:15; I Cor. 7:11; II Cor. 5:18-20; Eph. 2:16; Col. 1:20-21. We'll come back to the "change thoroughly" part near the end of the lesson..

**When sin entered man was separated from God.** Simply making this statement does not make the statement understandable. First we need to understand what sin had to do with the separation and second we need to understand what it really means to be separated from God. Then, and only then, can we fully understand and appreciate the doctrine of reconciliation. In Lesson Three and Part One of Lesson Four we have taken a good look at Satan and how sin came into the world and an opening look at what we lost, what it really means to be separated from our Creator. We have discovered that a life separated from God is a life of needs - and a never ending search for how to get those needs met. As stated in the closing sentence in Lesson Four, Part One: "Being put back together with God, in a sense the way we were before the fall, is the necessary first step to getting our real needs met.

**RECONCILIATION, AT THE POINT OF FORGIVENESS.**

Col. 1:19-20: "For it pleased the Father that in Him (Christ Jesus) all the fullness (of the God-head) should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself . . . having made peace through the blood of His cross." Jesus paid the price for the sin of man, the sin that so utterly separated him from his Maker. "For by Him all things were created . . ." Col. 1:16. He, the creator; who suffered the ultimate insult by being rejected by man, His ultimate creation. - He , who is seen as the first and greatest missionary seeking to restore to His created that which he had lost through sin - He whose love chose to suffer on behalf of him who had caused His suffering from the beginning - He who gave Himself as a sacrifice for our sins did so in order that we might be **reconciled**, (put back to relationship with Him the way it was before Adam sinned).

**RECONCILIATION, WHAT IT MEANS FOR US NOW**

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new," (II Cor. 5:17). New life - life that no longer has to look for something to fill that longing to be loved, (John 3:16); that longing to be accepted, (Eph. 1:6); to know that we have purpose, (II Cor. 5: 18-20); and to know that we are adequate to meet the challenge in the same way Adam was adequate to "subdue" that which lay before him, (Phil. 4:13). Literally volumes could be, and have been written, about what it means to be "reconciled to God" in our life now. Perhaps no knowledge adds greater comfort than this: " . . . and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power." (Col. 2:10)

**RECONCILIATION, WHAT IT MEANS FOR US IN THE FUTURE**

"And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever." (Rev. 22:3-5).

**LESSON FOUR - PART TWO**

**PAGE TWO**

**RECONCILIATION, "TO CHANGE THOROUGHLY."**

A study of the Scriptures referred to in the beginning paragraph of this Lesson indicates that the work of God involves two distinct reconciliations.

1. The reconciliation accomplished at Calvary - "God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself," (II Cor. 5:19). Here God was not changed, for He had always loved the world; nor was the world changed, for it continued in sinful rebellion against God. But by the death of Christ a **change in the relationship** between God and man was made possible. The barrier because of sin, being taken away judicially, enabled God to show mercy where judgement was deserved. This reconciliation was the work of God alone, in which man had no part.

2. There is a reconciliation wrought by God in the sinner himself, whereby he becomes changed in his rebellious attitude toward God, so that he is persuaded to receive the reconciliation already accomplished through Christ at the cross, (Rom. 5:11). In this ministry of reconciling the sinner, Christians have a part, being ambassadors for Christ bearing the "word of reconciliation" committed to them, (II Cor. 5:19), and pleading with men; "Be reconciled to God." (II Cor. 5:20).

**LESSON FIVE**

**IN ADAM**

Adam's sin affected each part of his being – spirit, soul and body. Adam’s spirit was cut off from God's life. His soul was affected by it in that his “self” took the throne of his heart. His body became subject to physical death because the wages of sin is death. Rom 6:23. In this lesson we are going to see the awful consequences of Adam’s sin upon the human race. We will see men's complete ruin in sin.

Why should we worry about Adam and what happened to him? The reason is this - Adam was the head of the human race. Adam was different from all other men in that he was the first man - the source of the entire human race. What happened to him affected the whole Human family, including you and me. God did not create millions of people to populate the Earth. He created only one man Adam. Thus, God sees the whole race as being in Adam.

To be in Adam means to share in all that he did. Certain things are true of every person as a result of being in Adam. Here are five of them:

1. He is separated from the life of God. Spiritually dead. Gen 2:17 “in that day you eat of it you shall surely die.”

2. He is in the kingdom of darkness. When Adam rebelled against God, he took sides with Satan, the first rebel. He came into the kingdom of darkness of which Satan is ruler. His mind and his heart became darkened, and he took the whole human race into that darkness.

3. He is a sinner. As created by God, Adam was a God-centered man. He loved God and wanted to do God's will. God was King upon the throne of his heart. After he sinned he wanted to do his own will. Self was now on the throne. Adam now had a sinful nature. He passed that sinful, self-centered nature onto his children. Gen 5:3 says that Adam had a son in his own likeness, after his image. Rom 5:19 says for by one man's disobedience, many were made sinners.

4. He is under the power of sin. John 8:34 says whosoever committeth sin is the servant (slave) of sin.

5. He is condemned to death. Rom 5:12 says “wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, by death and by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Furthermore, Heb 9:27 says “and as it is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment.”

Every person in Adam is guilty before God. Some people may think they are acceptable to God as they are, but God says otherwise. He knows the hearts of men and, concerning Adam's race, has this to say; “there is none righteous, no, not one; there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. There is none that does good, no, not one. For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3 10-12, 23

Perhaps now we can understand why God's word says we must be born again. Every person in Adam’s race is condemned and we cannot take ourselves out of Adam’s race. Thus we see men's complete ruin in sin.

In future lessons we will be looking into what God did on men's behalf about this predicament. To save Adam's ruined race, God needed to do something, and he did it. “The father sent the Son to be the savior of the world.” I John 4:14. “The lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6

God does not overlook our sins, but He forgives them because He sees the blood of His Son which was shed for them. By His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus made it possible for men to come out of Adam's sinful race and become members of God's family. For as by one man's (Adam's) disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One (the Lord Jesus) shall many be made righteous.” Rom 5:19

**LESSON SIX, Page One**

**IN CHRIST**

“For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall many be made righteous.” (Rom 5:19) “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Cor 5:17).

God created the first man, Adam, because He wanted a race of people who would glorify Him, but Adam rebelled against God. We have seen the terrible results of Adam's disobedience. The big question is, how could a race of now sinful men glorify God and fulfill His purpose? The answer is, they could not. But God's purpose has not changed. He still wanted a race of people who would glorify Him. How would He bring this about? Through another man. Since the first man had failed, there had to be a second man who would glorify God. God chose His own son to be the second man. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from Heaven. (I Cor 15: 47).

To make our salvation possible, God would send His own Son into the world. He would die for the sins of all men. Then He would rise again to become the head of a new race - the children of God. By His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus would make it possible for us to get out of Adam's sinful race and to become the children of God. How did God do this?

The first step was the Incarnation. “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” (John 1:1, 14). The one who created Man became man Himself. This is truly a great mystery. An even greater mystery is the means by which God became a human being. The first man, Adam, was created as a full grown man, but the second man, Jesus Christ, entered the human race as a baby. Furthermore, He was born of a virgin. He did not have a human father. Who then was His father? God!

Jesus Christ is called the God-man because He was perfect God and perfect man. He was God because God was His Father, and He was man because Mary was His mother. He was one with God, and He was one with the human race. He is called the Son of God because He is the only begotten of the Father. He is called the Son of Man because He represents all men. The Bible says “great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh.” (I Tim 3:16).

Why did the Son of God become man? For two very important reasons:

1. He came to destroy the works of the devil. (I John 3:8).

2. He came to make a way for us to get out of Adam’s sinful race and into the family of God. As the first man Adam was tested, the second man, Jesus, was also tested. (Matt. 4:1). The first man, Adam, was conquered by Satan because he disobeyed God. The second man, Jesus, was triumphant over Satan because he obeyed God. And throughout Jesus’ life, “though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered.” (Heb 5:8). Because He learned to obey His Father in all things, He was prepared for the final and greatest test, that of the cross. In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus showed His very human side in praying for the ‘cup’ to pass from Him. But even then He was obedient to His Father's will. (Matt 26:39 /

Luke 22:42). At Calvary Satan did his utmost to cause Jesus to do something that would keep him from being a perfect savior. But Jesus continued to love God and to trust him. He continued to love His fellow man. He refused to pity Himself. He would not save Himself. He was obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. At the end of His life God's second man could say, "I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do." (John 17:4).

**LESSON SIX - Page Two**

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most important events in the history of the universe. The cross of Jesus Christ is God's master plan for dealing with the sinful human race and with Satan and his rebellious host of fallen angels.

When Jesus died on the cross, Satan thought that he had achieved a great Victory. But he was never more mistaken. The very Cross by which Satan meant to end the life of the Son of God became his undoing. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God destroyed the works of the devil and set free those whom he had enslaved. “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.” Hebrews 2: 14, 15. Read Ephesians 2:1-9. Here we can begin to see that as we were partakers in what Adam did because he was the father of the human race, we can be partakers with Jesus Christ and what He did if. . . . . . . The Ephesians passage gives us the answer to what the if is. Verse 8 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that, (the faith), is not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." So the IF is; do you believe it? We must exercise the FAITH God has given us to be able to believe. Jesus said to Nicodemus, (Jn 3:16), "whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

We can now see that there are two races on the Earth; the sons of men, (or the sons of disobedience), and the sons of God. How do we get into the second race? "As many have received Him, (receiving is an act of believing), to them He gave the power to become the sons of God." John 1:12. Jesus told Nicodemus that we must be born again, (John chapter 3). 1 John 3:1 says “behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God.”

When God makes us His child, He gives us a new spirit. (regeneration). Ezkiel 36:26-27. And He gives us life! Eternal life! 1 John 5:11-13. And in 2 Cor 5:17 the Bible says, “therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature. Old things are passed away behold all things become new.”

God sees all men as either in Adam, or in Christ. How did we get into Christ? God put us there. But of Him (of God) are ye in Christ Jesus. 1 Cor 1:30. The phrase, in Christ or its equivalent, is used over 130 times in the New Testament. To be in Christ means to share in all that Christ is and all that He did. In Christ we are forgiven, Col 1:14. We are Justified, 2 Cor 5:21. We all made near to God, Eph 2:13. We are accepted by God, Eph 1:6. We are sealed, Eph 1:13. We are complete, Col 2:9 -10. We receive no condemnation, Rom 8:1. We are sanctified, 1 Cor 1:2 etc., etc.

So, finally, what does all this mean? Does it mean that we in ourselves are perfect? Does it mean that we will never sin again? No, it does not. If we were to closely examine Paul’s letters, especially to the Corinthians, we would find that Paul at times calls them saints and sanctified, that is made holy. On the other hand, in the same letters, Paul speaks of some terrible sins in their lives. What is the explanation of this? How could Paul say that they were holy in Christ while, at the same time, they were not living as Christians should live? To answer these questions, we must understand the difference between our standing and our state.

Our standing is the way God sees us in Christ. It includes all that God has done for us in Christ. God has given us a perfect standing in Christ. Our standing is always perfect because it depends on what God has done for us "in Christ." (See Heb. 10:14). Our state is what we are "in ourselves” - the way we live on earth. The Bible calls it our "walk." Our state is never perfect because it depends on us – our “self." See I John 1:8.

Here's a real secret; **"FAITH IN OUR STANDING MAKES IT REAL IN OUR LIFE."**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSONS FIVE AND SIX**

1. Adam's soul was affected by his sin in that his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ took the throne of his heart.

2. Adam now had a sinful nature. He passed that sinful \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ nature on to his children.

3. Perhaps now we can understand why God's Word says we must be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. Every person in Adam's race is condemned and we cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ out of Adam's race.

5. " . . . . . if any man be in Christ he is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ; old things are passed away."

6. By His death and resurrection the Lord Jesus would \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for us to get out of Adam's sinful race.

7. The second man, Jesus, was triumphant over Satan because \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most important events in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. We were partakers in what Adam did because he was the father of the human race. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ partakers with Jesus Christ in what He did \_\_\_if\_\_\_ . . . .

10. As many as received Him, to them He gave the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the sons of God. Receiving is an act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

11. Faith in our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ makes it real in our life

12. On the back of this page write the answer to the "if" in question 9.

**THE BELIEVER'S STANDING AND STATE**

From the booklet, "Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth"

by C.I. Scofield

**LESSON FIVE-SIX B**

A distinction of vast importance to the right understanding of the Scriptures, especially of the Epistles, is that which concerns the **standing**, or position, of the believer, and his **state**, or walk. The **standing** is the work of Christ and is **perfect and entire** from the very moment that Christ is received by faith. Nothing after that adds in the smallest degree to his title of favor with God, nor to his perfect security. Through faith alone this standing before God is conferred. Even the weakest person, if he is a true believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, has precisely the same title as the most illustrious saint. What that title or standing is may be briefly seen from the following Scriptures:

**STANDING**

"But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." John 1:12

"Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God. . .." I John 5:1.

"And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ." Rom 8:17

"In whom also we have obtained an inheritance . . " Eph. 1:11

"Beloved, now we are the sons of God . . .." I John 3:2

"And you are complete in Him, . . ." Col. 2:10

"But now, in Christ Jesus, you who sometime were far off, are made nigh by the blood of Christ." Eph. 2:13

This is but a sampling of the Scriptures that assure us of our STANDING before God. Not one item in this glorious inventory is said to be gained by prayer, or diligence in service, or church going, or alms-giving, or self-denial, or holiness of life, or by any other description of good works. All are gifts of God through Christ and therefore belong equally to all believers. "Giving thanks unto the Father, which has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." Col. 1:12-13

"Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world." II Tim. 1:9

"But of Him are you in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us . . . sanctification." I Cor 1:30

**STATE**

"If you then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sits on the right hand of God." Col. 3:1

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth." Col 3:5

"Walk as children of light." Eph 5:8

"He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked." I John 2:6

The student will be able to add largely to this list of comparative passages showing that the Scripture makes a clear distinction between the standing and state of the believer. It will be seen that he is not under probation to see if he is worthy of an inconceivably exalted position; but, beginning with the confession of his utter unworthiness, receives the position wholly as the result of Christ's work. **Positionally** he is "perfected forever" (Heb. 10:14), but looking within, at his state, he must say, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect." Phil 3:12. It may be said that all the afterwork of God in his behalf, the application of the Word to his walk and conscience (John 17:17, Eph. 5:26), the chastisements of the Father's hand (Heb. 12:10; I Cor. 11:32), the ministry of the Sprit (Eph. 4:11-12), all the difficulties and trials of the wilderness way (I Peter 4:12-14), and the final transformation when He shall appear (I John 3:2), all are intended simply to bring the believer's character into perfect conformity to the position which is his in the instant of his conversion. *He grows in grace, indeed, but not into grace.*

In the case of every true son of the King of kings, and Lord of lords, this growth into kingliness is assured. In the end, standing and state, character and position, will be equal. But the position is not the reward of the perfected character - the character is developed from the position.

**FAITH IN OUR STANDING**

**MAKES IT REAL IN OUR LIFE**

Final remarks: No doctrine is more important to the Christian's walk than this - to know, believe and understand that every day of his life and in every circumstance God sees him as a perfectly acceptable child of God. Never should the child of God believe, or even think, that God has rejected him or that he is unloved or unacceptable to the Father.

Deliberate sin can hinder the relationship - but never the standing. THEREFORE, only repentance and confession is necessary to restore the relationship. The perfect standing purchased by Jesus on the cross is steadfast. The veil is rent. The believer is accepted before the throne of God.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSONS FIVE AND SIX, B**

1. The standing is the work of Christ and is perfect and entire from the very moment that Christ

is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Even the weakest person, if he is \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the Lord, Jesus

Christ has precisely the same \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as the most illustrious saint.

3. "But as many as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him, to them He gave the power to become the

\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even to them that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on His name." (John 1:12)

4. "Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the foundation of the world." (II Tim. 1:9)

5. "He that says he abides in Him ought himself also so to walk, even \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

6. " . . . all are intended simply to bring the believer’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into perfect

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the position which is his . . . "

7. But the position is not the reward of the perfected character - the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from the position.

**LESSON SEVEN – PART ONE**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

We started this course by taking a look at the attributes of God; “What is God like.” From there we took a brief look at His creation, especially the creation of the first man, Adam. We saw how Adam failed to glorify God and how his rebellion caused “man’s complete ruin in sin,” because we were all born “in Adam.” Then we took a brief look at how God provided our way out of Adam and into Christ. But in order to really understand this, a much closer look at who Jesus is becomes vitally important. In order to really understand Him and what He has done, we are going to look at Jesus Christ as:

The Promised Savior, The Mighty God, The Great Teacher, The Lamb of God, The Risen Lord, The Lord of All, Our Intercessor, Our Righteousness, Our All in All, Our Life, Our Coming King, and Our King Forever. To accomplish this may require a few weeks. We will consider each week as different part of lesson 7.

**JESUS CHRIST – THE PROMISED SAVIOR**

Hundreds of years before Jesus came into the world, His birth was foretold. Grasping the essence of this truth alone can be life changing. Of who else can we say this? No one! What other human being’s birth would have been so important that other men could have even sensed it, much less known it, hundreds of years in advance? Only the human birth of the Creator of the universe could carry that much importance.

The first promise concerning the coming of a messiah who was to redeem His people is found in Gen 3:15. Later, in Gen 22:18, God promised Abraham, “In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.” In Gen 49:10 the dying Jacob, speaking by inspiration and foretelling what would happen to the different tribes in the latter days, says concerning Judah: “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the obedience of the peoples be,” – and while the meaning here is not altogether clear, it is generally understood to mean that Judah was to continue as a nation with at least a nominal king until the coming of the Messiah (which as a matter of historical record is what did happen, the Jews being dispersed shortly after that); from which time the Lord’s people were to know their Messiah personally, to acknowledge Him as their true and rightful King, and so to give their allegiance to Him.

Promises such as these continued and form much of the format for the entire Bible, including, but not limited to, what we call the Davidic Covenant. (read 2 Sam. 7: 12-16). The promise is repeated many times, especially in the Psalms. (89:3,4,36).

God told the prophet, Isaiah, that one day a miracle child would be born. Isaiah wrote, “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isa. 7:14. Matthew 1:23 tells us that Immanuel means God with us. This child, who was promised by God, would not be an ordinary child; He would be God coming to be with us. He would be born of a virgin, conceived by the Holy Spirit.

The prophet Micah wrote that He would be born in Bethlehem. (Mic 5:2). Matthew 2:1 says “Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king.” Included with, and in addition to, the promises concerning the coming of Christ (the Greek word for Messiah) were the promises concerning what He would accomplish and what would happen to Him. Following are just a few of these prophesies and their fulfillment:

**LESSON SEVEN – PART ONE, Page- 2**

HANDS AND FEET PIERCED Prophesy: Ps. 22:16 Fulfillment: Luke 23:33

BORE OUR SINS Prophesy: Is. 53:6 Fulfillment: 1 Peter 2:24

FORSAKEN OF GOD Prophesy: Ps. 22:1 Fulfillment: Mat 27:46

NOT A BONE BROKEN Prophesy: Ps. 34:20 Fulfillment: John 19:33, 36

REJECTED BY THE JEWS Prophesy: Is. 53:3 Fulfillment: John 1:11

BETRAYED BY A FRIEND Prophesy: Ps. 41:9 Fulfillment: Mark 14:10

SOLD FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER Prophesy: Zech. 11:12 Fulfillment: Mat 26:14-15

CRUCIFIED WITH SINNERS Prophesy: Is. 53:12 Fulfillment: Mat 27:38

ROSE FROM THE GRAVE Prophesy: Ps. 16:10 Fulfillment: Mat 28:5-6

There are many other prophesies in the Bible concerning the coming of Christ. These are just a few. Many have to do with His second coming and have not yet been fulfilled. But the scriptures mentioned here tell us that Jesus is the Christ, the promised Savior. John said, “and many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God; and that believing you might have life through His name.” John 20:30-31.

