

## CHRIST LIVING IN ME

PURPOSE: To Encourage the life of "Christ living in me."

### INTRODUCTION:

1. In Christianity every sphere of life is included in "Christ living in me."
2. "Ye are an epistle of Christ," II Cor. 3:3.
3. "A book is not instructive which has most of the printing outside."  
-- E. Hurndall

### I. Prerequisites to "Christ Living in Me."

A. "Come unto me," Matt. 11:28.

1. Heb. 11:6, "...believe that he is....he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."
2. Gal. 6:14, die to worldliness. Notice Col. 3:7-9; Rom. 6:6-23.
3. Rom. 6:2-5, buried through baptism. Notice Col. 2:12; Gal. 3:26,27.
4. Rom. 6:8, raised to "newness of life;" "alive unto God," vs. 11. Notice Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:1-4.

B. "Take my yoke (work, obligations) upon you," Matt. 11:29.

1. Lk. 19:10, His work was "to seek and save that which was lost." Notice Jno. 17:4.
2. Jno. 6:38, obedience to the Father's will.
3. Jno. 1:18; 14:9-11, revealing the Father.
4. Jno. 13:31; 17:4, honor and glorify the Father.

### II. Learn of Me -- Characteristics Which Show "Christ Living in Me."

- A. Losing self in Christ, II Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:20; Col. 3:3,4; Phil. 2:5; I Pet. 2:21; I Jno. 2:6; Jno. 15:1-10.
- B. Steadfast to principle, I Thess. 5:21; I Cor. 16:13; II Tim. 2:3,4.
- C. Transformed character, Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:5-15.
- D. "Above all these things put on love," Col. 3:14; Jno. 14:15-17; 14:23; I Cor. 13:1-7.

Conclusion: Matt. 11:28-30; I Pet. 2:21-23. ..

## LEARN OF ME -- I AM MEEK

PURPOSE: To learn Christ's meekness and to encourage the application of it to everyday life.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. "Meekness is patience in the reception of injuries -- the opposite of sudden anger."
2. The meek person is one who "will not allow his temper to be ruffled by slights or provocations; he will not expect to be always treated with respect and reverence; he will do his duty in the station where God has set him, gently, lovingly, seeking not honor from men, ambitious only to be pleasing unto God." -- Pulpit

### I. Examples of Meekness As Seen in Christ's Life, I Pet. 2:19-24.

- A. "Reviled, reviled not again" Matt. 26:65; Jno. 10:36; 5:2-18.
- B. "When he suffered, threatened not" Jno. 19:1-7, 17, 18.
- C. Reproaches, Jno. 8:48; 10:20; Matt. 27:39-44.
- D. "Committed His cause to Him that judgeth righteously" Lk. 23:34.

### II. Admonitions

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| A. I Peter 4:14 | D. I Peter 3:8,9                        |
| B. Titus 3:1,2  | E. James 1:21                           |
| C. I Peter 3:4  | F. I Peter 2:21-24, "Follow His Steps." |

### III. Today's Possible Reproaches, Etc.

- A. Misjudged, misrepresented, falsely accused, narrow-minded, victim of a sharp tongue or evil speech, contempt, unpopular, etc.
- B. Attitudes:
  1. Rejoice, Matt. 5:12; I Pet. 4:13
  2. Pray, Luke 6:27
  3. Trust in Jehovah and keep on doing right, I Pet. 4:15-19
  4. "No man be moved by these afflictions," I Thess. 3:3
  5. Give, receive, and bear reproofs in meekness, 2 Tim. 2:25; I Pet. 3:15

### IV. Rewards

- A. I Pet. 2:19,20, "Acceptable with God"
- B. I Pet. 3:14; Luke 6:22; Matt. 5:5, 11, 12, "Happy are ye"
- C. Luke 6:35; "Sons of Most High"
- D. I Pet. 3:8-13, "Inherit a blessing"
- E. I Pet. 3:16, "Put them to shame"
- F. I Pet. 4:14, "Divine sanction"
- G. I Pet. 4:13, "Partakers of Christ's sufferings"
- H. Gal. 5:23, A "fruit of the spirit"
- I. Matt. 5:5, "Inherit the earth"

### CONCLUSION

1. Remember Luke 14:26, 27; Matt. 10:37-39.
2. Matt. 7:17, 18, only the good bear fruit.
3. Remember I Pet. 4:18, 19.

## LEARN OF ME -- I AM LOWLY

PURPOSE: To encourage each to "have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus," Phil. 2:5.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Humility is a consciousness of insufficiency without God; a sense of unworthiness; the poor in spirit; the heart that is emptied of self; one who counts other's welfare before his own; the lowly in heart.
2. "To be humble to superiors is duty, to equals courtesy, to inferiors nobleness." -- Benjamin Franklin.
3. "Nothing sets a person so much out of the devil's reach as humility." -- Jonathan Edwards.