**JESUS CHRIST – THE MIGHTY GOD**

“His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God,” Is. 9:6. At the very beginning of His public ministry, the Lord Jesus faced Satan and defeated him. The story is found in Matthew 4. Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert where he went without food for 40 days and nights. Three times Satan tempted Jesus and three times Jesus answered him with the Word of God. Satan was trying to get Jesus to disobey His Father, like he did with the first man, Adam. But Jesus did not disobey His Father’s will. Jesus defeated Satan:

1. By obeying His Father’s will.

2. By using the Word of God.

3. By depending on the Holy Spirit.

(We too can have victory over Satan by the same 3 step method).

Jesus defeated Satan again at the Cross of Calvary, but we will learn more about that in another lesson.

Jesus did **mighty works**. In Matthew 8 we see that He had the power to calm the wind and the sea. He could command evil spirits, Lk 4:36. He could heal the sick, Lk 4:40. He even raised the dead, Jn 11.

Jesus had the **power to forgive sins** which, incidentally, was one of the reasons the Pharisees sought to kill Him. They knew that God alone could forgive sins, Lk 5:21. There is even **power in the name of Jesus**. Rom. 10:13; Jn. 16:24; Ps.50:15.

There is a multitude of scripture which reveal that Jesus is God. Here are a few:

Matthew 1:23; John 1:1; 1:14; 12:45; 14:9; Rom. 9:5; Col. 1:15; 17; 2:9; Heb. 1:3; 8; 3:4; 1 Tim. 3:16; 1 Jn.5:7; Rev. 1:8; 4:11; (comp. Is 44:6 with Rev. 22:13); Zech. 12:10

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN PART ONE**

1. What other human being's birth would have been so important that other men could have even sensed it, much less known it, hundreds of years in advance?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the creator of the universe could carry that much importance.

2. Promises such as these continued and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the entire Bible.

3 This child, promised by God, would not be an ordinary child. He would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ coming to be with us.

4. John 20:31 says, " .. but these are written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God; and that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ you might have life through His name."

5. Jesus defeated Satan by (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ His Father's will and (2) by

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Word of God.

6. There is a multitude of Scripture which reveal that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON SEVEN PART TWO**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**JESUS CHRIST - THE GREAT TEACHER**

In part one of this lesson we learned that Jesus is the Christ; the promised savior, the mighty God. Jesus is also the greatest teacher who ever lived. There has never been a teacher like the Lord Jesus. Every word He spoke is true. His words are the words of God. It was said of Him, “never man spake like this man.” In this lesson we are going to study a few of the things Jesus taught.

**Jesus taught about – THE TWO WAYS**

Jesus taught that our life here is like a journey. Jesus said that the path of life divides into two ways, one is a broad road, and the other is a narrow road. We are free to choose the way we will take in life, but we should know where these two roads lead. Jesus said that the broad road leads to destruction (hell), while the narrow road leads to Heaven. Jesus urged men to choose the narrow road. He said “enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in there at.” Mat 7:13, (See also Luke 13:24-30).

**Jesus taught about – HEAVEN AND HELL**

Jesus taught that Heaven is a real place. It is a place which is prepared for those who love God. Jesus called it “My Father’s House.” He told His disciples, “In My Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you.” Jn. 14:2.

**Jesus taught about – THE LAW**

The Lord Jesus taught us that God’s law was good and holy. Jesus said, “think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill.” Matt 5:17. He taught us that keeping God’s laws is not simply a matter of obeying them outwardly, but that we must keep them in our hearts. For example, the Bible says that if you hate somebody in your heart, you are a murderer in God’s sight. (See 1 Jn. 3:15).

No one other than the Lord Jesus has ever kept God’s laws perfectly. No one will ever be saved by keeping the law. The Bible says, “by works of the law shall no flesh be justified.” Gal. 2:16b. But if we can fail to keep the law by what is in our heart; and if no one will ever be saved by keeping the law, then why did God give us the law? He gave us the law: 1. That we might know what is right and wrong in His sight. 2. That we might see that we are sinners and need a Savior. The Bible says, “the law was our school-master to bring us unto Christ.” Gal. 3:24.

**Jesus taught about – REPENTANCE**

Jesus made it clear that no one can be saved unless he repents. He said, “Except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish.” Lk. 13:5.

What is repentance? Repentance is a “turnaround” – a change of mind that leads to a change in conduct. It is turning to Christ, (and from sin). In Luke 15 Jesus taught about the ‘prodigal son’. The story illustrates what it means to repent. Read it carefully. It is a beautiful picture of how God forgives us and receives us when we repent of our sins and come to Him. If a person has truly repented of his sins and been born again, there will be a change in his life. The Bible says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” 2 Cor. 5:17

**LESSON SEVEN - PART TWO, Page, 2**

**Jesus taught about – THE NEW BIRTH.**

The third chapter of John tells about a man named Nicodemus who came one night to talk to Jesus. He was a Pharisee, a very religious man. He attended synagogue faithfully. He prayed much. He gave money. He did many good deeds. Yet he must have realized that something was missing in his life. Nicodemus needed more than new teaching – he needed to be born again into God’s family. Jesus said to him, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John. 3:3. Obviously Nicodemus was shocked by the statement, as the conversation reveals. Was he not a good moral man? Had he not given money for God’s work? Was he not a teacher among the Jews? Yes, Nicodemus was all of these things, but he was not a child of God. Jesus said, “that which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto you, you must be born again.” Jn. 3:6-7. This applies not only to Nicodemus but to every person. You – no matter who you are – must be born again. Why must we be born again? Because until we are, we are still “in Adam” and members of his sinful race. When we receive Christ as our Savior we become members of God’s family.

**Jesus taught about – ASSURANCE OF SALVATION.**

If you have been born into God’s family, God wants you to know that you are saved. We can know that we are saved because God’s Word says so; 1 Jn. 5:13. Many believers do not have real assurance of their salvation because they are looking at their feelings instead of believing God’s Word. The Lord Jesus often referred to His believers as ‘sheep’. He said, “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of My hand.” Jn. 10:27-28. If we belong to Jesus we should take Him at His word and say, “I KNOW that I am saved.”

**Jesus taught about – CONFESSING THE LORD**

As soon as we know that we are saved, we should tell others that we have taken Christ as our Savior. The Bible says, “Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.” Ps.107:2. We should do as Jesus told the demon possessed Gadarene, “Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord has done for you.” Jesus said that if we confess Him before men, He will confess us before His Father in Heaven; but if we are ashamed of Him, He will be ashamed of us when He comes again.

**Jesus taught about – THE HOLY SPIRIT**

On the day that Jesus gave His disciples the sad news that He would soon be leaving them, He comforted them with this wonderful promise; “I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, you know Him for He dwells with you, and shall be ‘in’ you.” Jn. 14:16-17. This Comforter is the Holy Spirit who came on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Jesus rose from the dead, to dwell “in” His disciples. From that time on, whenever a person is born again, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in him immediately. “Does every believer have the Holy Spirit dwelling in him?” Yes, he does. The Bible says, “If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.” Rom. 8:9. What does the Holy Spirit do? He teaches us about Christ, guides us, comforts us, helps us pray, gives us power to overcome sin, and conforms us in to the image of Christ.

**Jesus taught about – FORGIVING OTHERS**

Jesus taught us that we must forgive others freely, even as God has forgiven us freely. “Be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART TWO**

**APPENDIX, THE WAY JESUS TAUGHT**

**1. Jesus told stories.**

Mark 4:34 says he almost always spoke to His diciples in parables. For instance He could have just said, "God loves you so much that He will welcome you back no matter how far you've wandered away." And that's true. INSTEAD, He told about the prodigal son. (Luke 15).

What a beautiful picture Jesus painted with this story. And so much is in the story: the older "good" brother who was actually jealous and self-serving. The younger who squandered all that he had in frivolous living, who then repents and returns home and the loving father who "runs" out to meet him. Most people can see themselves in one or the other of the brothers - and this is the only place in the Bible that shows our Father, God, as running out to meet us.

**2. Jesus shocked people**

Did He really mean we have to rip out our eyes or cut off our hands because they are instruments of sin? If so all Christians would be blind amputees. Do people really have logs in their eyes? Jesus said these things to shock people into paying attention and learn from what He was saying. He would exaggerate a truth to make a point.

**3. He crafted memorable sayings**

Judge not and you will not be judged. Condemn not and you will not be condemned. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Give and it will be given to you. Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Well crafted words into sayings make them much easier to remember. A great teaching tool.

**4. He asked questions**

Matt. 16:26 / 22:20-21. Questions are a powerful teaching method. Questions stimulate critical thinking. Asking good questions makes the audience hungry to find the answers.

**5. He used object lessons**

He washed His disciples feet to teach servant leadership. He used the widows "mite" to teach giving. He used little children to teach child-like faith. He spoke of planting in farm country and of sheep in grazing country.

**6. He taught duplication, (making disciples),**

He taught 12 men. Eleven of them, all but the one who betrayed Him, became

great teachers. They, in turn, taught duplication.

Look what happened as a result of Jesus' styles of teaching. His followers today outnumber those of any teacher who has ever lived.

Anyone who aspires to be a teacher should follow Jesus' teaching.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN PART TWO**

1. Jesus was the MASTER teacher. There has never been a teacher \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Jesus taught about the two ways. Jesus urged men to choose the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Repentance is a "turn-around," a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that leads to a change in conduct.

4. Why must we be born again? Because until we are, we are still "in Adam," and members of his sinful race. When we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Christ as our Savior we become members of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ family

5. Many believers do not have real assurance of their salvation because they are looking at their \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ instead of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ God's Word.

6. Jesus said that if we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Him before men, He will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us before His Father in heaven.

7. What does the Holy Spirit do? He \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us about Christ, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us, comforts us, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us pray, gives us the power to overcome sin, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us to the image of Christ.

**LESSON SEVEN – PART THREE**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**JESUS CHRIST – THE LAMB OF GOD**

When John the Baptist first saw Jesus he said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” Jn. 1:29. When we come to the last book of the Bible, we find that it is “the Lamb” who is upon the throne of God. But what does this name mean?

To understand why Jesus is called ‘the Lamb of God’ we must go to the O.T. Throughout the O.T. there are many "types" of salvation. A "type" is something which pictures or illustrates a spiritual truth. For example, when a person offered a lamb as a sacrifice for his sin, it was a type or picture to show that the Lord Jesus would one day die for our sins.

In this lesson we are going to consider some of these types and see what God has to teach us from them. We will see why Jesus is called "the Lamb of God."

**ANIMALS WERE SLAIN FOR ADAM AND EVE**.

Gen 3:21 says “the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.” As discussed in a previous lesson, God killed innocent animals to provide the clothing Adam and Eve needed. God was teaching them that something had to die for sin. Heb. 9:22 says, “without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.” This great truth, is taught throughout the Bible.

**THE OFFERINGS OF CAIN AND ABEL.**

Another type of salvation is seen here. Cain and Abel were the sons of Adam and Eve. Cain was a farmer – he grew things to eat. Abel was a shepherd. From the content of the story it becomes obvious that they each knew that true worship required the sacrifice of a lamb. Abel brought a Lamb, but Cain did not. Instead, he brought some of the things he had been growing. Gen. 4. The Bible says that God accepted Abel’s offering but rejected Cain’s. It is important for us to know why God was pleased with one offering and displeased with the other. There are two important reasons. First, Abel was obedient - Cain did that which he thought was right. Second, Abel’s offering of a lamb fulfilled the type, the picture, of that which is to come. God is teaching us in the story of Cain and Abel that there is only one way sinful men can approach a holy God. We must come trusting Christ’s blood which was shed for us. Lev. 17:11 says, “it is the blood that makes an atonement for the soul.”

**THE PASSOVER LAMB.**

Now we come to another wonderful type of our salvation – the Passover. God’s people were in Egypt and were slaves of the Pharaoh who was very cruel to them. So the children of Israel cried out to the Lord, He heard their cry, and sent Moses to lead them out of the land of Egypt. Exodus chapters 3-14. After a long series of confrontations between Moses and the Pharaoh, and the plagues which God brought, the Pharaoh still refused to let the people go. God told Moses He was going to send one final plague. He would send His death angel over the land, and the oldest son in every house would die. But God made provision for His people so that their oldest sons would not die. Each family was to set aside a lamb. The lamb had to be perfect – without any blemish. They were to keep the lamb in their home for four days, then kill it. They were to take the blood of the lamb and put it on the top and the sides of the doorway to their house. God said, “when I see the blood, I will pass over you.” Ex. 12:13. It happened just as God had said. The death angel passed through the land and in every house that did not have the blood on the doorpost, the oldest son died. In every house that had the blood on the doorposts, the oldest son lived. He was safe! It was the blood of the lamb that protected him from God’s judgement.

**LESSON SEVEN PART THREE,** Page 2

God is teaching us in the story of the Passover that it is the blood of Jesus Christ that protects us from God’s judgement. Christ is our Lamb. 1 Cor. 5:7 says, “for even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” *When we take Christ as our Savior, we are protected by His blood*. When God looks into our heart and sees that we are trusting in Christ’s blood, He says in essence, “I will pass over you. My judgement will not fall on you.”

**THE LAMB AS A SACRIFICE**.

After the children of Israel left Egypt they crossed the Red Sea and came to Mount Sinai. Here God gave them the Ten Commandments which revealed the sinfulness of their hearts. They failed to keep the law and fell under the penalty of the sin, death. But God made provision for them so they could be forgiven of their sins. He laid his hands upon the lamb and said something like this, “I have sinned, but God has allowed this lamb to die in my place.” For hundreds of years men sacrificed animals as God had told them to do. The blood of these animals did not take away their sins; these sacrifices were simply types or pictures of Christ’s death for us. O.T. believers were saved by Christ’s death on the cross just as we are, but there is one difference. They were saved by looking forward in faith to Christ’s death, and we are saved by looking back in faith to His death on the Cross.

**JESUS IS OUR LAMB**.

As John said, “Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.” Jn. 1:29. Perfect and without blemish, “He is the propitiation (the perfect sacrifice) for our sins: and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world.” 1 Jn. 2:2. Jesus was crucified (nailed to the cross) about nine o’clock in the morning but didn’t die until about three o’clock that same afternoon. Just before He died He cried out, “It is finished!” He meant that He had finished the work He came to do. He had offered Himself as the perfect and complete sacrifice for sins. The Bible says, “But this man (Jesus), after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God. For by one offering He has perfected forever them that are sanctified.” Heb. 10:12, 14.

**WE ARE JUSTIFIED FOREVER**.

The Bible says that we are “justified” by Christ’s blood, that is, by His death on the cross for us. To be justified means to be declared “not guilty” by God Himself. How can God forgive us of our sins and declare us righteous when we have committed so many sins? Because He sees Christ’s perfect and complete sacrifice for us. God does not overlook our sin, but He forgives them because He sees the blood of His Son which was shed for them. Col. 1:14 says “we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.” Our enemy, Satan, likes to remind us of our sins and failures. He likes to condemn us and make us feel guilty. It is true that we have sinned. Even after we are saved, we say and do wrong things. But God has told us that we are to confess our sins to Him, asking Him to cleanse us with the precious blood of Christ. Then we are to believe that God has forgiven us. “The blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin.” 1Jn. 1:7b. God has said that He will never again bring up our sins against us. And what’s more, He will not allow anyone else to do so! “Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifies.” Rom. 8:33. Because Jesus died on the cross for us as the Lamb of God, we are justified forever. “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, Let us draw near to God with a true heart in full assurance of faith. Heb. 10:19, 22

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN**

**PART THREE**

1. A type is something which \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a spiritual truth.

2. Abel's offering of a lamb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the type, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, of that which was to come.

3. In the Passover we see that each family had to set aside a lamb. The lamb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_s\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - without any blemish.

4. They were to take the blood of the lamb and put it \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the doorway to their house. (Here we see another "type.", "on the top and on the sides" pictures the shape of the cross on which the Lamb of God shed His blood). God said, " . . . . \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I will pass over you." Exodus 12:13

5. Just before Jesus died on the cross, He cried out, "\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

6. God has told us that we are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our sins to Him, asking Him to cleanse us with the precious blood of Christ. Then we are to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that God has forgiven us.

**As John said, "Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world."**

**LESSON SEVEN – PART FOUR**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**JESUS CHRIST THE RISEN LORD**

If you’ve ever lost a loved one – if you’ve ever had to stand by the grave side, full of sorrow, and watch the casket containing a loved one be lowered into the ground, you know what a terrible enemy death is. If the Lord Jesus does not come first, each one of us will have to pass through death. The Bible says, “it is appointed unto men once to die.” But we do not have to fear death if we have trusted Christ as our Savior. Jesus Christ has conquered death. The Bible says that he has broken the power of death and has brought "everlasting life" through the "gospel".

The word Gospel means "good news." Paul wrote, “Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the scriptures." 1 Cor. 15-1,3,4. From these verses we see that the gospel of Jesus Christ rests on two great facts:

1. Christ died for our sins. 2. Christ rose from the dead.

Actually, the Bible tells us about a number of people whom God raised from the dead. In every instance, however, these people died again later on. But with the Lord Jesus it was different. He rose from the grave, never to die again. He said, “I am He that lives, and was dead; behold, I am alive forevermore." Rev. 1:18.

**JESUS FORETOLD HIS RESURRECTION**.

He said, “A little while, you shall not see Me (because He would be crucified); and again, a little while, and you shall see Me (because He would rise again). You shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.” Jn. 16:16,20. Because they did not believe that Jesus was the Son of God, some of the Jews asked Jesus to give them a sign if He was really who He claimed to be. Jesus said He would give them only one sign, the sign of Jonah, the prophet. He said, “For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the whale’s belly; so shall the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” Mat. 12:40 / 16:4. (comp. Jonah 1:17).

**JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED AND BURIED.**

All of the details of His crucifixion and burial will not be gone into in this lesson. But a few of those details are important here:

Sometimes crucifixion was a slow and agonizing death. Actually, death usually came by suffocation. As the crucified person would begin to slump, his arms being pinned in the up and out position, would cause the muscles to contract around the chest and cut off breathing. The person would then push with his legs to relieve the pressure on his chest and by doing so, could breathe again. Depending on the strength and overall health of the person, this could sometimes go on for days. But Jesus, having been crucified on the day before the Sabbath of Passover, fell under a Jewish law: that no Jew could be on the cross at such a time. The Roman soldiers were ordered to break the legs of Jesus and the two thieves so they could not push up and would quickly die. But when they came to Jesus, He was already dead, so they did not break His legs. Then, just to make sure, another officer took his spear and thrust it into Jesus’ side. The Bible says that both blood and water came gushing out. NO DOUBT! He was most certainly dead. Jn. 19:34

Jesus was buried in the tomb of a rich man named Joseph. This tomb had been constructed by the rich man for himself and he had a large round stone designed to cover the opening to the tomb, so that it would be forever secure. The Pharisees were afraid that Jesus’ disciples might steal the body and claim He had risen from the dead, so they asked Pilate to assign Roman soldiers to guard the tomb. Pilate granted their requests.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART FOUR,** Page 2

**JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD**. On the third day, just before daylight. Afterwards, there was a great earthquake. The angel of the Lord descended from Heaven and rolled the huge stone from the doorway of the tomb. The Bible says the Roman soldiers “shook with fear and became as dead men.” Meanwhile, some of the women who had followed Jesus, because the Sabbath had ended and they could now visit the tomb, came to grieve and put spices on His body. As they walked toward the garden, they worried aloud about who could roll away the heavy stone so they could go inside and apply their spices. But when they arrived, they saw that the stone had already been moved! Then they were greeted by an angel, who told them that Jesus had risen.

With this background in mind, let’s look at the evidence that the tomb was empty:

**First**, we can depend on the historical record. Surely the authorities of Jesus’ day wanted nothing more than to have Jesus stay where Joseph had put Him. The mere fact that they placed Roman guards to protect the tomb indicated that they were determined to keep the body behind that stone. Suppose they had been able to do that. You can be sure the Sanhedrin and other officials would have been the first to use the knowledge of an occupied tomb as evidence when the disciples began to announce to everyone that they had seen Jesus alive. Yet no historical evidence exists to suggest that those officials knew where the body was. As we will see, the evidence shows that it was no longer in the tomb.

**Second**, there is something even more conclusive than the officials inaction – the actions of several eyewitnesses. The first to see and report the empty tomb were the women with the spices. Read Mk 16:5-6. John and Peter were the next to see that Jesus was gone. When they heard the story from the women they raced to the tomb. At first John stood outside and peered in, as the bolder Peter raced past him and went inside. Then John entered and saw the wrappings that had been around Jesus’ body. It should be noted that John recorded what he saw, Jn. 20. If you need an eyewitness that the tomb was empty, you have one in John. He was there. He wrote down what he saw. That is solid historical evidence in anyone’s book.

**Third**, a strong piece of evidence that the tomb was empty is the reaction of the authorities when the guards reported the events in the garden. They wanted to destroy the credibility and influence of Jesus. Therefore, they would surely have been foolish to spread the rumor that the disciples had stolen the body – if Jesus were still in the tomb. No, Jesus’ disappearance was the sole cause for their concern. Surely their collusion with the guards is solid proof that there was no body in the tomb.

**JESUS APPEARED TO MANY**. His friends weren’t looking for what they were about to see. Although they had heard and closely followed Jesus’ teaching for 3 years, they just never fully understood that He was going to rise from the dead. Therefore, they would have had no reason to make up stories in which they claimed to have seen Him. To them, that wasn’t even an option. Jn. 20:9. Yet see Him, they did! First at the tomb. Then on the Emmaus Road. Then in the upper room. Over and over, in different settings, Jesus appeared to His friends. For 40 days He made His presence known throughout the land. Acts 1:1-3. A closer look at some of these appearances lend more evidence for the resurrection.

The account of the appearance to Mary Magdalene is significant, Jn. 20:11-18. But the account of the other women who came to the tomb is also significant. Mat. 28:8-9. “And they departed quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy and ran to report it to His disciples. And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped him.” He appeared to 10 of His disciples in the upper room. Lk. 24:36-43. They thought they were seeing a spirit, but Jesus invited them to touch His hands and feet, and ate supper with them. Then He appeared to the 11, this time with Thomas present, Jn. 20:26-31. How we should thank God for the man we call “Doubting Thomas.” He provides us with the most concrete evidence of all.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART FOUR, Page, 3**

Then Jesus met with seven of the men at the Sea of Galilee, Jn. 21: 1-25. Here Jesus not only appeared to them, He advised them what to do and their boat nearly capsized with so many fish. Then He cooked some of the fish and ate with them.

There are many other proofs of the resurrection. Let’s look back at some of the reactions of the officials. First of all, a Roman soldier was no coward. He was a specially trained, toughminded, well equipped warrior. (And falling asleep while on guard duty was sometimes punishable by death). Yet notice their reaction when they felt the earth move and saw an angel roll back the stone, Mat. 28:2. They “shook for fear of him, and became like dead men” v.4. They probably realized that they had more to be afraid of than an angel. But look what they did next. They turned themselves in! Facing sure punishment, they still felt that they must report this amazing event to their superiors. Once they had spilled their story their fears turned to relief. The officials, realizing that sending Jesus to His death had not accomplished their purpose, decided to concoct a story. They bribed the soldiers to spread the phony news that “His disciples came at night and stole Him while we slept.” Mat. 28:13. Most soldiers would probably have preferred the firing squad to telling such a demeaning thing about themselves, but they must have done what they were told because Matthew commented that the story they began was “commonly reported among the Jews until this day” 28:15.

Then we must consider the outlook of the disciples. They certainly didn’t seem like the kind of men you would want to recruit if you wanted to promote a revolutionary concept. For instance, when Jesus tried to explain to them what would happen in the days ahead, they often misunderstood. When He asked some of them to stay with Him during His all-night prayer vigil, they kept falling asleep. When He talked of servanthood, they argued about their own greatness. When He tried to tell them that He would be raised up after 3 days, they didn’t get it. On the night Jesus was arrested, they ran for their lives. Peter couldn’t even stand up to a servant girl when she identified him as a friend of Jesus.

But something happened to change all that. What would change a cowardly group of mourners into a courageous band of evangelists who were willing to stand up and testify that the crucified Jesus was alive? What changed them into willing martyrs for their faith? Is it possible that all of that change could have come from a story they made up? Nothing less than a witness as awesome as the resurrected Christ could have caused those men to maintain to their dying whispers that Jesus is alive.

**WHY IS ALL OF THIS SO IMPORTANT?** Think of the key world events of your lifetime. Now think back through history. All of the inventions, all of the wars, all of the major catastrophes, none of them has had the kind of monumental, worldwide, eternal effects that one event over 2000 years ago claims to have. This event? The resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that God came to earth as a man to pay the penalty of death for the sins of the world; Jn. 1:1-29; Rom. 6:23. But the Bible also says that if Jesus did not overpower death’s grip to escape that cold, rocky tomb, He would not be able to provide us with victory over death. Read 1 Cor. 15:12-19. The implications of the resurrection of Jesus Christ must be considered honestly. Everything depends on it. Read acts 17: 30-31.

“If Jesus is, as the resurrection asserts, God Himself who has come to our rescue, then to reject Him, or even to neglect Him, is sheer folly. That is why Jesus is not, never has been, and never can be just one among the religious leaders of mankind.” – Michael Green.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN**

**PART FOUR**

A thorough reading of John Chapter 20 is an aid in this lesson and will aid in answering these questions

1. The word "gospel" means "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

2. The "good news" of Jesus Christ rests on what two great facts?

a. Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

b. Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3.John chapter 20 tells about John and Peter running to the tomb after what Mary Magdalene had told them. Verse 8 says John, "the other disciple," went in and saw and he believed. In your own words, what did he see?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What do we call the man who provides us with the most concrete evidence of

all that Jesus actually did rise from the dead?

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. What would change a cowardly group of mourners into a courageous band of evangelists? What changed them into willing martyrs for their faith? Nothing less than seeing with their own eyes the resurrected Christ could have caused those

men to maintain to their dying whispers that

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON SEVEN – PART FIVE**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**Jesus Christ, LORD OF ALL**

" . . . Christ Jesus who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.“ Phil. 2:5-11 (NIV)

The things we have studied so far in Lesson Seven have been in preparation for the things we will now study. Why? Because all of it is just so much history unless we can learn how it applies to us as individuals. Oh, yes, it is the greatest history there is! Not enough can be said to the praise and glory of the Father for "His-Story,“ but the reasons God had in doing it all, His reasons for revealing it all, can be summed up in His desire for it to be applicable to us as individuals. In the Scripture quoted above lies one of the most important truths known to mankind: Jesus is Lord of All.

Because Jesus humbled Himself to become a man; because He humbled Himself as a man to become a servant of men; because He humbled Himself to be obedient, even to the point of dying on a cross, - God the Father has HIGHLY EXALTED HIM. First of all, as we studied in the last lesson, God raised Jesus from the dead. "Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father." Rom. 6:4. But that's really just the beginning. The Bible says that the Father has given all things into His hand. Jesus told His disciples, "All power is given unto Me in Heaven and in earth." Matt. 28:18. What an amazing statement! Just a few days before Jesus had been cruciﬁed. Now, as the risen Christ, He tells His disciples that He has all this power. Then He said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15 With that command He gave this wonderful promise, “Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Matt. 28:20.

After that His disciples saw Jesus literally taken up, "lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.“ Acts 1:9. What happened after that is very important for us to grasp. “He {God} raised Him {Jesus} from the dead and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come." Eph. 1:20-21.

The position given to our Lord Jesus is far above that of anyone or of any spiritual power in the universe. The Bible says God has put all things “under His feet.“ Why is this fact so important for us to understand? Because our Lord is Lord of everything! Still muddled? Well, let's take a look at the word “Lord." It literally means master. But a good American vernacular would be “BOSS." When we obey our boss we're obeying the one true boss, the boss of everything and everyone. Not everyone understands this so they don‘t obey Him; but we must.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART FIVE, Page, 2**

As our Master, Jesus, asks us to give, (not as some masters would but because He is love), He asks us to give Him our life, and to serve Him. Why should we? The Bible says, “you are not your own for you are bought with a price." I Cor. 6:19-20. At the time the Apostle Paul wrote those words human beings were bought and sold as slaves. Whoever bought a slave became the lord and master of that slave. Since Jesus bought us we belong to Him. He does not make us serve Him however, but wants us to choose to because we love Him. If we could only realize that it is the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, who is giving us the opportunity of serving Him, we would gladly do so. No one can be a truly happy Christian until he gives himself to Jesus.

**Jesus Christ, OUR INTERCESSOR**

What is the Lord Jesus doing now that He has been raised to the right hand of the Father and made "Lord of All?" The Bible says He is praying for us. “He ever liveth to make intercession for them. “Heb. 7:25. (Every Christian must remember this!)

Because of Satan we need an intercessor. Though Satan cannot take us out of God‘s family he does all he can to cause us to sin. He tries to keep us from living a life that is pleasing to God. But we need not fear because, "Christ is entered into Heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Heb. 9:24. We would never lose sight of what a spiritual battle we are in if we would remember what Jesus is constantly doing for us, and why. We also should ﬁnd our greatest comfort in this fact. Great men of the Bible who prayed for their people eventually died. But “He ever lives to make intercession” Heb. 7:25 Not only that but He is the PERFECT intercessor. Others who have, and do, pray for people have also their own sins to pray over and their own need of protection from Satan. But Jesus is God‘s perfect Son and He understands us perfectly and, most important of all, He can plead His own blood as the payment for the penalty of our sins.

Let's look at three ways in which Jesus intercedes for us.

(1) He prays for us when we are tempted. (Read John 17:15 and l Cor. 10:13).

(2) He intercedes for us when we have sinned. (See 1 John 2:1 and 2:12). It is also important for us to see that God not only forgives us “for His name's sake” but cleanses us and restores us to fellowship with Him. I John 1:9

(3) Jesus presents our prayers to the Father. (See John 16:23 and Romans 8:26-27.) Finally, we must look at Hebrews 4:14-16. Here we see Jesus as the great High Priest [the great intercessor] who allows us to “draw near with conﬁdence” that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART FIVE, Page, 3**

**Jesus Christ - OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

Man was created to glorify God and to enjoy fellowship with Him. But because of man's rebellion and sin he became separated from God. The purpose of salvation is to bring us back into right relationship with the holy God so that we may once again enjoy fellowship with Him. Because of our sinfulness it is almost impossible for us to understand or even conceive of the holiness of God. The Bible teaches that God is all light and glory. He is perfect in righteousness and purity. He is absolutely holy and without sin. I John 1:5. A reading of Isaiah 6:1-5 will give some insight into our righteousness compared to God‘s.

To enjoy fellowship with God we must not only know that we have been forgiven of every sin but we must also know that we are clothed with a righteousness that is acceptable to God. There is a difference between forgiveness and righteousness. Forgiveness is like taking a bath; righteousness is like putting on clothes. We take a bath so that we may be cleansed from all impurities. But we put on clothes so that we may be properly dressed to appear in public. We must be clothed with a righteousness that is acceptable to God. But the only kind of righteousness that is acceptable to Him is perfect. Can we produce such a righteousness? No, we cannot! In fact, the more we try the farther from it we are (Rom 3:10, 12, 23 and Isaiah 64:6). What we can never do for ourselves, however, God has done for us. How does God make us perfectly righteous in His sight? By putting us **IN CHRIST**. (Refer to Lesson Six). When God looks at us He does not see us as we are - He sees only Christ. Because we are IN CHRIST we have a perfect righteousness before God. The following references will help our understanding:

Isaiah 61:10; Romans 5:17; and Phil. 3:8-9.

Also from lesson six remember - our standing IN CHRIST is always perfect. Our state, or conduct, is never perfect. But

**FAITH IN OUR STANDING MAKES IT REAL IN OUR LIFE**

**LESSON SEVEN – PART FIVE – PAGE FOUR**

The Lordship of Jesus Christ is what Christianity is all about.

**JESUS CHRIST IS LORD OF ALL (Acts 10:36). - OR HE IS NOT LORD AT ALL**

The most important truth in relation to the Christian experience is that Jesus Christ is Lord. Our Savior's great objective in all His redemptive work was the He might be LORD in the life of every believer.

**READ Phil. 2:5-11**

Whether we recognize it or not, He is Lord. Acts 2:36 = (Peter) = ". . .let all of the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, who you crucified, both Lord and Christ." The Father has given the Son absolute supremacy. Our Lord, Jesus Christ, has no equal, no rival. He has no superior; there is none before, beside or beyond Him. Romans 14:9 says, "For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living."

In our Christian experience we under-estimate the importance of the fact of the sovereignty of Christ. We delight to speak of Him as our Savior - but the One we call Savior is our Lord. Matthew 3:3, quoting the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; . . ." Luke 2:11 - "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord." Acts 10:36 - "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ - He is Lord of all . .. " The one we receive as Savior, He is the Lord. The one who comes into our heart in Revelation 3:20 is the One who sits on the throne in 3:21.

It is great to rejoice in Him as our Savior, but unless we have recognized that He is the Lord Jesus Christ, and have submitted to His lordship, we have not entered into the full meaning of what it is to be a Christian. What is He to you, now? Is He Jesus? Or is He Lord Jesus?

What does the word "LORD" mean??? People at that time had a deeper understanding of the word than we do. Their culture understood that it meant

**MASTER / POSSESSOR / KING / OWNER / CONTROLLER / SUPREME AUTHORITY**

We want Him to be our Savior - but do we want Him to be our Boss???? READ Matt. 16: 13-16

**Who do you say Jesus is? DO YOU CALL HIM THE LORD OF YOUR LIFE?**

Remember - the essence of sin is rebelling against God's right to be God - and to rule over all of the affairs of our life. When we don't allow God to be God in our lives we set

ourselves up as God. We decide what is right and wrong or good and evil.

**"Jesus is Lord" is one of the most radical realities of Christianity. It means that He is the Supreme Ruler over ALL.**

**Lord should not just be a word we use - it should be a fact of life.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN**

**PART FIVE**

1. Jesus, being found in appearance as a man, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

by becoming \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. One of the most important truths known to mankind is that Jesus is

\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. In the time of slaves whoever bought a slave became the master, (or boss), of that slave. Since Jesus bought us we belong to Him. He does not make us serve Him, however, He wants us to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to because we love Him.

4. No one can be a truly happy Christian until he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ himself to Jesus.

5. Three ways in which Jesus intercedes for us :

a. He prays for us when we are tempted.

b. He intercedes for us when we have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

c. He presents our prayers \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. There is a difference between forgiveness and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Forgiveness is like taking a bath. Righteousness is like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. How does God make us perfectly righteous in His sight? By putting us \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Faith in our standing \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

in our life.

**LESSON SEVEN – PART SIX**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**Jesus Christ, OUR ALL IN ALL**

So far in our "Closer Look At Jesus" we have learned that He is the promised Savior, the Mighty God, the Great Teacher, the Lamb of God, the Risen Lord, the Lord of all, our Great intercessor, and our Righteousness. He is all of these and much, much more. He is our power, our holiness, our victory, our joy, our strength, our patience, and more. In this lesson we are going to learn that He is in fact EVERYTHING WE NEED.

In a previous lesson we looked at the importance of being "In Christ." In this lesson we will look at the importance of Christ in us. "Because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts." Gal. 4:6. This means that Christ is actually living in us by His Spirit: “Christ in you, the hope of glory”. Col. 1:27. Christ lives in EVERY believer. The Bible says “know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you? “ II Cor. 13:5

Christ lives in the heart of every believer, but not every believer understands who Christ really is. The Gospel of John emphasizes two great truths: (1) that Jesus is God and (2) that Christ Himself is the answer to ALL of our needs. It will help us to know who Christ is if we learn more about one of His names. **He is the great "I AM."**

The name “I AM" is a name which belongs exclusively to God. God Himself said that this was His name. (Read Exodus 3:13-14). When God said that His name was "I AM” He meant that He is the self-existent One - the God who has always existed and always will exist. But there is another meaning to this name which becomes very important for us to know. "I AM" is like an unﬁnished sentence:

"I AM\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_." God was telling Moses He would be whatever he needed Him to be in order to complete the great work He was giving him to do. His courage, his strength, his wisdom, his patience, "whatever you need. “

The Jews fully understood that the name, “l AM” belonged only to God. No prophet or king, however great he may be, would dare use the name for himself. But Jesus used the name! Read John 8:21-59. (Note especially the italicized words in verses 24 and 28, knowing that words in italics were added to the English translations for clarity and were not in the original language).

In addition to the fact that Jesus, our great and mighty God, is our patience, strength, power, and whatever else we need Him to be, let's look at some things He Himself said He is:

"I AM THE DOOR" (Jn. 10:9). He doesn’t just point us to the door of salvation; He is the door. He is not just one of the doors. He is THE door - the only door by which we enter Heaven.

”I AM THE WAY" (Jn. 14:6). He does not simply show us the way to God, He is the way.

”l AM THE TRUTH" (Jn, 14:6). He doesn’t just teach us the truth, He is the truth. Col. 2:3 says, "In whom (Christ) are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

”I AM THE LIFE" (Jn. 14:6). Christ does not give us life apart from Himself. He Himself IS the life. If we have Christ, we have life eternal. If we do not have Him, we do not have eternal life. I Jn. 5:12 says, “He that has the Son has life; and he that has not the Son of God has not life.”

"I AM THE LIGHT" (Jn. 8:12). If we do not have Him we cannot "see" spiritual truth. Before we were saved the Bible was all a great mystery to us. But once Christ came to live in us we could see and understand spiritual truth.

"I AM THE TRUE VINE" (Jn. 15:1). It is as branches in the Vine that we can more fully comprehend how He supplies all our needs.

"I AM THE LIVING BREAD" (Jn. 6:51).

"I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD" (Jn. 10:14).

"I AM THE RESURRECTION" (Jn. 11:25).

“I AM ALPHA AND OMEGA" (Rev. 1:18).

A picture containing schematic

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**Christ is the great "I AM." HE is everything we need**

Jesus Christ is our "ALL IN ALL." He is the answer to all our needs. One of life's greatest secrets is revealed in this great truth. Do you need wisdom? Christ is your wisdom! Say to Him, "Lord Jesus, You are my wisdom. I am trusting You to be my wisdom." Do you need love, purpose, adequacy, strength, courage? Christ is all - and in all. (Col. 3:11)

Jesus Christ, OUR LIFE

As we conclude our study of Jesus as our ALL IN ALL we must look at both sides of the issue; Him in us and us in Him. "At that day you shall know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you." (John 14:20). We must not think of this as just in the past tense - not just something that happened at Pentecost. We must consider these two facts as two very important aspects of our new relationship with Jesus Christ – the believer in Christ and Christ in the believer.

Because we are IN CHRIST, we have a perfect standing before God. We want to live a life that is pleasing to God, but in ourselves, we are not able to do it. Like Paul we try, but without success. Read Romans 7:18-19. Now read Gal. 4:6 and we will see that God has solved the problem for us. "Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts." Also read Gal. 2:20 and Col. 1:27.

Sometimes a Christian will look for some special feeling or emotion before he will believe that Christ is living in his heart. But the facts are clear: He is there, and He is all we need to live a happy and victorious life. See Phil. 4:13 ABIDE IN HIM

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN**

**PART SIX**

1. " . . . . know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ \_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_."

II Cor. 13:5

2. In using the name, "I AM," in Exodus 3:13-14, God was telling Moses He would be whatever he, (Moses), \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Re-read John chapter 8 verses 12 - 59. Understand as you read that Jesus is telling these people who He is. In verse 12 He begins His speaking with those two words, "I AM." In verse 58 He concludes with, ". . . . before Abraham was, I AM." And then they took up stones to kill Him. WHY? In your own words answer that question. ***Why would they want to kill Him just because He said "I AM?"***

Note: Read, study, think about it. Then just answer the best you can.