### I. Examples of Christ's Humility or Lowliness in Heart, Phil. 2:6-8.

- A. "Emptied Himself." Notice II Cor. 8:9; Heb. 1:3; Col. 2:9.
- B. "Became flesh," Jno. 1:14; Rom. 8:3; I Jno. 4:2, "Taking the form of a servant." Notice Heb. 4:15; 5:7-9.
- C. "He humbled Himself." Notice Jno. 8:50; "He pleased not himself -- He lived for others; he cared for the temporal needs of the sick and poor. He cared for the souls of all." -- Pulpit.
- D. "Becoming obedient, even unto death."

### II. Why? Heb. 5:9; 2:14, 15, 17, 18; 10:14; Eph. 1:4-14, 20-23; 2:13-16; Gal. 3:22; 4:4, 5; Rom. 4:9-16; I Jno. 3:8; I Cor. 15:20-26; I Pet. 3:18.

### III. "Have This Mind in You," Phil. 2:5.

- A. "In lowliness of mind each counting other better than himself," Phil. 2:3. Notice Rom. 12:3; Prov. 26:12; Rom. 10:12; 13:7.
- B. "Not looking each of you to his own things, but each of you to the things of others," Phil. 2:4. Notice I Cor. 10:24; Rom. 15:1; I Tim. 2:1; Rom. 12:15; I Jno. 3:17, 18; Gal. 6:10; I Cor. 12:26, 27.
- C. Obey -- "Work out your own salvation...do all things without murmurings and questionings," Phil. 2:12-14.

### IV. Rewards, Luke 14:11

- A. Christ's rewards, Phil. 2:9-11; Matt. 28:20; I Cor. 15:27, 28; Rom. 14:9; Heb. 2:9; 12:2; Rev. 5:12.
- B. His follower's rewards, Phil. 2:15; Matt. 5:3; Col. 3:4. Notice Isa. 32:17.

CONCLUSION: Matt. 11:29.

## LEARN CHRIST -- HOLY

PURPOSE: To encourage the use of means to become holy in God's sight.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Holiness means that the physical and spiritual natures of man are kept "healthy" before God.
2. Synonymn: pure in heart, sanctification, consecration, devout.

#### I. Christ's Holiness:

- A. Heb. 7:26, "holy...."
- B. I Pet. 2:22, "who did no sin...."
- C. II Cor. 5:21, "Him who knew no sin...."
- D. Heb. 4:15, tempted in all points, yet without sin.
- E. Isa. 53:9, "He had done no violence...."

#### II. Holiness:

- A. "Leaving you an example, that ye should follow His steps," I Pet. 2:21.
- B. "Be ye yourselves also holy," Rom. 12:1.
- C. "Holy in all manner of living," I Pet. 1:14-16. Notice I Jno. 3:3; Phil. 4:8; Col. 3:2; Prov. 4:23; Matt. 15:18-20; 7:17, 18; Gal. 5:22-24; Col. 1:22.

#### III. Means of Obtaining Holiness:

- A. First step of obedience, Rom. 6:17, 18, 22; Col. 2:11-13.
- B. "Continue in the faith," Col. 1:21-23.
- C. "Set your mind on things that are above," Col. 3:2.
- D. I Pet. 1:13-15.
  1. Girding up the loins of your mind," vs. 13. Notice Jno. 5:39.
  2. "Be sober," vs. 13.
  3. "Set your hope perfectly...." vs. 13.
  4. "Children of obedience," vs. 14. Notice Eph. 5:15-17.
  5. Put away former self, vs. 14. Notice Rom. 12:2.
  6. "Be holy," vs. 15. Notice Matt. 5:8; I Jno. 1:8; 2:6; Col. 1:21-23; Rom. 12:1.
  7. Chastening, Heb. 12:10, 14; Jas. 1:2-4; I Pet. 1:6, 7.
  8. "Take Time to Be Holy."