4. Because we are "In Christ" we have a perfect \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before God.

**LESSON SEVEN – PART SEVEN**

**A CLOSER LOOK AT JESUS**

**Jesus Christ, OUR COMING KING**

“Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousand of His saints.” Jude 14. “I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto Myself.” Jn 14:2-3 “You men of Galilee, why stand you gazing up to heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into Heaven, shall so come in like manner as you have seen him go into Heaven.” Acts 1:11

From these verses we know that Jesus is coming again. What will happen when He comes? What will happen to believers? To unbelievers? Does anyone know when He is coming? How can we be ready for His coming? We will find some answers in this lesson.

**JESUS IS COMING FOR HIS BELIEVERS.**

There will be a great separation. The Bible says the believers will go to be with the Lord; the unbelievers will be left behind. Jesus said, “Two women will be grinding together; the one shall be taken, the other left. Two men shall be in the field; one shall be taken, the other left.” Luke 17: 35-36

**JESUS WILL COME SUDDENLY** – like “a thief in the night.” (II Peter 3:10). In a moment. “in the twinkling of an eye.” (1 Cor. 15:52). Every believer will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. This includes those who have died and those who are living when He comes (1Thes .4:16-17) BELIEVERS WILL BE JUDGED for what they have done after they were saved. This judgment is called “the Judgment Seat of Christ,” and is for believers only. Some believers will receive great rewards because they were faithful in serving the Lord Jesus. Others will be ashamed because they did not live for the Lord. (2 Cor. 5:10).

**THE MARRIAGE SUPPER OF THE LAMB** will take place after this judgment. There is no way to describe how beautiful and wonderful this event will be. As the Bride of Christ, we will be joined to the Lord Jesus – to love Him and to be loved by Him forever. (Rev. 19: 7-9).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO UNBELIEVERS** while the believers are with Christ in Heaven? The Bible says there will be a time of great trouble on the earth. Evil and wickedness will abound. There will be terrible wars, famines, earthquakes, and pestilences such as the world has never seen before. One third of the inhabitants of the earth will be killed. This terrible time is known as “the great tribulation.” During this time a man called “the Antichrist” will come to power. This man, who is “against” Christ, will perform great miracles, but his power will not come from God; his power will come from Satan. He will gain control of the whole world. No one will be able to buy or sell without his mark. He will demand that all men worship him and receive his mark. Those who refuse will be killed. Those who do accept his mark and worship him will spend all eternity with him in the lake of fire. Rev. 14: 9-11.

**CHRIST WILL RETURN TO EARTH IN GREAT POWER AND GLORY.** At God's appointed time, the Lord Jesus will return to the earth with His believers, (His bride), and His mighty angels. 2 Thes. 1:7-8 and Rev. 19: 11-16.

**JESUS CHRIST WILL REIGN AS KING OVER ALL THE EARTH.** After the Antichrist is destroyed, the Lord Jesus will reign on the earth for 1000 years, and His believers will reign with Him. Rev. 5:10 & 20: 4. During this time Satan will be bound. He will not be able to tempt people or cause trouble on the earth. There will be no wars, no hunger, and no disease. All men will live together in harmony. Even the animals will be changed so they will not attack one another, and children will play with them. Zech. 14:9, Psalm 9:8, Isa. 11:9.

**LESSON SEVEN, PART SEVEN, Page, 2**

After the thousand-year reign of Christ, (or near the end of it), Satan will be set free from his prison for a time. He will again go out and deceive many people. He and his followers will rebel against God and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. This time fire will come down from Heaven and destroy them and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire. Rev. 20:10.

**THE UNBELIEVERS WILL BE JUDGED.** This is known as “the Judgment of the Great White Throne,” and this is for unbelievers only. ALL OF THEM – from the first to last. Rev. 20:11-12. The record books will be opened and each person judged. But the most important book will be the “Book of life.” Rev. 20:12-15.

**God WILL CREATE A NEW HEAVEN AND A NEW EARTH.** After Satan and all the unbelievers have been judged the earth will be destroyed by fire and God will take all believers to a new Heaven and a new earth where there will be no more sin.

**YES, JESUS IS COMING AGAIN – SOON!** “But of that day and hour knows no man” Matt 24:36. But the Bible does assure us He is coming – and gives us certain facts concerning His coming. Jesus said, “Therefore be ye also read: for in such an hour as you think not the Son of Man comes.” Matt 24:44. ARE YOU READY?

**Jesus Christ, OUR KING FOREVER**

Jesus Christ is coming to destroy His enemies and to take His believers with Him; ultimately to a new earth and a new Heaven. But have you ever wondered what Heaven is like? Let us consider three things we know about Heaven:

1. Heaven is a city of beauty. (Rev. 21:2). The world has never seen a city like this one for the builder and maker of this city is God Himself. John describes it for us in Rev 21:10-27.

2. Heaven is a city of abundance. Many people have wondered about the size of this city. The Bible tells us it is a square that is approximately 1500 miles in each direction. Rev 21:16. That is a lot of territory! Yet no one will lack anything. Rev. 7:16-17.

3. Heaven is a city of happiness. The people who live here will sing songs of praise and thanksgiving to the Lord Jesus for what He did for them. There will be no sickness, no pain, no sin, no sorrow, and no death. All these things will be gone forever. Rev. 21:4. But the most wonderful thing about Heaven is this – God Himself will dwell with us. He will be our God, and we will be His people. “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.” Rev. 21:3

“Unto Him that loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood… to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever.” Rev. 1:5-6.

“They sang a new song, saying You are worthy … for You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And have made us unto our God kings and priests.” Rev 5:9-10 “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and

strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.” Rev. 5-12. “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” Rom.8:18

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVEN**

**PART SEVEN**

1. Jesus is coming for His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Believers will be judged for what they have done after they were saved.

This judgment is called \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What will happen to unbelievers while the believers are with Christ in

Heaven? The Bible says there will be a time \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

on the earth. This terrible time is known as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4.When the "Antichrist" comes to power he will gain control of the whole world. No one will be able to buy or sell without his mark. He will demand that all men

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and receive his mark.

5. At God's appointed time the Lord Jesus will return to the earth with

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, (His Bride), and His mighty angels.

6. Unbelievers will be judged. This is known as "the judgment of the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_".

7. Jesus is coming again soon. "But of that day and hour

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_".

**LESSON EIGHT**

**ASSURANCE OF SALVATION**

**RECAP**

We are now 15 weeks into our course On Bible Basics. We have taken a good basic look at what God is like; we have looked at His creation, especially man; we have taken a good look at the fall of man; man’s complete ruin in sin; what it means to be "in Adam“; the wonderful ability to be "in Christ“; and a very good basic look at Christ Himself. In the process, God’s wonderful plan for redeeming fallen man, (His plan of salvation), has been revealed. I want to pause at this point in the course to personally express my hope that all of my students have received Jesus as both Lord and Savior. If any of you, for any reason, have not yet taken this step of faith, “I implore you, as though Christ were in me, begging you, be reconciled to God," (2 Cor- 5:20 paraphrased). If you need help in this matter, please talk to me or someone well-grounded in God’s Word.

**FACTS, FAITH, FEELINGS**

For many people, feelings are the guiding factor in life. If they feel something, they think it is real. If they do not feel anything, they think it is not real. But this is not according to God’s order. Others try to put faith ﬁrst. They think that if they have enough "faith," they can make anything come true. But this is not God’s way either. God wants us to have faith, but our faith must rest on His Word; otherwise it is of no value.

God’s order is always the same: (1) Facts, (2) Faith, (3) Feelings.

1. A fact is something that is true. For example, two plus two equals four. This is a mathematical fact. It has always been true. It will always be true. You're believing it does not make it true. It is true even if no one in the world believes it. Facts are always true. You may not believe a fact, but it is still true. You: may not “feel” that a fact is-true, but it is still true.

2. The word "faith" is used in the Bible 239 times. This shows us the importance God places on faith. The Bible makes it clear that all the blessings of God come to us by faith. (Heb. 11:6). But as important as faith is, it cannot stand alone. It must rest on something, and that something must be true. This is why our faith must always rest on God’s Word. Jesus said, “Thy Word is truth."

3. Feelings are emotions such as joy, sorrow, happiness, and sadness. We should understand that feelings are quite different from facts in that facts never change, while our feelings are almost always changing. For this reason we should never try to rest our faith on our feelings. Many sincere people seek salvation but they do not ﬁnd it because they are looking for some kind of feeling. Feelings do have a place in the Christian life, but they do not come ﬁrst. Instead, they follow facts and faith. I John 5:10 says, ”He that believes on the Son has the witness in himself." Note the order: First, we believe; and then we have the witness of the Spirit in our heart.

Diagram, text

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**LESSON EIGHT, Page, 2**

**ASSURANCE, the word**.

In the English Bible the word "assurance” occurs six times. It should be rendered “faith", that is, ground or reason for faith, in Isa. 32:17 and Acts 17:31. In C0l. 2:2; I Thes. 1:5; Heb. 6:11 and 10:22 the original words mean simply full confidence, or full conviction. Isa. 32:17 makes a very important statement regarding assurance; “And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness, quietness and assurance forever.“ The righteousness of God is imputed to all who believe in Christ; therefore these are justiﬁed. Recognition of this brings peace and complete assurance to the heart.

**ASSURANCE, the doctrine.**

The doctrine of assurance is presented in the New Testament in a threefold way:

1. The "full assurance of faith” Heb. 10:22. This refers to the conﬁdence which true faith gives. If we are exercising faith in anything or anyone, we know it. If we have faith in the solvency of the bank in which we have deposited our money, that faith gives us conﬁdence concerning the safety of our money. This is the sense in which Paul expresses his assurance in II Tim. 1:12; "I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto him [literally, ‘guard my deposit’] against that day.”

2. The “full assurance of understanding" Col. 2:2. The word “understanding" is the same word so translated in Col. 1:9. It means an assurance resulting from a spiritual understanding of seven revealed facts on which the believer’s complete safety rests.

a. The ﬁnished work of Christ in putting away the believer’s sins so that there is nothing remaining against him. (Heb. 9:26; I Pet. 3:18; Acts 13:38-39; Rom.8:31-34).

b. The speciﬁc promises of the scriptures. (Jn. 10:28-29; 11:26; Phil. 1:6; Rom. 8:29-30).

c. The care of Christ as High Priest and Shepherd. (Heb. 7:25; I Jn. 2:1; Jn. 10: 10-14).

d. The believer’s union with Christ. (I Cor. 12:12-13; Eph. 5:29-30).

e. The New Covenant. (Heb. 8:10-12; 10:16-18).

f. The Father’s faithfulness to Christ. (Jn. 17:11; Jude 1, A.S.V.).

g. The sealing with the Spirit. (Eph. 1:13; 4:30).

*To enter into an understanding of these facts is to have “full assurance of understanding."*

3. The "full assurance of hope” Heb. 6:11. Hope has to do with unseen things of the future (Rom. 8:24-25), especially with regard to the return of Christ and the blessings which will be ours at that time. The full assurance of hope, therefore, is a conﬁdent expectation that all will be well with the believer, no matter what the future may bring, and that in due time we shall receive the complete fulﬁllment of all God’s wonderful promises. This is expressed in such passages as II Cor. 1:10; II Tim. 4:8, 18; Titus 2:13; I Jn. 3:2-3.

**Assurance is the believer’s absolute conviction that he is in the present possession of a salvation in which he will be eternally kept. This assurance is based on his perfect righteousness in Christ Jesus.**

It follows, therefore, that the believer’s assurance does not rest upon sanctification, but justification – not upon works, but upon faith in Christ alone. Though the two are closely connected, assurance and safety are not synonymous. The true believer is safe whether he realizes it or not, since he is kept by God’s power. 1 Peter 1:5. **Recognition of this FACT gives assurance**!

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON EIGHT**

1. God wants us to have faith but our faith must rest \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: otherwise it is of no value.

2. God's order is always the same; (1) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(3) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Put your faith in the facts and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will come along.

4 The doctrine of assurance is presented in the New Testament in a threefold way.

(1) The full assurance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(2) The full assurance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

(3) the full assurance of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Assurance is the believer's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

that he is in the present possession of a salvation in which he will be

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON NINE, PART ONE**

**CONSECRATION**

In our last lesson we learned that our assurance of salvation rests not on consecration, but on justification. We "have been" justified in the sight of God because of our faith in what Christ has done. God is justified in saving us because Jesus met the full requirement of the law on our behalf - death. Justification is something that God has done for us and will be discussed more in the next lesson. In this lesson we want to look at the other side of the proverbial coin; what does God want us to do?

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service." Romans 12:1.

**1) What is consecration?** The first uses of the words, (consecrate, consecrated, consecration), appear in Exodus 28 and 29 and have to do with the setting aside of the Levitical tribe to be priests. In fact, the root of the words means to "set apart." The words are also used in conjunction with Old Testament sacrifices.

Consecration is the giving of my life to God to do His will instead of my own. It means that I present my body to Him as a "living sacrifice." The animals which were offered to God in the Old Testament were slain - they were dead sacrifices. God does not ask us to place our bodies upon an altar to be slain. Instead, He asks us to become a "living sacrifice." He wants us to LIVE for Him!

**2) What is the basis of consecration?** It is voluntary! It is unto Him! "If any man of you bring an offering unto the Lord . . . he shall offer it of his own voluntary will . . ." Lev. 1: 2-3. This tells us that consecration is "Unto the Lord'' and that it must be voluntary. God wants us to give our life to Him, not because we have to, but because we love Him and want to serve Him. Neither does He want us consecrated to someone, or some thing; but unto Him. Not to a preacher, or a mission, or some particular calling or work; but unto Him. God is the one who decides what it is we are to do and where He wants us to serve.

**Consecration is also the offering of a whole life unto God.** The animals were not partly dead. Whether the offering was a bull, a sheep, a goat, or a pigeon: it was the offering up of a whole life to God. God could not accept anything less. When Jesus offered up His life for us, He died. I cannot give part of my life to God and keep part for myself. This would not satisfy God, and it would not satisfy me either. All the joy and blessing in the Christian life depend on our holding back nothing from God.

**Consecration is also final.** Once an animal was put on the altar, it was not taken down again. ". . . every devoted thing is most holy unto the Lord." Lev. 27:28. Once I have dedicated my life to God, I cannot take it back again. God expects my dedication to be a once-for-all giving of myself to Him. What happens if I fall into sin? Does it mean I must "rededicate" my life to God? No, it doesn't. If I have sinned, I should confess my sins to God so that I can once more enjoy His fellowship. (I Jn. 1:9)

**Consecration is continual.** Burnt offerings were offered to God each morning and each evening, day by day, continually. My consecration begins with the act of giving myself to the Lord, but it does not end there. I must daily offer myself to Him to do His will rather than my own. Jesus said, "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross DAILY, and follow Me." (Luke 9:23).

**LESSON NINE, PART ONE**

**PAGE TWO**

Why should I consecrate myself to the Lord? Because I belong to Him. The Bible says, "What, know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost . . . and YE ARE NOT YOUR OWN? For ye are bought with a price . . ." (I Cor. 6:19-20). " . . . whether we live or die, therefore, we are the Lord's." (Rom. 14:8). These verses tell us plainly that we are not our own. We belong to Him. We were bought with a price. What price? " . . . ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold . . . But with the precious blood of Christ. . . " (I Peter 1:18-19).

Consecration is simply recognizing Christ's ownership of me and saying to Him, "Lord, I am Yours by right, and I wish to be Yours by choice" The Bible says this is the "reasonable service" of every believer.

**3) What is the motive for consecration?** I know that I should give my life to Christ, but what makes me want to? It is the love of Christ. "The love of Christ constraineth us." (II Cor. 5:14). When Christ's love touches my heart, I can do nothing but fall down before Him and offer my all to Him.

**4) What is the purpose of consecration?** The purpose of consecration is that God's will may be done in my life. It is really Jesus who does God's will in me. "Now the God of peace . . . make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in His sight, THROUGH JESUS CHRIST . . . " (Heb. 13:20-21). The Gospels tell us how the Lord Jesus did His Father's will when He lived here on earth. The book of Acts tells us how He continued to do the Father's will through the apostles and disciples of that day. Now He wants to work through us. When we give ourselves completely to Him, He will work through us even as the Father worked through Him.

**But how do I consecrate myself to God? "** . . . yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead . . ." (Rom. 6:13). God does not want me to offer my old self-life to Him. It is the new life "in Christ" which God wants me to present to Him. God cannot use anything of the old life. Only those who are "alive from the dead" can serve Him. It is only as I see that I have been crucified with Christ, buried with Him, and raised up again with Him, that I can truly consecrate my life to God.

**5) What is the result of consecration?"** It is that I die to my own plans and ambitions; I live to do the will of God. The Lord Jesus is our example. He did not come into the world to do His own will or to be great in the eyes of men. He came to do the will of His Father. Though He was God, He humbled Himself and took upon Himself the form of a servant. He was obedient to the will of God, even to the point of death on the cross. God now says to us, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus . . ." (Phil. 2:5).

Do not think that, if you consecrate your life to the Lord, you will become a famous preacher or missionary. This may happen to some. But God doesn't seem to need many famous people. He needs us in our home, our neighborhood, our workplace. The blessing of consecration is finding God's perfect will for our life. God has a work for every child of His. "For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." (Eph. 2:10).

When I consecrate myself to the Lord, He can show me that work which He has for me.

My greatest satisfaction comes when I find God's will for my life and do it. Think of the joy of meeting the Lord in glory and hearing Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant . . . Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." (Matt. 25:21).

God has asked me to present my body to Him as a living sacrifice. There is no substitute for this. Prayer, Bible reading, Christian work, witnessing, going to church - all of these are good, but they will not take the place of consecration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

**LESSON NINE, Part One**

1. Consecration is the giving of my life to God to do His will \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. It means that I present my body to Him as a "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

3. I cannot give part of my life to God and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

4. All joy and blessing in the Christian life depend upon our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ from God.

5. Why should I consecrate myself to the Lord? Because \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. Consecration is simply recognizing Christ's ownership of me and saying to

Him, "Lord I am yours by right, and I wish to be Yours \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. The purpose of consecration is that God's will may be done \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8.. God has asked me to present my body to Him as a living sacrifice. There is

no \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON NINE - PART TWO**

**JUSTIFICATION AND SANCTIFICATION**

**Justification.**

Ideally the complete fulfillment of the law of God would provide a basis for "justification" in His sight, Rom. 2:13. But no such case has occurred in mere human experience, and therefore no one can be "justified" on this ground, Rom. 3:9-20; Gal. 2:16; 3:10, 11; 5:4. From this negative presentation in Rom. 3, the apostle Paul proceeds to show that God is, through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, (3:25-26), ". . . just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus." Justification then is the legal and formal acquittal from guilt by God as Judge. The believing sinner is justified, that is, treated as righteous because Christ, "who knew no sin," bore his sins on the cross, being made "sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him." ( IICor. 5:21). The justified believer has been declared by the Judge Himself, (Rom. 3:31), to have nothing laid to his charge, (Rom. 8:1, 31-34). He is justified.

**SANCTIFICATION - Holiness**

(Note: The Hebrew and Greek words translated by the English words sanctification and holiness is available along with a partial listing of the scripture references where these translations occur. Both words literally mean "separation," or "set apart." The root idea is always separation - some person or thing "set apart" for God).

Sanctification is the setting apart from sin unto God. The result is a life of holiness. It is the perfecting of holiness (bringing to maturity) in the life of a believer who desires to yield his life to God, to be cleansed and to be set apart unto God. Sanctification is His way of conforming our character and conduct to the image of Christ.

When one is justified, he is declared righteous by God. As said before, justification is something God does for you. But sanctification is something God does in you. Justification puts you in right relation to God, and sanctification manifests the fruit of that relationship. The fruit, or result, is shown by separation from evil along with a dedication to God.

The thought in the English word "sanctify" originally meant "to cut" which makes it an excellent word to translate both the Hebrew and Greek words. It reveals His method of cutting you and me out of the world and the world's evil out of us. Separation from evil and a dedication to God equals a holy life.

A. Separation from evil or uncleanness:

II Chron. 28 and 29, the story of Ahaz and Hezekiah, is a good indicator.

B. Dedication to God

Separation from evil is only part of sanctification. There must be a separation unto - a dedication unto - God. A person, place or thing set apart for the exclusive service of God is said to be sanctified. Houses are indicated in Lev. 27:14 and II Chron. 7:16. Men are said to be sanctified, Jeremiah 1:5 being an example. Jesus was sanctified; John 10:36; 17:19.

C. Holiness

When a man is separated from evil or uncleanness and is dedicated unto God, he is said to be holy. To be holy means to be free from all defilement - pure. "God is holy" means, "God is absolutely pure." The truth that God is holy is the fundamental truth of the Bible. The essential moral nature of God is holiness. In the scriptures the holiness of man is commanded. Lev. 11:43-45; I Peter 1:15-16; Rom. 6:11-13; Col. 3:1-2, etc. That holiness is the result of sanctification is seen in II Peter. 1:4; Titus 2:14; Eph. 1:4.

**LESSON NINE, PART TWO,** PAGE TWO

**When does sanctification take place?**

Sanctification, as applied to the believer, is spoken of in the New Testament in three ways:

**A. POSITIONAL**, the instantaneous aspect.

One who believes on the Lord Jesus Christ has appropriated Him as the one sacrifice for sins. As thus associated with His sacrifice, the believer has been "redeemed," not with "corruptible things as silver and gold . . . but with the precious blood of Christ." I Peter 1:18-19. Therefore he was instantly "set apart" for God, forever. He is a "saint," a "holy brother," and "sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." Heb. 10:10. As a "new man" he is created in righteousness and true holiness. Eph. 4:24.

**B. EXPERIENTIAL**, the progressive aspect.

This part of sanctification takes place during the life of the believer. It must be remembered that sanctification is only started in the new birth experience. A saint he may be, but in the beginning certainly he is most unsaintly in himself. He still has the "flesh" and too often obeys it "in the lusts thereof." Rom. 6:12. Accordingly, the risen Christ, by the Holy Spirit, through the Word, and if need be through chastisement, begins a dealing, the object of which is to bring this saint to true saintliness, this holy brother to true holiness. The following passages are illustrative: John 17:17; Eph. 5:25-26; I Thes. 5:23; II Cor. 3:18; 7:1; Heb. 12:10

**C. CONSUMMATE**, or complete - the future aspect.

That work of God which first sets apart the believer for Himself instantly upon the exercise of faith, and which then works inwardly in the believer's heart and life, separating his affections and will from all unholy things, has it's glorious consummation in the believer's perfect conformation to the image of Christ, even as Christ is the "express image" of Deity. See I Jn. 3:2-3 and Phil. 1:6.

**FINAL REMARKS**

The believer, therefore, is "sanctified," a "saint," "holy"; he is being "sanctified," made "saintly," made "holy"; he is to be completely "sanctified," made absolutely "holy" in the day when he shall see Christ "as he is." The Scripture knows nothing of an event or an "experience," the instantaneous result of which is the entire eradication of the flesh, or a state of sinless perfection, this side of our future meeting with Jesus Christ. However, in grace provision is made, through the "law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" (Rom. 8:2) for a life of constant victory over sin while we "walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom. 8:4.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

**LESSON NINE, PART TWO**

1. Justification then is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ acquittal from guilt by God as Judge.

2. When one is justified he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God.

3. The truth that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is the fundamental truth of the Bible.

4. As thus associated with His sacrifice, the believer \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ "redeemed," not with "corruptible things as silver and gold . . . but with the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_."

5. The believer therefore IS "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," a "saint," "holy"; he IS BEING "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," made "saintly," made "holy." He IS TO BE completely "\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_," made absolutely "holy" in the day when he shall see Christ "as he is."

**LESSON TEN – PART ONE**

**A CLEAR CONSCIENCE**

**A clear conscience is essential to faith**. Paul speaks of "holding faith and a good conscience." I Tim. 1:19 When our conscience is guilty, our faith becomes weak and ineffective.

**A clear conscience is essential to having our prayers answered**. The Apostle John said, “Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then have we conﬁdence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him; because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight.” I Jn. 3:21-22.

**A clear conscience is essential to good health**. To have our conscience condemning us is like having a heavy weight on us all the time.

**A clear conscience is necessary if we are to build true friendships**. There will be times when we will offend and hurt people. If we want to keep their respect and friendship we must make things right with them.

**A clear conscience is necessary for effective witnessing**. If you have offended someone and you have never tried to make things right with them, you will ﬁnd it impossible to witness effectively to them.

**Most important of all, a clear conscience is necessary in order to enjoy fellowship with the Lord.** We must be right with God and we must be right with our fellowman. Even the slightest accusation in our conscience will hinder our fellowship with our Lord.

**HOW DOES THE CONSCIENCE OPERATE?**

Our conscience is the place where God expresses His Will and His holiness. It is here that God shows us His mind regarding a matter. Our conscience discerns what God thinks about things. Once we know in our conscience what God's will is about a matter, we must obey.

Our conscience is like a window to our spirit through which God's light shines, ﬂooding our inner being with His light and truth. If we obey our conscience, the window becomes clearer and more transparent. If we do not obey our conscience and deal with the sin it condemns, then our conscience, as a window, will become dirty and clouded. As sin increases, the dirt and cloudiness increase until God's light can barely penetrate into our Spirit.

If a believer continues to disobey his conscience, his heart will become hardened. He will become less and less sensitive to those things which God wants him to stay away from. He will become “desensitized.” A day will come when he can sin without feeling any sense of wrong at all. This is a tragic condition for any Christian. The Bible says, "Harden not your hearts, but exhort one another daily, while it is called today; Iest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin." Heb. 3:8-13.

**HOW TO OBEY YOUR CONSCIENCE**

Our conscience deals with both the past and the future. It not only condemns us when we have done wrong, it also warns us when we are about to do something that is not pleasing to the Lord. In obeying your conscience, there are two simple rules to follow:

1. If your conscience warns you that to do a certain thing is wrong, **DON‘T DO IT**!

2. If you have already done something wrong, **CONFESS IT** at once and claim the cleansing blood of Christ. Whatever God shows you in your conscience, do it. Nothing can take the place of obedience. The Lord insists that we obey Him.

**LESSON TEN – PART ONE, Page Two**

**OUR CONSCIENCE IS LIMITED BY KNOWLEDGE**

How do we know what is right and what is wrong in God‘s sight? One way we know is by what God says in His Word. When God's Word tells us a certain thing is right, then we know it is right. If His Word says it is wrong, we know it is wrong. There may be many things in our life that God condemns, but if we do not know His Word, we will not realize that these things are sin.

What does the Lord do? He begins to show us our sins, one by one. He is gracious to us. He does not show us all of our sins at one time. He knows that this would be too discouraging to us. Instead, He reveals our sins to us, one by one. Here is a wonderful truth: A sin in our life which is unknown to us does not hinder our communion with the Lord. If we obey what we know to be the will of God and forsake what we know to be condemned by God, we can enjoy perfect fellowship with Him. The Bible says, “if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another; and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.” To walk in the light means to be obedient to the light we have. This does not, however, exempt us from seeking more light. An active conscience will certainly lead us to "diligently" seek Him, and to know Him.

**DO NOT TRY TO SILENCE OR OVERRULE YOUR CONSCIENCE**

We have already mentioned the two rules to follow when your conscience speaks to you: 1. When warned that a certain thing is wrong, DON’T DO IT!

2. If you have already done something wrong, CONFESS IT! Unfortunately, many Christians do not follow these simple rules. Instead, they try to silence the voice of their conscience. They usually employ one or both of two methods to do this:

1. They argue with their conscience. A person may try to convince himself that something is all right because it seems so reasonable. He may point to what others are doing or he may talk it over with another believer in order to get the other person to agree with him. We must not allow the opinion of others to overrule our conscience. They don't set the standard; God does. Any time you believe something is not God's will for you, then you must not do it. “Whatsoever is not of faith is sin.” Romans 14:23. We must understand that we cannot argue with our conscience. We must never attempt to silence the voice of our conscience for it represents God’s will for us.

2. They try to ease their conscience by doing many good works. Though he is not obeying God, he thinks that what he is doing is just as good or perhaps even better than what God has told him to do. He may try to silence his conscience by giving money to God's work or by helping others less fortunate than himself. He may be quite pleased with himself and consider that his deeds are very worthy. But they are of no value in God's sight if he is disobedient. The Bible says, “Behold, to obey is better than sacriﬁce.” 1 Samuel 15:22.

**WE MUST AVOID SATAN'S CONDEMNATION**

In seeking to maintain a clear conscience, we must be aware of the fact that Satan can attack our conscience. He does this by accusing us and condemning us. He puts thoughts like these into our mind: "You have failed again. That is all you ever do. You are nothing but a failure and that is all you will ever be. God cannot love anyone like you." These attacks can so weaken us that we can hardly face life. For this reason, it is extremely important that we recognize his work... We MUST be able to distinguish between the condemnation of Satan and the conviction of the Holy Spirit.

**LESSON TEN - PART ONE, Page, 3**

Here are some ways by which we can distinguish between Satan’s work and the conviction of the Holy Spirit:

- Satan's accusations are rambling and continuous. The Holy Spirit enlightens us so that we can clearly see our faults.

- Satan's accusations are designed only to cause us to suffer and to tear us down. The Holy Spirit’s purpose is to build us up. He shows us our sins so that we may confess, forsake them and walk in the ways of God.

- Satan's accusations keep coming back even though we have confessed the sin. If the conviction is from the Holy Spirit and we confess that sin to God, He forgives us, and there is no further conviction of the Holy Spirit regarding this matter.

Sometimes Satan attacks a believer by trying to make him believe that he can never be forgiven for certain sins he has committed. To believe this is to believe a lie. No sin in the world is so great that it cannot be forgiven. The Bible says, “the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from ALL sin. — If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from ALL unrighteousness.“ I John 1:7-9.

When God says "all", He means ALL. If you feel that Satan is attacking you, resist him in the name of the Lord Jesus. Claim the mighty victory of Calvary. The Bible says, “Resist the devil, and he will ﬂee from you.”

**WE MUST KEEP A SENSITIVE CONSCIENCE.**

If we are careful to obey the voice of our conscience, it will be kept clear and sensitive. If we do not obey our conscience, it will become hardened. Every time we refuse to listen to and obey our conscience, we damage our Spiritual life. The Bible says, “Take heed, brethren, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.” Hebrews 3: 12,13.

When was the last time that you apologized to someone? If it has been a long time, something must be wrong. It is unlikely that any believer can live around other people very long without offending someone. The Bible says, “For in many things we offend all.” James 3:2.

Since, undoubtedly, we will offend others at some time, the question is: What will we do about it? Will we be hard and proud and refuse to admit that we are wrong, or will we humble ourselves and apologize? God's way is that we humble ourselves and make things right with other people. We must cultivate the habit of apologizing to others and making restitution. If we confess our sins to God and make things right with others, our conscience will be kept sensitive and clear. This is walking in obedience to God. One of the great secrets of Paul's victorious life was this; He obeyed his conscience. He did not permit anything in his life to which his conscience objected. Paul could honestly say, “I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." Acts 23:1.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS**

**LESSON TEN, PART ONE**

1. I John 3:21-22 says, "Beloved, if our heart condemns us not, then we have

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ toward God. And whatsoever we ask we receive of Him

because \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and do

those things that are pleasing in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Most important of all, a clear conscience is necessary in order to enjoy

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the Lord

3.If a believer continues to disobey his conscience, his heart will become hardened.

He will become \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to

those things which God wants him to stay away from.

4. To walk in the light means to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the light we have.

5 Any time you believe something is not God's will for you, then you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

6. We must be able to distinguish between the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of

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before God until this day." ( Acts 23:1)

**LESSON TEN - PART TWO**

**A CLEAR CONSCIENCE**

"Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a clear conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men." Acts 24:16. A clear conscience is that inner freedom of spirit that comes from knowing that you are right with God and right with other people. Someone has well said, "You cannot be right with God if you are wrong with anybody in the world."

In Leviticus chapter six, God tells us about the “trespass offering.” The passage mentions several speciﬁc things concerning trespassing on another’s rights. Only after a man had made things right with his fellowman was he allowed to bring his trespass offering to the Lord and thus be forgiven. From the passage we learn two important truths:

1. When we sin against our fellowman we also sin against God.

2. We must be right with our fellowman before we can be right with God.

This truth is also brought out in the New Testament. Matthew 5: 23,24: “Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there remember that thy brother hath ought against thee: Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; ﬁrst be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift." To be reconciled means we must make things right. This may require an apology, or it may mean restitution. Sometimes it is impossible to do anything - but what we can do, we must do.

Not all sins require making things right with another person. If our sin was committed against God only, confession needs to be made to God only. But, if we have wronged others, we must make things right.

**HOW TO GAIN A CLEAR CONSCIENCE**

The Bible says David was a man after God’s own heart. One reason for this was David’s love for God and his desire to be entirely right with God. David was asking God to show him any sin that he might have in his life when he prayed, “Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me." (Ps. 139:23-24). If we want to have a clear conscience, we must allow the Holy Spirit to search our heart and show us our offenses against others. Have we lied to someone; hurt someone by something said or done; stolen from our employer or others; been bitter and held resentment; harbored an unforgiving Spirit; rebelled against authority; been ungrateful toward those who have helped us; etc, etc. Let’s consider some things we can do:

**1. Make a list of those from whom we must ask forgiveness**. When you have compiled your list, look it over carefully and number your offenses in order of importance. You may want to ask the Holy Spirit to show you which ones are the most important.

**2. Choose the proper time and method to apologize**. Proper timing means being sensitive to the other person. You wouldn’t want to apologize to someone while they are busy at work. Wait for a time when you can have their full attention. The best method is usually a personal visit, or a phone call could be best if a personal visit would not provide the privacy needed. A letter can be written, but this method is not normally the best. For one thing, the person may not reply to your letter and you won’t know whether he forgave you or not.

**3. Apologize correctly**. When we apologize to someone we must fully admit our guilt and humbly ask for forgiveness. If we do not do this the offense will not be cleared. Let's look at some wrong ways to apologize:

- “I was wrong, but you were wrong too.” Is not taking full responsibility for your offense.

- “If I’ve been wrong, please forgive me.” To use "if" before your apology means that you are saying, “I’m not really convinced that I was wrong.” Therefore, it is not a real apology.

- “I’m sorry!" This incomplete apology is wrong because you have not speciﬁed the offense or admitted your wrong doing.

**LESSON TEN - PART TWO, Page 2**

- “I’m sorry I lost my temper, but you made me do it.” This is wrong because you are not taking responsibility for your wrongdoing but putting the blame on the other person.

To apologize correctly we should:

a. Take full responsibility for our offense - no matter what the other person has done.

b. Name the offense.

c. Ask the other person to forgive us and wait for his answer. It is possible that the other person will not accept your apology nor forgive you. In this case, if you have honestly and humbly apologized, and done what you could to make things right, leave the matter with God.

**4. Make proper restitution**. This means repaying the person for the loss he has suffered. This may not always be possible, but we must be willing to do all that we can do. If making restitution involves money and we cannot repay all at once, we must make arrangements to pay a certain amount each month until the debt is entirely settled.

**5. Get rid of excuses**. We hate to do things that hurt our pride. For this reason we are very good at making excuses for not going to someone to apologize. Here are some common excuses:

-- “I’ll do something special for that person to make up for my offense.” That will not clear the offense. A man who has offended his wife by something he said or did cannot make up for it by bringing her some ﬂowers or a box of candy. Only one thing clears an offense - a proper apology.

-- "I’ll do it later." Jesus said, “Agree with your adversary quickly." (Matt. 5:25). Putting things off is one of the great enemies of a clear conscience.

-- “The other person was more wrong than I was.” That may be true, but you are still responsible for the part wherein you were wrong. When you apologize for your part, you may ﬁnd that the other person will apologize for his part. Someone has to take the ﬁrst step. Why not let it be you.

-- “It’s really such a small thing.” It is not small if God is speaking to you about it. If it is on your conscience, it is big enough to be taken care of. .

-- “It happened such a long time ago.” Perhaps so, but if the Lord has brought it to your mind, you must deal with it.

-- “Things have gotten better.” They may have, but that does not clear the offense.

-- “He won’t understand.” Whether or not he understands is not the point. You must obey God and do what He tells you to do.

-- “He is not a Christian. What will he think of me?” He may think that at last, he has found a real Christian - one who is honest enough and humble enough to admit that he was wrong and to apologize. Of course, he may react differently, but regardless of what he may think of you, you must obey the Lord.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" John 13:17. We should all begin now to make things right with others. It is important that we go ﬁrst to those we have offended the most. Begin with number one on your list - then number two — etc. Paul said, “I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.” (Acts 23:1). Oh that we could all say the same. The Bible has much to say about the importance of having a clear conscience.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON TEN**

**PART TWO**

1. When we sin against our fellowman we also sin against God. We must be right

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ before we can be right with God.

2. If our sin was made against God only, confession needs to be made to God only.

But if we have wronged others we must \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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our guilt and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for forgiveness.

4. To apologize correctly we should take full \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our offense no matter what the other person has done.

5. Only one thing clears an offense - a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. We should all begin \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to make things right with others.

**LESSON ELEVEN**

**AUTHORITY**

When God created the universe, He established a principle to govern it – the principle of authority. God Himself is the highest authority. Under God are the archangels and under them the other angels. When man was created, he too was under God's authority.

Authority means the right to rule and the right to be obeyed. All authority belongs to God because He is the Creator of all things. The hosts of heaven worship Him saying, "Thou art worthy, Oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created." Rev. 4:11

In the early lessons of this course we studied about the archangel, Lucifer, and his rebellion against God‘s authority. We saw how his rebellion gained many followers, brought God's judgement and got him and his followers kicked out of heaven. Then we saw him as Satan, tempting God's ﬁrst man, Adam, desiring to put his spirit of rebellion into man. We have studied how Adam's rebellion was just that, a spirit of rebellion against authority. He said in his heart, "I will do what I want to do." Then, the sad news; “By one man’s disobedience many were made sinners.” Romans 5:19.

By the rebellion of Adam, sin entered the world. Adam passed his rebellious nature on to his children and to the whole world. Thereafter rebellion became a principle in the heart of man. The Bible says, “We have turned everyone to his own way.” Isaiah. 53:6. Therefore the Bible refers to unsaved people as "children of disobedience." Eph. 2:2.

After the ﬂood, God established laws and ordained human government. He gave men the authority to enforce His laws. God did this for the protection of mankind. People were so sinful and rebellious that, without some form of government, it would not have been possible to control evil. It was God who instituted capital punishment. He wanted men to see the seriousness of taking another person's life. God told Noah, "Whosoever sheds man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed.” Gen. 9:6.

**THE FAILURE OF ISRAEL**

Later, God chose Abraham to be the head of a race of people who would be called God's people. God wanted a people who would be obedient to Him out of this rebellious human race. Abraham is known for his great faith, but he was also a man who obeyed God‘s authority. God said of Abraham, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord." Gen. 18:19.

Abraham’s descendants became the nation of Israel, God’s chosen people. It was God's purpose that His people be obedient to Him and establish His authority on the earth. God intended that, through the nation of Israel, all the people on earth would come to know Him. But the people of Israel were disobedient and rebellious. God had to chasten them many times. Eventually God allowed their nation to be destroyed because of their continued disobedience. Those who were not killed were taken as slaves and many were dispersed throughout the world.