#### IV. Incentives:

- A. Matt. 5:8; Heb. 12:14, see God.
- B. II Pet. 1:3-5, all things pertaining to life and godliness.
- C. I Pet. 1:3-5, inheritance incorruptible.
- C. Phil. 3:20, 21; I Jno. 3:2, like Him.
- E. Rom. 5:1, 2, clear conscience, an inward peace.
- F. Matt. 5:13-16, useful citizens of His Kingdom

CONCLUSION: Jno. 7:17; Psal. 25:9; Heb. 12:14; Rev. 20:6.

## LEAN CHRIST -- GUILILESS

PURPOSE: To emphasize the blessedness of freeing ourselves of guile and to be Christlike.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Two different words are used when referring to the guilelessness of Christ. In Heb. 7:26, "guileless" is "harmless." In I Pet. 2:22, "without guile" is "without deceit." "...he was convicted of no falsehood." --- New English Bible.
2. Guile is an inward vice expressed outwardly in hypocrisies and lies.
3. "Crafty cunning; deceit; treachery." -- Webster.

I. Guilelessness in Christ, Heb. 7:26; I Pet. 2:22.  
Notice Luke 22:67-71; Luke 23:3, 4; Jno. 8:29.

### II. Other Examples of "No Guile":

- A. Jno. 1:47, Nathanael, not wholly free from sin but transparent in character.
- B. I Thess. 2:3. Notice Phil. 4:9; I Thess. 2:3, 4; Gal. 1:10; II Cor. 2:17; 4:1-5; 10:3-6, Paul made no false pretenses and was influenced by no evil motives.

### III. Guilelessness an Essential Principle of Christian Character:

- A. I Pet. 2:21-23, follow Christ.
- B. I Pet. 2:1, 2, "Putting away" necessary for growth unto salvation.
- C. I Pet. 3:10-12; Psa. 34:12ff. Notice Jas. 1:26; 3:3-6; Prov. 4:23; Matt. 12:33, 34; Prov. 18:21.

### CONCLUSION: Rewards of Guilelessness

1. Psa. 32:1, 2, "Blessed...."

"The man whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is hidden, God having cast it as a millstone into the depths of the sea; whose iniquity and perversion is not reckoned to his account; and whose guile, the deceit and desperately wicked heart, is annihilated, and emptied of sin and filled with righteousness is a happy man." -- Adam Clarke.

Rev. 14:4, 5, guilelessness, a characteristic of the redeemed.  
Notice I Pet. 1:19; Heb. 9:14; Rev. 7:14.

## LEARN CHRIST -- FAITHFUL IN PRIESTHOOD

Purpose: To encourage faithfulness in our role as priest as Christ was a faithful High Priest.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. From Gen. 4th Chapter, three key words -- temple, priests, sacrifices -- are associated with followers of God.
2. Christ and His work became all these to mankind.
3. Through Him each of His followers also are a temple, a priest and offer sacrifices.

### I. Characteristics of Christ as High Priest:

- A. Heb. 2:17; 3:1, 2, "Merciful and faithful;" "faithful to him that appointed him."
- B. Heb. 4:15, 16, can "be touched with the feelings of our infirmities." Notice Heb. 5:2.
- C. Heb. 8:3, "offers both gifts and sacrifices." Notice Heb. 5:1.
- D. Heb. 7:25, lives for others. Notice Heb. 5:1.
- E. Heb. 5:5, "glorified not himself." Notice Heb. 5:4; Jno. 8:54.

### II. Temple

- A. Temple of Old Covenant was the dwelling place of God, I Kings 9:3. In Christ "dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Col. 2:9. Each Christian "is a temple of the Holy Spirit," I Cor. 6:19, 20; Rom. 8:11; Acts 2:38.
- B. In the temple God and man met, Ex. 25:22. In Christ, the mediator, God and man meet, Heb. 9:15; 10:19-22. Each Christian is admonished in Jas. 4:8.
- C. The temple was a place of sacrifice, II Chron. 7:12; 39:31, 32. Christ in His flesh made "an offering and a sacrifice to God," Eph. 5:2. Through faith Christians accept the sacrifice made to God for them, Rom. 3:24, 25, and offer their own sacrifices, I Pet. 2:5.
- D. In the temple the glory of Jehovah shown. II Chron. 7:1-3. Christ was "the effulgence of his glory, the impress of his substance (margin)," Heb. 1:3. Notice Jno. 1:14. In Christ, Christians become partakers of His life, Rom. 8:17. Notice Gal. 2:20.