**LESSON ELEVEN, Page 2**

**THE OBEDIENCE OF THE SON**

God created angels and many of them rebelled against Him. He created man and man rebelled against Him. He chose the nation of Israel to be His people, but the people of Israel rebelled against Him. Then, in the fullness of time, God sent His Son into the world. We know that the Lord Jesus came to die for our sins but He also came to re-establish the principle of obedience to God. Jesus said, "For I came down from Heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me." John 6:38

Jesus Christ is God. Before He came into the world, He shared the same glory and authority as the Father. But, when He came into this world, He gave up His place of glory, humbled Himself, and became a man. (Phil. 2:6-8). But what kind of man? A man who was totally obedient to God. Never once did He disobey God. Never once did He resist God‘s authority. The principle of His life was the **principle of obedience**. Jesus said, "I do always those things that please Him.” John 8:29

In the Garden of Gethsemane, as He thought about bearing our sins on the cross, He prayed, "if it be possible let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will but as Thou wilt." Matt. 26:39. Jesus was obedient even to the point of dying on the cross; a matter of willful obedience. "Wherefore God has also highly exalted Him . . ." Phil 2: 8-9

Jesus lived His life on earth under authority - therefore He has been given all authority. He has become the head of a new race; the children of God - a people who are to live their lives according to the principle of obedience.

**TWO PRINCIPLES IN THE WORLD**

Let us recognize that today there are these two principles in the world:

1. The principle of rebellion, which is the principle of Satan.

2. The principle of obedience, which is the principle of Christ.

Every person lives by one or the other of these two principles.

1. The principle of rebellion: “I will have my own way.”

2. The principle of obedience: "Thy will be done.”

The basic principle of the world is rebellion. Eph. 2:2 speaks of "the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.” This attitude of the world is expressed in Psalm 2:2, "The kings of the earth set themselves and the rulers take counsel together against the Lord, and against His anointed." This heart attitude of rebellion against God and His authority expresses itself in lawlessness and the Bible says it will get worse as we approach the end of the age.

The basic principle of God's children is obedience. We are here to uphold God’s authority. In our unsaved condition we were rebellious and disobedient. But when God saved us He made it possible for us to live our new life by the principle of obedience. The Lord Jesus Christ, the obedient One, now lives in us. “Know ye not your own selves how that Jesus Christ is in you.” ll Cor. 13:5.

**LESSON ELEVEN, Page 3**

**OBEDIENCE IS A MATTER OF CHOICE**

Because we have the Lord Jesus living in us, we have the power to obey God. But our obedience is not automatic. It was not automatic in the life of the Lord Jesus. He chose to live His life by the principle of obedience. And we also must choose to live our life by the same principle. The Bible says, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." Phil. 2:5

In the next lesson, because of the importance of this subject, we will look at God’s "delegated authority." We will learn that in order to be fully obedient to God we must also be obedient to His delegated authority.

**Happiness, joy and peace are the results of being obedient to God** *and His delegated authority.* It is important that we learn to keep a clear conscience before God and man. It is important to understand that failing to do so will bring God‘s discipline. We must learn that coming under God's chastening is a privilege that the unsaved do not have. By His chastening God trains us to live obedient lives. In so doing we avoid the consequences of sin and enjoy lives that are ﬁlled with happiness, joy and peace.

When the Apostle Paul refers to Christ as "the image of the invisible God," he is saying that Jesus is completely and perfectly God - Creator and Sustainer of all things in heaven and earth - but also fully human, (Col. 1:15-17). Because of this truth, we can be confident that through Christ's death and resurrection, He has not only carried the consequences for our sins, but has also redeemed human nature, so that we - and all of creation - can be reconciled to God (vs's 20-22).

**The Law of Respect: Jesus is Superior to Everyone Colossians 1:13-20**

Although Paul clearly was a strong leader, he constantly declared his submission to the leadership of Christ. At the very beginning of his letter to the Colossians, Paul paints a picture of Jesus' supremacy over every authority on earth. Our Lord rescues, redeems, and transforms. He is the image of the invisible God, who created everything, including other leaders and authorities. Christ takes priority among every created thing as the "firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18). Paul argues Jesus' supremacy based on the **Law of Respect.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON ELEVEN**

1. When God created the universe He established a principle to govern it - the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

2. Authority means the right to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the right to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Adam passed his rebellious nature on to his children and to the whole world.

Thereafter rebellion became a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the heart of man.

4. God wanted a people who would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Him in the midst of this rebellious human race.

5. Jesus became a man - but what kind of man? A man who was totally

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

6. What two principals exist in the world today?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. The basic principal of God's children is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are

to uphold God's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

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**Happiness, joy and peace are the results of being obedient to God** *and His delegated authority.* It is important that we learn to keep a clear conscience before God and man. It is important to understand that failing to do so will bring God‘s discipline. We must learn that coming under God's chastening is a privilege that the unsaved do not have. By His chastening God trains us to live obedient lives. In so doing we avoid the consequences of sin and enjoy lives that are ﬁlled with happiness, joy and peace.

When the Apostle Paul refers to Christ as "the image of the invisible God," he is saying that Jesus is completely and perfectly God - Creator and Sustainer of all things in heaven and earth - but also fully human, (Col. 1:15-17). Because of this truth, we can be confident that through Christ's death and resurrection, He has not only carried the consequences for our sins, but has also redeemed human nature, so that we - and all of creation - can be reconciled to God (vs's 20-22).

**The Law of Respect: Jesus is Superior to Everyone Colossians 1:13-20**

Although Paul clearly was a strong leader, he constantly declared his submission to the leadership of Christ. At the very beginning of his letter to the Colossians, Paul paints a picture of Jesus' supremacy over every authority on earth. Our Lord rescues, redeems, and transforms. He is the image of the invisible God, who created everything, including other leaders and authorities. Christ takes priority among every created thing as the "firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18). Paul argues Jesus' supremacy based on the **Law of Respect.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON ELEVEN**

1. When God created the universe He established a principle to govern it - the

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

2. Authority means the right to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the right to \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Adam passed his rebellious nature on to his children and to the whole world.

Thereafter rebellion became a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the heart of man.

4. God wanted a people who would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Him in the midst of this rebellious human race.

5. Jesus became a man - but what kind of man? A man who was totally

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

6. What two principals exist in the world today?

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. The basic principal of God's children is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We are

to uphold God's \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON TWELVE**

**GOD’S DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

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

In our last lesson we learned that authority means the right to rule. All authority belongs to God because He is the Creator of all things. We saw that the basic principle of the world is rebellion; whereas the basic principle of God‘s children is obedience. We are here to obey and uphold His authority.

In this lesson we are going to learn that we must obey God‘s delegated authorities in order to be fully obedient to God. God's delegated authority is established under four basic structures:

1. Family, 2. Government, 3. Church, 4. Business.

**- THE FAMILY**

God’s arrangement for the family is that the father be the head of the house under God. The wife is to be subject to her husband and children subject to their parents. The Bible says, "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.” Eph. 5:22 "Children, obey your parents in all things." Col. 3:20. In the family God has placed His authority in the parents. Since the parents represent God's authority in the home it is right that they should be obeyed. The Bible says, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." Eph. 6:1

The father is the God-appointed head of the family, but he is not to be a dictator. He is to love his wife and children and be an example to them. He is also responsible before God to bring up his children in the ways of the Lord. “Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her." Eph. 5:25. "Father's, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Eph. 6:4.

**- GOVERNMENT**

Due to the sinful and rebellious nature of men God established laws and set up human government. For our protection, and for our good, He gave men the authority to enforce His laws. Civil authorities are God's provision for the restraint of evil in order that we might live "a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.” 1 Tim. 2:2

Police ofﬁcers, local officials, judges, state and federal ofﬁcials are all God‘s delegated authorities. Since they represent God’s authority we must obey them. The Bible says, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers for there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.” Rom. 13:1

Christians are to be law-abiding citizens. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are to live our lives by the principle of obedience. The Bible says, “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man FOR THE LORD'S SAKE.” I Peter 2:13

Our Lord was never a party to any rebellion. He taught people to obey governmental authorities. When the Pharisees asked Jesus whether they should pay taxes to Caesar, the Lord replied, "Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s; and unto God the things that are God's." Matt. 22:21

**LESSON TWELVE, Page 2**

**- CHURCH**

God's plan is that Christ be the Head of every church. Under Christ are God-appointed leaders such as elders, pastors, deacons and teachers. We are to be subject to God’s delegated authorities in the church. The Bible says, “Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves; for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief.” Heb. 13: 17

Those who are in authority in the church are not to lord it over God's people but rather to serve them and to be examples to them. Concerning elders The Bible says, “Feed the ﬂock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for ﬁlthy lucre, (money), but of a ready mind; neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock." l Peter 5:2-3.

**- BUSINESS**

Our employer represents God's delegated authority at work. We honor God in our work when we do our best for Jesus' sake. God is not pleased when we do our work in a careless and half-hearted way. He wants us to put our heart into our work. The Bible says, "Servants, (or employees), obey in all things your masters, (boss), according to the ﬂesh; not with eye service as men pleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God." Col. 3:22.

The Bible tells us that employees are to be subject to their bosses, not only to those who are kind and gentle, but also to those who are hard to get along with. The Bible says, “Servants, be subject to your masters with all fear; not only to the good and gentle, but also the froward, (those hard to work for)." 1 Peter 2:18.

God wants every believer to work as though he were working directly for the Lord Jesus, "Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, AS TO THE LORD, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: FOR YE SERVE THE LORD CHRIST.” Col. 3 23-24.

**- ALL AUTHORITIES ARE ORDAINED OF GOD**

Since all delegated authorities are ordained by God they must be obeyed. The Bible says, “the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore that resisteth the power, (of God's delegated authorities), resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation, (judgment)." Romans 13:1-2.

The Lord Jesus Himself is our example of what it means to be subject to authority. He was subject not only to God‘s direct authority, but His delegated authority as well. He was subject to His parents, He was subject to governmental authorities, He paid taxes, He was obedient to the laws of the land. Throughout His entire life the Lord Jesus was subject to authority. He was never rebellious on any occasion. He truly lived His life by the principle of obedience.

The most important thing we can do to please God is to obey Him. To be fully obedient to the Lord we must obey His delegated authorities. The Apostle Paul said, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates” Titus 3:1.

**LESSON TWELVE, Page 3**

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING AUTHORITY**

Suppose a child thinks his parents are wrong about something. Does he still have to obey them?

The relationship between children and their parents is so important in God‘s sight that He made it the subject of one of the Ten Commandments: “Honor thy father and mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Exodus 20:12

The word "honor" means to respect and to obey. Even though a child may disagree, he is not to be rebellious or disobedient.

Suppose the one in authority makes a wrong decision. Will I be held responsible?

The one who makes the decision is the one who is responsible for the results. If you are merely obeying the authority over you God will not hold you responsible. Instead, He will hold the one in authority responsible for the mistake.

Suppose the one in authority has a bad personality and I don’t like him. Do l still have to obey him?

Yes! You must be subject to him if he is in a position of authority over you. We must distinguish between a person’s position and his personality. For example, a police ofﬁcer is in a position of authority. He represents God's authority in upholding the law. He may not have a pleasant personality, but that does not excuse you from obeying him. If you receive a ticket for speeding you could not disregard it and say, "I got a ticket yesterday but I tore it up because I didn't like that ofﬁcer.”

What if someone in authority commands me to do something which is contrary to what God has commanded?

This is a situation in which you are not to obey the one in authority. There is an illustration of this in the New Testament. Jesus had commanded His followers to preach the gospel to everyone. Later the religious leaders commanded Peter and the other disciples not to preach or teach anymore in Jesus’ name. Peter could not comply with this command because it was contrary to the Lord's command. Peter said, “We ought to obey God rather than man." Acts 5:29

Any time a man's command conflicts with God’s command you must obey God. Suppose your boss tells you to do something dishonest or to lie about something. To do this would be to disobey God. Therefore you cannot obey the man. But even in a situation like this you should be respectful. You should say, "I’m sorry but I cannot do that.”

In some instances refusing to obey your boss could mean losing your job. If that happens, accept it from the Lord, knowing that He is pleased with your decision. “For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully." l Peter 2:19

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON TWELVE**

1. God's delegated authority is established under four basic structures:

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. The father is the God-appointed head of the family, but he is not to be a

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Civil authorities are God's provision for the restraint of evil in order that we might live

" \_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in all

godliness and honesty." I Timothy 2:2

4. Those in authority in the church are not to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

God's people but rather to serve them and to be examples to them.

5. God is not pleased when we do our work in a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ way.

6. The most important thing we can do to please God is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON THIRTEEN**

**GOD'S CHASTENING**

As Christians, we are to live our lives by the principle of obedience. God has never intended that His children live in sin. The Bible says, “My little children, these things write I unto you, THAT YE SIN NOT." I John 2:1. However, Christians do sin, and many of them take sin all too lightly. In this lesson we want to deal with the question: What happens when a believer sins willfully?

**THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER**

Sin breaks our fellowship with God and can bring His chastening hand upon us. It is true that a believer’s sins were forgiven when he received Christ as his Savior. But he must still face the practical consequences of his actions. The Bible says, "Be not deceived: God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” Gal. 6:7.

Whatever sin we may have committed, if we go to God and confess that sin to Him and ask for forgiveness, we will be forgiven. Our fellowship with God can be restored. I Jn. 1:9. But that does not mean that we will not be disciplined for our sins.

The accounts of the lives of people in the Old Testament are given to us that we might learn from their experiences. From the account of King David’s great sin there are two very important lessons we must learn: (1) Although we may be forgiven of our sins, we must face the consequences of our actions (choices). (2) Some sins have lifetime consequences.

Chapter 11 of II Samuel records the story. David was at home in his palace while his soldiers were away ﬁghting a battle. One evening as he walked on the balcony of his palace, David saw a beautiful woman bathing. Lust entered his heart. He sent for Bathsheba and committed adultery with her. Sometime later, Bathsheba sent word to David that she was pregnant with his child. Since her husband, Uriah, had been away in battle for some time, David realized that his sin of adultery would soon be exposed. In order to cover up his sin and to enable him to marry Bathsheba, David arranged to have Uriah killed in battle. For a while it looked like David might have been successful in his cover-up. But the Bible says, "The thing David had done displeased the Lord."

God sent the prophet Nathan to confront David with his sins of adultery and murder. David truly repented of his sins and confessed them to God. Ps. 51:1-3 records the depth of David’s confession. From this Psalm we can see that David was truly brokenhearted over his sins. God accepted David’s confession, forgave him, and restored him to fellowship with Himself. Nathan told David, "The Lord has put away thy sin: thou shalt not die."

But this was not the end of the matter. Because David’s sin gave the enemies of God occasion to blaspheme God’s name, God said, "The sword shall never depart from thine house, because thou hast despised Me.”

Even though God had forgiven him of his sins, David had to reap the earthly and practical consequence of his wrongdoing. He suffered many sorrows. The son that was born to Bathsheba died. His daughter was raped by her brother. One of his sons was murdered. Another son led a rebellion against David and was killed in battle. Truly the sword never departed from David’s house.

May we see that, though we may be forgiven of our sin, we, like David, must face the practical consequences of our actions. May we see also that sins often have lifetime consequences.

**LESSON THIRTEEN, Page 2**

**SOME THINGS WE MUST NOT DO**

Christians cannot afford to live carelessly. We cannot afford to take sin lightly. Even though God is gracious, and willing to forgive us our sins, that does not mean that we will not be chastened by Him. There are some things we must not do if we want to avoid serious consequences. For one, we must not sin willfully. To deliberately disobey God is an act of rebellion against His authority, and it can bring God’s chastening hand upon us. God does not chasten His children every time they do something wrong. He isn’t like that. He loves His children and He is gentle and patient with them. David said, "He has not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.”

Ps. 103: 10-11.

But there is another side to this matter. While recognizing that God is very patient and forbearing with us, we must also realize that a single act of willful disobedience can have serious and far-reaching consequences. It was a single act of disobedience on the part of Adam and Eve that brought sin and death into this world, along with all the sorrow, heartache, and tragedy that results from sin. And a single act of disobedience on our part can have tragic and even lifetime consequences.

Another thing we must not do is live after the flesh. The story of Samson, (Judges 14-16), is an example of the consequences of living after the ﬂesh. The age we live in presents us with many examples of lives torn apart by people living to appease their ﬂesh. Romans 8:13 says, "For if ye live after the ﬂesh, ye shall die."

These are only a couple of speciﬁc sins that can bring God’s chastising hand. But any unconfessed and unforsaken sin can do so.

**GOD WANTS US TO JUDGE OURSELVES**

When we displease God, He speaks to us ﬁrst through our conscience. By His Word, and by His Spirit God seeks to show us the error of our ways. He may send a faithful friend to warn, as he did when He sent Nathan to David. He wants us to confess and forsake our sins so that He will not have to judge us. "For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." I Cor. 11:31.

If we will not judge ourselves, then God must judge us. He chastens us because He loves us too much to allow us to go on in disobedience. The Bible says, "But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world." I Cor. 11:32.

**GOD’S PURPOSE IN CHASTENING US**

1. God chastens us that we might learn obedience. He knows us better than we know ourselves. He knows that we are not naturally obedient. He knows that only through chastening will we learn to obey Him. David said, "Before I was afﬂicted I went astray; but now have I kept Thy Word. It is good for me that I have been afﬂicted: that I might learn Thy statutes.” Ps. 119: 67-71. Isn’t it tragic that, even after God has chastened us, we may still be disobedient? This grieves God’s heart because He does not like to see His children suffer. Yet He must continue to deal with us until we learn to submit to Him. We must learn to take God’s chastening in the right spirit. The Bible says, "We have had fathers of our ﬂesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?" Heb. 12:9.

**LESSON THIRTEEN, Page 3**

2. **God chastens us that we might be partakers of His holiness**. He does not chasten us because He is angry with us and wants to punish us. All of God’s dealings with us are for our proﬁt. He is “child-training” His children. He is chastening us that we might be "partakers of His holiness." “For they (our earthly fathers) verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but He for our proﬁt, that we might be partakers of His holiness." Heb. 12:10.

3. **God chastens us that we might bring honor to His name**. Through God’s chastening and His discipline, David became a man after God’s own heart. Samson repented of his sins, and in his death he destroyed more of God’s enemies than he did during his whole lifetime. God chastens us that we, too, might bring honor to His name.

4. **God chastens us that He may vindicate His name**. We bear Christ’s name. A Christian is a "Christ-one." What we do reﬂects upon Him. If we disgrace His name, God will chasten us. By His actions in David’s situation God showed that He had nothing to do with David’s sin. He did not condone it nor would He overlook it. God will do the same with us if we bring disgrace upon His name. During the time of such chastisement, we should bow our heads and worship God saying, "Lord, I gladly accept Your chastening in this matter. I acknowledge that this is due to my sin. I will gladly let Your people, the world, and Satan know that You had nothing to do with this, but it is all my fault."

The more we submit ourselves to God’s discipline and acknowledge that it was all our fault, the quicker God’s discipline will pass away. On the other hand, the more we excuse ourselves and blame others, the longer it will be with us.

**"THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM"**

Every Christian should have a holy reverence for God that causes him to be afraid to disobey God. God has said that He will chasten us if we willfully disobey Him, and we know that He keeps His Word. If we truly love God and respect Him, we will not want to disobey Him. This kind of loving respect for God makes us wise and thus enables us to make right choices. This is why the Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Prov. 9:10.

May we learn to love righteousness and hate sin. If, for any reason, we do bring God’s chastening hand upon us, let us accept it in the right spirit.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON THIRTEEN**

1 Although we may be forgiven of our sins we must face the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our actions.

2. Some sins have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consequences.

3 To deliberately disobey God is an act of rebellion against His authority and it can bring God's

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hand upon us.

4. And a single act of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on our part can have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

and even lifetime \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. God chastens us that we might learn \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. God chastens us that we might be partakers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. God chastens us that we might bring \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to His name.

8. The fear of the Lord is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Lesson FOURTEEN**

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DEEPEST NEEDS**

**(RECAP AND EXPANSION)**

This course, "Firm Foundations," has not been a "survey" of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. Rather, the whole purpose of this course has been to help the student ﬁnd the Biblical foundation for life or, in other words, learn how this ancient Book is relative to our life today.

Back in Lesson Four, “The Fall of Man, (What We Lost)," we brieﬂy touched on the subject of understanding our deepest needs. This was logical considering that before the fall man had no need: that is to say, he had no need he was aware of. Why? Because God was meeting all his needs. However, to say that man had no need because his needs were being met does not mean that he had no longings. God certainly has no "need" for He is totally sufﬁcient within Himself. Yet God lets us know from His word and His character that He has deep longings. "Let us make man in our image," He said. Why? As we study His Word we conclude that He had a deep longing for relationship. The fact that He made anything at all reveals that He had a longing to create - to have impact on His environment - to make a difference. Being made in His image meant that we were created to have these same longings. God obviously wanted us to long to have relationship with Him. He made woman and caused man to long for relationship with her; and He created "pro-creation” so that we could have relationship with family and others. And when He told Adam to name the animals He was yielding to the longing He had put in Adam "to make a difference, to be creative, to have an impact on his environment." But when sin entered the picture those longings became needs.

Of all the things that happened to Adam and Eve as a result of their disobedience, the worst was this: They were separated from God. God’s written revelation makes it insistently clear that any right thinking about the problems of people must begin by recognizing that man is not now in a normal condition. He is fallen from the norm. He has missed the mark. He is a sinner. The effect of sin is separation from God. The result of that separation is that we have no connection to the One who was intended to meet those needs. People have deep personal needs which must be met. All personal problems are really thinking or belief problems; wrong beliefs about how to meet those needs.

**SIGNIFICANCE AND SECURITY**

Before going further into this subject, let us pause to address the subject of physical needs. Man is a physical being and as such has physical needs which must be met, for example, food. Without food, water, shelter, clothing, etc, man's physical body will die. But man is more than physical. He is also personal. And as a personal being he has personal needs. Unless these needs are met he will die as a person. It is these needs that we will be addressing in this lesson.

Aside from salvation, the deepest inner need of every person is to regard himself as a worthwhile person. In order to see myself as a worthwhile person two elements must be present in my life;

**1. I must have signiﬁcance**. This means that l must have a purpose in life that is important enough for me to feel that my life counts for something.

**2. I must have security**. This means that l must have the security of being loved and accepted, and especially by someone who is important to me.

Isaiah stated our problem pretty well when he said, "All we like sheep have gone astray: we have turned everyone TO HIS OWN WAY. (Isaiah 53:6)

**LESSON FOURTEEN, Page, 2**

Because he has rejected God’s authority and God’s plan, man no longer has a purpose in life that makes him feel worthwhile. In his effort to meet his need for significance, man tries all sorts of things. In the book of Ecclesiastes, Solomon tells how he accumulated wealth beyond measure. Using his great wealth he devoted himself to many projects. He planted orchards and gardens. He built cities and an elaborate palace. He even built the most expensive, most magniﬁcent building the world has ever seen: the temple of the Lord.

Yet, with all his possessions and accomplishments, Solomon was not satisﬁed. His deep inner needs were not met. Solomon said, "I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labor that I had labored to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of the spirit. Therefore, I hated life." Ecc. 2:11&17.

In our time people are still seeking something that will give them a feeling of signiﬁcance. Many, like Solomon, try to accumulate money and/or things. The Lord Jesus said, “a man’s life consists not in the abundance of the things which he possesses.” Luke 12:15.

God’s way of meeting our need for significance is this: He puts us IN CHRIST. He makes every believer a vital member of Christ’s body. He gives believers spiritual gifts and opportunities to use those gifts. In this way every believer is signiﬁcant because he becomes part of God’s great eternal plan. (This is no small thing. The plan is ETERNAL).

In the book of Ephesians, God tells us that all Christians are members of the body of Christ. Just as we live and work through our body, so the Lord Jesus does His work through His body.

- Each born-again believer is different from the other believers, but each is a member of Christ’s body and, therefore, is important, (signiﬁcant).

- Every believer has a vital function in the body of Christ. The Bible likens us to eyes and ears, feet and hands, and says that every joint supplies that which it was designed to. (Eph. 4:16).

- Every believer is equipped to do the work God has called him to do. "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to proﬁt withal (for the proﬁt of the whole body).” I Cor. 12:7.

- God provides opportunities for every believer to serve Him. It is in the local church where one can best learn what his gift is and how to use them. But the church is not the only place where we can serve God. In fact, the job of the church is to prepare and equip the believer to go out and serve.

- We are not competing with other Christians. Our life can be compared to a race. The Bible says, "let us run with patience the race that is set before us." Heb. 12:1. However, it will help us to realize that we are not in competition with one another. It is as if God has given each of us a track to run on. He did not put all Christians on one track and say, "All right, let’s see who wins." He says, “Run the race that I have set before you.” So all I have to do is ﬁnd my ‘track’ (God’s will for my life) and run my race. The question is, how do I ﬁnd it?

To ﬁnd the answer to our question we must consider that which was the essence of the fall; the sin of rebellion against God’s authority. Our rebellion has separated us from God. Through Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to be forgiven for our sins and RECONCILED to God. (II Cor. 5). But to be reconciled means to come back to a place of obedience as we have studied in lessons eleven and twelve. We must give ourselves to Him completely in order that we may prove "what is that good and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." This is our “reasonable service” as stated in Romans 12:1-2. God has purchased us from a lost and dying world with the blood of His own Son. We belong to Him. It is only reasonable that we give Him what rightfully belongs to Him. Then we will ﬁnd our place.

**True signiﬁcance lies in ﬁnding God’s will for our life and doing it. “Only one life, ’twill soon be past; Only what’s done for Christ will last."**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON FOURTEEN**

1. God certainly has no need for He is totally sufficient within Himself. Yet God lets us know from His word and His character that He has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Being made in His image meant that we were created to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. All personal problems are really thinking or belief problems: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about how to meet those needs.

4. Isaiah stated our problem pretty well when he said, "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

5. Yet, with all his possessions and accomplishments, Solomon was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. His deep inner needs were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. God's way of meeting our need for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is this: He puts

us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Our rebellion has separated us from God. Through Jesus Christ we have the opportunity to be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for our sins and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to God.

**LESSON FIFTEEN**

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DEEPEST NEEDS**

**SECURITY**

Security, as the word will be used in this lesson, means the opposite of personally insecure. We will not be considering physical securities, such as a roof over our head, a bed to sleep in, and food to eat. We are considering the deep inner needs which are personal; those things which make us feel like worthwhile human beings - “persons.” In order to best understand what is really meant here we may say that all pain which is not physical pain is "personal" pain.

The word "personal" also is used in two ways, and both are included in our use of the word in this lesson. Personal pain is that pain which l feel as a person and/or the pain I feel because I don’t feel like much of a person. It is "person" related, (personal). It is also personal in the sense that it is "my” pain. I am likely to use expressions like, “You don’t understand how l feel."

Therefore, in approaching the subject of security, we mean that “feeling” which one has regarding who he or she is as a person. Another important factor which needs to be stated at this point is that the way I feel depends entirely upon the way I “see” things. In other words, as stated in a previous lesson, “neither my circumstances nor the events in my life dictate how l feel. It is the way I view, or see, those circumstances and events which dictate how I feel about them.”

So, in this lesson we want to “look" at personal security from a Biblical perspective in the hope that we might “feel” better about ourselves, both now and in the future. To understand why we feel the way we do about ourselves is to understand our deepest need, (part two): SECURITY.

**LOVE AND ACCEPTANCE = SECURITY**

**ACCEPTANCE**

Most of us go to great lengths to be liked and accepted by other people. To win the acceptance of others we usually try to be on our best behavior. We try to impress others with our good points. We carefully conceal our weaknesses. We fear that other people will reject us if they ﬁnd out what we are really like. God knows our need for acceptance and He has made a way for us to be totally accepted by Him. How did He do this? He put us IN CHRIST. The Bible says, "But of Him are ye IN CHRIST JESUS." I Cor. 1:30. Because we are IN CHRIST we are totally and forever accepted by God. When God looks at us He sees Christ. He sees His beloved Son, and we are totally accepted in Him. "To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the Beloved." Eph. 1:6.

You may say, "But what about all my sins and failures? How can God continue to accept me when l fail so often?” We must understand the difference, (as stated in a previous lesson), between our standing and our state. Our standing, (IN CHRIST), is always perfect and God “sees” us in Him. “By one offering He has perfected forever them that are sanctiﬁed, (set apart in Christ ).” Heb. 10:14 Our state is the way we live on the earth. Our state will never be perfect in this life. The Bible says, “if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.” I John 1:8. Our sins and failures do not surprise God. He Knew all about us when He saved us and He knows all about us now. He is disciplining and chastening us to make us what He wants us to be. But all the time He is working on us, He still “sees” us perfect IN CHRIST. We are always accepted in the beloved. (NOTE: How He “feels” about us is dependent upon how He "sees" us).

Consider this: Suppose you reject me. If l know I am accepted by Almighty God, the One who created all things, including me, your rejection may “hurt” me - but it won‘t destroy me.

**LESSON FIFTEEN, Page, 2**

**LOVE**

Every person not only needs to be accepted, but he also needs to be loved. But here again, we find a word that can have two very different kinds of meaning. There is a kind of love which does not meet our deep inner (personal) need. This kind of love is called “conditional love” because it is given when certain conditions are met. Here are some examples:

- “I will love you IF you are good.”

- “I will love you IF you make me proud of you.”

- “I will love you IF you do what I want you to do.”

- “I will love you IF you live up to my expectations of you.”

- “I will love you IF you love me (as I define love).”

Conditional love does not meet our deep inner need because we are always under pressure to earn it. And we never know when we may do something that will cause us to lose it.

What we need is to be loved UNCONDITIONALLY. What we desperately need is someone who loves us when we fail and when we make mistakes (even big mistakes). We need someone whose love does not change. If you will stop to really ponder this incredibly true statement, you will come to this conclusion: Only God can give us this kind of love. [Precisely here is where man goes wrong in his quest to meet his deepest need. First, he must realize that he himself can’t meet it. Most of us don’t have too much trouble figuring that one out, so we turn to someone else. In doing so we are ascribing to them powers that we know we don’t have. But because we haven’t totally given up on our own inability, we think we can “make” them meet our need (love us).] God’s love never changes. (Pause here to read Romans 8: 38-39). This kind of love gives us the security we need. Some Christians have a wrong concept of God’s love. They expect God to show His love for them by giving them whatever they want. Another wrong concept is that God shows His love for us by protecting us from trials and troubles. Those who believe this will be shaken when trials and troubles do come, (and they will come). They may conclude that God doesn’t love them anymore. The truth is that God’s love is far greater and far deeper than these concepts. God is preparing us for eternity. Therefore, He allows trials and testing to come in order that our faith might grow. Jesus said, “In the world you WILL have trouble; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33.

**HOW DO WE EXPERIENCE GOD’S LOVE?**

God loves us! The Bible plainly declares this great fact. But do we need to experience His love in order that our deep inner needs might be met. Paul prayed that the Ephesians might know in their experience “the love of Christ which passes all knowledge.” (Eph. 3:19) Let us consider some ways by which we can experience God’s love:

**1. We experience His love when we love Him.**

God is a person. He thinks, He wills, He loves. Although He is entirely self-sufficient, He greatly desires our love. He wants us to love Him with all our heart. When we do love Him with all our heart, we will experience His love and His blessing upon our life. God Himself says, “Because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has known My name. He shall call upon Me and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life I will satisfy him, and show him My salvation.” Ps. 91: 14-16.

**LESSON FIFTEEN, Page 3**

**2. We experience God’s love when we obey Him**.

Love and obedience go together. It is to those who love and obey the Lord that He manifests His love. Jesus said, “He that has My commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves Me: and he that loves Me shall be loved of My Father, and I will love him, and will manifest Myself to him.” John 14: 21.

**3. We experience God’s love in the local church.**

It is in the church that we can express God’s love to our brothers and sisters in Christ, and we can enjoy the love of God which they express to us. The Apostle Paul prayed this prayer for the Ephesian believers: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith: that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend WITH ALL THE SAINTS what is the breadth, and length, and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge.” Eph. 3: 17-19.

**WE MUST BELIEVE IN GOD’S LOVE.**

Because of the effects of sin in our life, we sometimes find it hard to believe that God really loves us. Satan likes to confuse us and make us doubt God’s love. He especially likes to torment us when we fail God in some way. He wants us to think God doesn’t love us anymore. The truth is that God knew all about us when He saved us. He has seen us at our very worst. He knows all those little things we try so desperately to hide from other people. Yet, “God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. “ Rom. 5: 8. Read again Romans 8: 38-39.

God loves us with the same love with which He loves Jesus. Read this quote from our Lord Jesus very carefully: “I in them, and Thou in Me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that Thou has sent Me, and has loved them, AS THOU HAST LOVED ME.” John 17: 23

There will be times when we may feel that no one loves us, not even God. But feelings are not facts. We walk by faith in God’s Word and not by our feelings. Let us therefore believe God. Feelings or no feelings, whatever God says, it is so! The Apostle John said, “We have KNOWN and BELIEVED the love that God has to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him.” 1 Jn. 4: 16.

I have the absolute security of being loved and accepted! Why? Because I have the absolute security of being loved and accepted by God because I AM IN CHRIST.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON FIFTEEN**

**UNDERSTANDING OUR DEEPEST NEEDS**

1. We may say that all pain which is not physical pain is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pain.

2. The way I feel depends entirely on the way I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ things.

3. Because we are IN CHRIST we are totally and forever \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by God.

4. Conditional love does not meet our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because we are always under pressure to earn it.

5. God's love \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ changes. This kind of love gives us the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_..

6. We experience His love when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. Although He is entirely self sufficient, He greatly desires our love. When we do love Him with all our heart we will experience His love and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ upon our life.

8.We experience God's love when we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

9. Jesus said, "He that has My commandments and keeps them, he it is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_."

10. There will be times when we may feel that no one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ,

not even God. But feelings are not \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .

We walk by faith in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and not by our feelings.

**LESSON SIXTEEN**

**LEARNING TO BE CONTENT**

**God wants us to learn how to face life with joy and conﬁdence**. To do this we must learn to be content in all the varying circumstances of life. In order to do this we must learn this great truth: God and what God provides for me is all I need. God has not promised to provide all that we want. He has promised to meet our needs. “But my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.” Phil. 4: 19

**GOD THE PROVIDER**

**- God supplies our material needs**.

Jesus tells us not to be anxious about our material needs: “Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on . . . for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye ﬁrst the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,” Matt. 6:25, 32, 33.

**- God supplies our deepest inner needs.**

In our last two lessons we have seen how God supplies our need for signiﬁcance and security. He has made us members of Christ’s body, and every member of the body of Christ is important. He has “accepted us in the Beloved” and loves us unconditionally. God says to us, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love.” Jer. 31: 3.

**- God supplies our spiritual needs.**

In Christ, God has given us everything we need for our spiritual life. The Bible says, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who HAS blessed us with ALL SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS in heavenly places in Christ.” Eph. 1:3.

**- God freely gives us all things.**

In giving us His Son, God has given us the greatest gift of all. Since He has given us the greatest gift, we can be sure that He will give us whatever else we may need. The Bible says, “He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” Rom. 8:32.

**SATAN THE TEMPTER**

Although God has provided for all our needs, we must not forget that we have an enemy who hates us and wants to destroy us. “Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” I Peter 5:8.

We need to understand how Satan tempts us. Most, if not all, of Satan’s temptations have to do with putting wrong thoughts into our mind. He does to us exactly what he did to Eve. "Has God really provided all you need? How do you know? Maybe there’s something more that you need? Don’t you really need \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? In fact, isn’t it so that you can’t be happy without it?” Eve accepted Satan’s lies. It became a belief in her mind and she acted on it.

Let us picture a circle and let it represent the circumstances that God has arranged for us. Inside the circle that is ours, God has provided all that we really need. Things are not perfect in our little “circle,” nor will they ever be in this life. We live in a world that is under the curse of sin. Therefore we will face many trials and troubles. God has not promised us an easy time in this life, nor has He promised to give us everything we want. But He has promised to meet our needs and to be with us always. I can truly say, “God and what God provides for me is all I need.”

**LESSON SIXTEEN, Page 2**

**THE DANGER OF ACCEPTING WRONG THOUGHTS.**

We may not be able to keep Satan from suggesting a wrong thought to us, but we can refuse to accept it. To see the danger of accepting wrong thoughts, we need to be reminded of this truth: We are controlled by the way we inwardly see and believe things to be. What we believe determines what we do and what we feel. ("As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he.")

If we accept a wrong thought, it becomes a wrong belief, and wrong beliefs lead to wrong actions and wrong feelings. These wrong feelings usually lead to inner problems.

**WHAT WE BELIEVE = WHAT WE DO = WHAT WE FEEL**

**HANDLING OUR INNER PROBLEMS.**

Christians, as well as unsaved people, have inner problems such as resentment, fear, worry, guilt, and feelings of rejection. To overcome these problems, we must discover what causes them and how to deal with them. At the root of most inner problems is the wrong belief that we need something other than God and what God has provided for us. Let’s look at some of these problems and see the wrong thinking that is involved in them.

**- Resentment.**

This comes when we believe that what God has provided for us is not best. We may resent something about ourselves, our parents or some other family member. We may simply resent our circumstances. We may even resent God. The solution to this problem is believing that God and what He gives us is what we need. We may not understand our situation, but we must not be offended by what the Lord does or does not do. Jesus said, “Blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me.” Matt. 11: 6.

**Wrong belief:** God is not good to me because He has not given me that which is best.

**Right belief:** What God has given me is best for me even though I may not understand it.

**- Fear.**

When I am fearful, it means that I am not trusting God to take care of me. God knows our hearts and He knows the tendency we have toward fear. Hundreds of times in the Bible, He says to us, “Fear not.” The reason we are not to fear is that God Himself is with us. He says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea I will hold thee with the right hand of My righteousness." Isa. 41: 10.

**Wrong belief:** God is not able to take care of me.

**Right belief:** God is with me; therefore I do not need to be afraid.

**- Worry.**

We worry or become anxious because we do not believe that God will take care of us or meet our needs. Worry has a destructive effect on us. It is also a sin against God. Worry is sinful because it doubts God’s love, His wisdom, and it doubts His power. David learned the cure for worry. He said, “The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.” Ps. 23:1.

**Wrong belief:** God is not able to meet my needs.

**Right belief:**  God will meet my needs.

**LESSON SIXTEEN, Page 3**

**- Guilt.**

Guilt is that feeling of condemnation that we have when we think about our sins. Constantly remembering our sins can cause us great distress. At the root of this problem is our failure to realize and count on the fact that God has provided absolute forgiveness for us. He has provided a Savior – the perfect Savior, Jesus Christ. The Bible says, “Be it known unto you… that through this man (Jesus) is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by Him all that believe are JUSTIFIED FROM ALL THINGS.” Acts 13: 38-39. God has told us that, in Christ, we are forgiven of every sin. When we continue to condemn ourselves for our sins, we are not believing God. The Bible says, “There is therefore now NO CONDEMNATION to them which are in Christ Jesus.” Rom. 8: 1.

**Wrong belief:** I must punish myself for my past sins.

**Feelings of rejection**.

Sometimes our interest in a particular person grows until we feel that we must have that person’s love in order to be happy. Or we may feel that we must be accepted by a particular group of people. Yet the person or group does not seem to care for us. As a consequence, we feel rejected and hurt, and maybe even angry.

At the root of this problem is the belief that I must have that particular person’s love or that group’s approval to meet my need. This is a wrong belief. God has promised to meet all my needs. The fact that He has not provided me with a particular person’s love or acceptance from a particular group means that I don’t really need it. I may FEEL that I need it and I may be grieved and hurt because I do not have it. But I must come back to this great truth: God and what God provides for me is all I need.

Christ, and only Christ, can fully satisfy our heart. No human being, or group of beings, can do this. If we seek from people what can only be found in Christ, we WILL BE disappointed.

**Wrong belief:** I must have this person’s love to meet my need.

**Right belief:**  God and what God chooses to give me is all I need.

While each of these inner problems is different, all have the same root. The root cause in each case is the wrong belief that we need something other than God and what God has provided for us.

**THE SECRET OF CONTENTMENT**

The Apostle Paul did not have an easy life. He suffered much persecution. He was poor and often in distress. He had physical problems from which he got no relief. He was in prison much of the time. Yet with all of this, Paul was a contented Christian. He said, “I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.” Phil. 4: 11-12. He had learned the secret of contentment. The secret is this: God and what God has provided for me is all I need. It is learning to be content in whatever “circle” God has provided for me. God says that we are to live without covetousness; to live without strongly desiring something that is not ours or that God has not given us. “Let your (manner of living) be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for He has said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Heb. 13: 5

In this verse, God tells us why we are to be content. We are to be content because (1) we have the Lord Himself living in us, and (2) we have the things that He has provided for us. This is all we need.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SIXTEEN**

**LEARNING TO BE CONTENT**

1. God and what God provides for me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. GOD THE PROVIDER

God supplies our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God supplies our deepest \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God supplies our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

God freely gives us \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Most, if not all, of Satan's temptations have to do with putting \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into our mind.

4. We are controlled by the way we inwardly see and believe things to be. What we

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ determines what we do and what we feel.

5. Christians, as well as unsaved people, have inner problems such as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

fear, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and feelings of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

6. At the root of most inner problems is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that we need something other than God and what \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has provided for us.

7. Paul had learned the secret of contentment. The secret is this: God and what God has

provided for me is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**LESSON SEVENTEEN**

**DEALING WITH ANGER**

" . . . let every man be swift to hear, slow to Speak, slow to wrath: for the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God." James 1: 19-20

In the last several lessons we have looked at some practical aspects of Christian living; We have discussed gaining a clear conscience before God and man; understanding and coming under God's authority discipline and chastening; understanding our need for security and signiﬁcance; and learning to be content with God and what He has given us. In this lesson we want to deal with the problem of anger and learn how we can be delivered from the sin of temper.

**ANGER IS DESTRUCTIVE.**

The ﬁrst man to discover the destructive power of anger was Cain. The Bible says that God accepted Abel and his offering, but He rejected Cain and his offering. As a result of this, Cain became very angry. He was angry at God and jealous of his brother. God warned Cain of the consequences of his anger. In essence He said, “Look out! Your anger is like a lion crouching at your door. You must master it or it will master you.” (Gen. 4:7). But Cain did not respond to God’s warning. His jealousy of Abel turned to hatred. As a result, the ﬁrst man born into this world became a murderer because he did not control his anger.

Like Cain, we have the “lion” of anger within us. We must master it or it will master us. God has not said that we are never to be angry, but He has warned us of the danger of uncontrolled anger. The Bible says, "Be ye angry and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath."Eph. 4:26. Anger is the most violent of human emotions. Because it involves such strong feelings, anger borders closely on sin. The Bible does not say, “Be kind, but sin not,” nor, “Love, but do not sin.” This is because love and kindness are far removed from sin. But when we are angry, we are in danger of sinning. Someone has well said, “If we are to be angry and sin not, we must be angry at nothing but sin.”

**There are three things we can do about anger: we can express it, suppress it, or confess it**.

To “express” anger often means to let it run out of control. Anger out of control does great damage. When we become so angry that we want to lash out at someone and hurt them, we are sinning deeply. We call this “losing our temper.” The Bible says, “Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger rests in the bosom of fools.” Ecc. 7: 9.

To “suppress” anger is to keep it inside, “bottled up.” Bottled up anger hurts us and keeps on hurting us. It turns to resentment and bitterness, and it can bring on depression as well as many kinds of physical illnesses.

The best way to handle angry feelings is to tell God about them. This is a way to "let off steam" without sinning. Just being in God’s presence calms us. It also helps us to see things in their proper perspective. Many times we discover that the thing we were disturbed about was not really so important after all.

**WE MUST DEAL WITH THE SIN OF TEMPER**

Temper is uncontrolled anger. It is always wrong. When we lose our temper, there is but one thing to do. We must confess it to God as Sin and claim the cleansing blood of Christ. If we have offended or hurt others, we must apologize to them. Regardless of how many times you lose your temper, you must make things right with others each time. This will humble you and help you to see the damage done by your temper.

**LESSON SEVENTEEN, Page 2**

**WE MUST DEAL WITH THE CAUSE OF TEMPER**

Even though we faithfully confess our sin to God every time we lose our temper, we still have a problem. The problem is that we keep doing the same thing over and over again. We lose our temper and confess it. Then we lose our temper again and confess it again. No matter how hard we try, we continue to lose our temper. Is there a remedy for this problem? Yes! The ﬁrst thing we must do is to discover what causes us to lose our temper. The Bible doesn’t say much about it. The reason is that the Bible is concerned with the root cause of temper, not just with the temper itself. .

What is this root cause? It is **SELF!** Temper is produced by SELF. Whenever temper is expressed on the outside, we may be sure that there is an angry SELF on the inside. We may try hard to control our temper, but unless SELF is dealt with, we will continue to get angry and lose our temper.

To better understand this, let’s take a better look at self. In the early lessons of this course we saw how sin came into the world and “what we lost” in the fall. Today, what SELF wants is what was lost in the fall: **security and signiﬁcance**. Fallen man sets out to restore to himself these things. He begins a quest, a journey, to ﬁnd "something" that will restore to him a sense of security, (being loved and accepted) and a sense of signiﬁcance, (having purpose and being adequate). To a great degree that "something," (and it can be more than one "thing"), will be determined by what a person fears. **The greatest mover and motivator of people is fear. Some people fear being taken advantage of. It shows that they were not in control. Some people fear loss of social approval. It shows they weren’t successful in making every one like them. Some people fear change. It shakes their false sense of security and stability. Others fear criticism. It shows they failed to do everything right.**

Whatever the fear, people set a goal to attain “something” that will offset that fear. Our life then begins to MOVE toward that goal. When something blocks our goal — we get angry. Someone puts us down - steps on our dominate fear - and we lose our temper. Why? Because something of SELF has been stepped on: self-love, self-pity, self-will, self-righteousness, self-pride, jealousy, etc., etc. We may not realize it but **the main reason for all our discontent is that we love our self and we want to please ourselves;** reach that goal that will make us feel good. So long as we make ourselves the center of everything and the direction of our life is to reach our goal, we will react with anger when anyone crosses us (blocks our path to our goal).

**Note: There is a self which I am to accept and a self which I am to deny. I am to accept myself as the special, unique person which God created me to be. But I am to deny that sinful self-life which is a form of the ﬂesh.**

**GOD’S REMEDY FOR SELF**

Because SELF is so hateful to God and so destructive to us, God did something about it. He dealt with SELF by putting us in Christ on the cross. When Christ was cruciﬁed, we were cruciﬁed with Him. He did that so that we would no longer be ruled by SELF. The Bible says, "Knowing this, that our old man (our former self) was cruciﬁed with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer serve sin." Rom. 6: 6.

Understanding our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection is absolutely essential to a life of victory. God wants us to see that, in Christ, we died to our old life. The quest for those goals is over. We have been reconciled to God. We are a ‘new creation.’ “How shall we who died to sin (including sinful temper) live any longer in it?” Rom. 6: 2.

**LESSON SEVENTEEN, Page 3**

**PRACTICAL STEPS WE MUST TAKE**

1. We must see our need. Not the need for security and signiﬁcance. God has met that need in our reconciliation to Him. WE must see our need to “accept God and what He has provided” as sufﬁcient for us. And unless we see the seriousness of our temper and determine to be delivered from it, we will not overcome it.

2. We must accept responsibility for our temper. It is very easy to excuse ourselves by blaming someone else for our temper. Our problem is not external - it is not caused by something from without. Our problem is internal. Others may say or do things that irritate me, but no one can make me lose my temper except me.

3. We must count on our death with Christ. If we have fully accepted our position in Christ; if we truly believe that God and what He has provided is all we need: then we have little reason to lose our temper.

4. We must deny self. Christ alone has the right to rule in our life, but SELF will still try to rule. Every Christian must choose whether he will be ruled by Christ or by SELF. It is God’s purpose that Christ reigns on the throne of our heart. In order for Him to reign, SELF must be kept in the place of death on the cross.

It is one thing to understand the teaching that we were cruciﬁed with Christ. It is another thing to put it into practice and actually deny SELF. But this is what we must do. Jesus said, “If any man will come after Me, let him deny himSELF, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” Luke 9:23.

To deny self means to choose God’s will instead of my own. Denying self is saying, "I don’t have to have my own way, reach my own goals, and yield to my old fears. I can accept God’s way. God and what He has provided for me is all I need."

We will ﬁnd that the Lord will allow us to be in many situations where we are slighted, mistreated, or inconvenienced. This is God’s way of dealing with our self-life and our temper. He wants us to be patient and self-denying, gladly letting God have His own way in our life.

**Remember the root cause of temper is SELF.**

**God crucified me with Christ that I might be delivered from my sinful temper.**

**MEASURE A MAN BY WHAT IT**

**TAKES TO MAKE HIM ANGRY.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON SEVENTEEN**

**DEALING WITH ANGER**

1. The first man to discover the destructive power of anger was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. Anger is the most violent of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. There are three things we can do about anger.

We can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it, or \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ it.

4. The best way to handle angry feelings is to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ about them.

5. Temper is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ anger. It is ALWAYS wrong.

6. What is the root cause of Temper? It is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

7. The greatest mover and motivator of people is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. Whatever the fear, people set a goal to attain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that will offset that fear.

9. Someone puts us down - steps on our dominate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - and we lose our temper.

. Why? Because something of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ has been stepped on.

10. Because SELF is so hateful to God and so destructive to us, God did something about it. He dealt with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ by putting us in Christ on the cross. When Christ was crucified we were crucified with Him. He did that so that we would no longer be ruled by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Understanding our union with Christ in His death, burial and resurrection is absolutely essential to a life of victory. God wants us to see that, in Christ , we died to our old life. We have been reconciled to God. We are a new creation. The root cause of temper is SELF. God crucified me with Christ that I might be delivered from my sinful temper.

**LESSON EIGHTEEN**

**REACTION, RESENTMENT, BITTERNESS**

**AND FORGIVENESS**

**REACTION**

Our response to what someone says or does is called a "reaction." If someone says something nice about us it may make us feel good. Feeling good is our reaction. We may have never thought much about our reactions but actually they are very important. Our reactions can have long-term, and even eternal, consequences. In fact, what happens to us is not nearly as important as how we react to it. The thing that troubles us will pass; but our reaction to it can have far reaching consequences.

A good Biblical illustration of right reactions is the story of Joseph. He could have reacted to what his brothers did to him in a way that many of us would have. But Joseph allowed God to control his reactions. He could have vowed to get even with Potipher’s wife. Can you imagine what the outcome of that reaction might have been?

Few of us will ever face situations as difﬁcult as some that Joseph faced, but we can be sure we will receive mistreatment in this life. Mistreatment is always painful. What we must remember is that God has given us exactly the same tool to work with that Joseph had: choice. We can choose how we are going to react. Choosing is an action. When someone is rude or discourteous to us, treats us unfairly, “jumps on” us, we can choose to return kindness. One fellow was treated rudely by a co-worker and he just smiled in return. An observer commented about the incident and the fellow replied, "Oh, he’s always like that.” "Then why do you continue to be polite to him?" the observer asked. "Why not," said the man. “Why should I let him decide how I'm going to act?”

Our reactions are not determined by what happens to us on the outside; they are determined by the one who is in control on the inside. If SELF is in control, we will react according to SELF; if Christ is in control, we will react according to His life. The Bible says, "See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good. I Thes. 5:15.

In that little word "see" lies our responsibility. We are to see to it that we do not "render evil for evil." This means that we are not to try to get even, but rather to suffer mistreatment patiently. The Lord Jesus Himself is our example. I Peter 2:21-23 says, "Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps … Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered He threatened not; but committed Himself to Him that judgeth righteously."

God wants us to see the importance of our reactions. It matters little what happens to us. The thing that really matters is how we react to what happens to us.

**RESENTMENT**

If we do not resent an insult or an injury, the chances are that it will do us little harm. On the other hand, if we allow the matter to become a resentment it can do us great harm. What is resentment? It is that deep feeling of anger that we have toward someone because of a past offense. It is our painful memory of past hurts. Resentment is the great enemy of right relationships. It destroys friendships, marriages, homes, jobs; it turns friends into enemies. But the most damaging effect of resentment is the destruction of the one who holds it. It is like a deadly germ, working constantly to gain power over us to destroy us. No right thinking person would harbor and nourish a deadly germ in his body, knowing that it would eventually kill him. Yet many Christians hold on to the sin of resentment which is far more destructive than any germ.

One reason why it is difﬁcult for us to recognize the poisonous nature of resentment is that it seems right to us. We feel that we are justiﬁed in our resentment. We think it is only natural for us to resent old so-and-so.

**LESSON EIGHTEEN, Page 2**

In order to justify our resentment we often build, in our mind, a false image of the other person. Pushing aside all the good and decent things that person may have done we focus on his offenses against us. Sometimes we take a superior attitude against the other person saying, “I would never do a thing like that!” We like this feeling of superiority and therefore hold on to our resentment. We like to keep score too. “Maybe I was wrong in that matter, but you did\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.” Strange as it may seem, we keep our hurts alive for the pleasure we get out of them. We enjoy nursing our wounds and feeling sorry for ourselves after someone has offended us.

**BITTERNESS**

Resentment is one of the most unusual sins in that it is meant to punish the other person; yet it is far more harmful to us than it ever could be to the other person because resentment grows into bitterness. It has been estimated by some doctors that as much as 90% of our illnesses are caused by anger, fear, resentment and bitterness. Holding bitterness in your heart can cause you to loose sleep, take away the enjoyment of food, work, children, marriage, etc.

It has been proven that bitterness can and does bring on depression. People who have a tendency to be depressed much of the time are often people who hold resentment against a loved one, relative, or someone else who may have injured them earlier in life.

Bitterness affects our personality. The more we resent someone, the more we think about them. And the more we think about a person, the more we become like that person. It is a fact that when we focus our emotions on someone we tend to become like that person.

Bitterness affects our relationship with God. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer we say, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." When we do we are saying, "God, forgive me of my sins just like l forgive other people of their sins against me." If you don’t forgive other people you are actually asking God not to forgive you.

**FORGIVENESS**

The only thing that can set us free from resentment and bitterness is forgiveness. But not many people truly understand what forgiveness is. Forgiveness is not trying to overlook sin or to pretend that it never happened. Forgiveness is not forgetting - it is remembering without anger. Forgiveness is bearing the wrong or injury yourself. Forgiveness means that you give the person who wronged you a clean slate so far as you are concerned. The one who forgives pays the price of the injury or evil that he forgives. In order for Christ to forgive us He had to pay the penalty of our sins. It is costly to forgive, but it is far more costly not to forgive.

How do we turn from bitterness to forgiveness?

1. Recognize That God is the Judge. Romans 12:19

2. Confess your sin of bitterness to God.

3. Forgive even as Christ has forgiven. Forgiveness is a choice on our part. We

must choose to forgive. We may not feel like it, But God deals with our choices,

not our feelings.

4. Trust the Holy Spirit to make your forgiveness real. We cannot do it by ourselves and the Holy Spirit will not do it apart from our choice. We must work together

with Him.

Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**STUDY QUESTIONS - LESSON EIGHTEEN**

**REACTION, RESENTMENT, BITTERNESS AND FORGIVENESS**

1. Our reactions can have long-term, and even eternal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

2. We can \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ how we are going to react. Choosing is an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Our reactions are not determined by what happens to us on the outside; they are

determined by the one who \_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on the inside.

4. If \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is in control, we will react according to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; if Christ is in control we will react according to His life.

5. It matters little what happens to us. The thing that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

is how we \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to what happens to us.

6. One reason why it is difficult for us to recognize the poisonous nature of

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is that it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to us.

7, It is estimated by some doctors that as much as 90% of our illnesses are caused by anger, fear, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

8. It has been proven that bitterness can and does bring on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Bitterness affects our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Bitterness affects our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with God.

9. The only thing that can set us free from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

10.The one who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pays the price of the injury or evil that he forgives. In order for Christ to forgive us He had to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of our sins.

**What does the Bible say about resentment and bitterness?**

Resentment and bitterness are two sides of the same coin. Resentment is the attitude people have toward someone or something. Bitterness is the accompanying inner feeling. Resentment can change someone's nature into bitterness. Resentment and bitterness are both passive-aggressive reactions to anger.

Resentment is as old as Genesis 4. Cain was angry that God accepted Abel's sacrifice and not his own. Instead of actively dealing with those feelings by admitting his own part in the situation, and considering God's point of view, he buried his anger under feelings of resentment which grew until he killed his brother.

Mankind has followed Cain's example throughout the centuries. Sarai asked Abram to impregnate her maidservant, Hagar. Then she resented Hagar when it worked. (Gen. 16:4-6) Leah and Rachel's resentment regarding their fertility created a baby-war that didn't end until Jacob had conceived thirteen children by four different women, (Gen. 29:31; 30:24; 35:16-26). And when King Saul realized how much the people loved David and celebrated his accomplishments, Saul resented David so much he tried to kill him with a spear, (I Sam. 18-19).

The epitome of bitterness in the Bible is Job's wife. Anger would be an understandable reaction to God allowing her children to die and her family's assets to be taken. Instead of accepting God's sovereignty like Job - or even being honest and talking to God, she allowed anger to lead to resentment which molded her character into bitterness. The apex occurred in Job 2:9 when she said to Job, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die."

Bitterness is easy to fall into, but it is also possible to reject bitterness and return to faith in God. In Ruth 1:20, having lost her husband and two sons, Naomi tells her daughters-in-law to call her Mara, which means "bitter," saying, "for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me." The devotion of Ruth, however, redirected Naomi's anger to action, and God restored Naomi and redeemed her story as she became nurse to Ruth's son, the grandfather of King David.

King David also escaped the trap of bitterness. In I Samuel 30, David and his men returned to the city where they had been staying to find their wives and children taken captive. Verse 6 says, "And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters." But David, "strengthened himself in the Lord his God." Instead of resenting God, David used many such occasions to write what he was feeling, composing much of the book of Psalms.

Perhaps the most significant example of resentment in the New Testament is that of the crowd that demanded Jesus' death, (Matt. 27:15-23). They resented the fact that He did not come to be a political ruler and free them from Roman rule. Many of the scribes and Pharisees went a step further. Between the attention Jesus received from the people and His constant public chastisement of their sins, the Pharisees became bitter - what the Bible calls, "heard-hearted," and rejected Jesus and His offer of new life.

Bitterness and resentment spring from a belief that someone, often God, is being unfair or not giving what they deem as due. Peter recognized this in Simon the Magician in Acts 8:14-24. Simon wanted the power that Peter and John wielded - even offering to pay for it. But Peter saw a "gall of bitterness" behind Simon's request.

We do the same. It's easy to resent God when we see Him blessing others while we suffer. If we feed that belief long enough, it will lead to a bitter attitude. We will begin to see everything as a hardship - even blessings that God tries to give us. Eventually, we won't be able to see His work in our lives at all.

The Bible tells us to reject bitterness. Ephesians 4:31 says, "let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice." Hebrews 12:15 says, "See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no 'root of bitterness' springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled." And James 3:13-18 warns that words spoken in bitterness have nothing to do with wisdom, but are "earthy, unspiritual, demonic." Strong words.

The most effective way to deal with resentment and bitterness is to appropriately handle the anger that comes first. Anger is a natural, sometimes physiological, response, but left unchecked it can do great damage. It can blind us to our part in the situation. It can push out all empathy for and understanding of others. Even when our anger is just, we must not let it control our actions or beliefs. Taking every thought captive, (II Cor. 10:5), and submitting to God, (James 4:7), will drive us to forgive others (Colossians 3:13), and keep our anger from turning to resentment.

God can heal resentment and bitterness if we let Him. He can heal our hearts and turn us toward forgiveness of others and trust in Him. If we don't let Him, He will often let us fail in a public and spectacular way. Resentment and bitterness toward God is slander against Him - it is the epitome of taking His name in vain.