### III. Priests

- A. Under Old Covenant one tribe, Levi, was set apart for the purpose of representing God to man and vice versa. Christ is the true priest, Heb. 9:11-15.
- B. Through Christ Christians are priests, I Pet. 2:5.
  1. Through Him Christians have access to the Father, Eph. 2:18. Notice Jas. 5:16b; II Thess. 1:11, 12; 3:1, 2.
  2. Christians are a royal and a holy priesthood, I Pet. 2:5, 9.
  3. As Priests, Christians "show forth his excellencies," I Pet. 2:9. Notice Phil. 2:14, 15. Notice Paul's attitude, I Cor. 11:1; Phil. 4:9.

### IV. Sacrifices

- A. Christ died as a sacrifice, Heb. 7:26, 27; 10:10-14. Notice Jno. 6:38; 5:30; 4:34; Matt. 26:39; Jno. 10:17, 18.
- B. Through Christ we offer acceptable sacrifices, I Pet. 2:5.
  1. Offer ourselves, Rom. 12:1ff.
  2. "Offer up a sacrifice of praise," Heb. 13:15. Notice Psa. 50:14, 23.
  3. Offer prayers, Psa. 141:2. Notice Rev. 5:8.
  4. Offer pleasing service, Heb. 13:16; Heb. 12:28.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Ponder the lofty estate of Christians, Phil 1:27; 3:20; Eph. 4:1; Col. 1:10.
2. "We are temples and priests that we may be sacrifices." - Pulpit

## FOLLOW CHRIST -- RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT

PURPOSE: To encourage Christian relationship to government.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The home and government are in themselves human institutions but divinely ordained by God.
2. The great principle of obedience to God covers the whole of the Christian life, therefore also covers one's duty to "Caesar."
3. Purpose of government: (a) to use force for moral ends; (b) to encourage obedient citizens by protecting life and property, I Pet. 2:14.

#### I. Christ's Respect for Civil Authority:

- A. Matt. 22:15-22, lawful and a duty to pay tribute to Caesar.
- B. Matt. 23:1-12, Jewish Sanhedrin to be obeyed.

#### II. Christian Relationship to Civil Government, Rom. 13:1-7; I Pet. 2:13-17; Titus 3:1, 2; I Tim. 2:1-4; Prov. 14:34. Notice Rom. 13:11-14.

- A. Submit to them.
- B. Pay taxes to them.
- C. Respect and honor them.
- D. Pray for them.
- E. Be righteous -- "be holy in all manner of living."

#### III. Motives

- A. "For conscience sake," Rom. 13:5; "Will of God," I Pet. 2:15.
- B. "Do all to glory of God," I Cor. 10:31.
- C. Personal safety, Rom. 13:3.

#### IV. Warnings

- A. Acts 4:13-22; 5:29, "Caesar" is to be resisted when to obey would mean disobedience to God. Notice Daniel 3rd and 6th Chapters.
- B. Mk. 12:17, "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's."
- C. I Pet. 2:9, remember always "ye are an elect race..a holy nation.... that ye show forth the excellencies of him who called you...."

CONCLUSION: Christianity and civil government can be mutually helpful. Each has its function and plays a part in the carrying out of God's providence and purposes.

## EXAMPLE OF THE SPIRIT OF DISOBEDIENCE -- EVE

PURPOSE: To emphasize and warn the truth of Proverbs 13:15.

INTRODUCTION: The word Eve means life producing. Adam "called his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living."

- I. Eve Was Formed By God, Gen. 2:22. Notice I Cor. 11:7; Prov. 12:4.
- II. Eve Was given to Man By God, Gen. 2:22; I Cor. 11:8, 9.
- III. Eve Was United To Man In Marriage By God, Gen. 2:22, 24.
- IV. Eve Was Given Wedding Garments of Purity By God, Gen. 2:25.
- V. Eve Was At Home In The Garden of Eden Prepared By God, Gen. 2:8-17.
- VI. Eve Was First In Sin, Gen. 3:1-8.

A. This act was wicked because of:

1. Unbelief
2. Selfishness
3. Pride, etc.

B. Results:

1. Multiplied pain in childbirth, Gen. 3:16.
2. Dependence upon and submission to man, II Tim. 2:11-15.
3. Removed from beauties and pleasures of the garden, Gen. 3:22-24.
4. Death passed upon all mankind, Gen. 3:19b; Rom. 5:12-14; I Cor. 15:20-22.

CONCLUSION: Let us learn:

1. The necessity of watchfully guarding against temptation.
2. The woes caused by disobedience.
3. Sin separates man from God. Read Isa. 59:1, 2.
4. The impossibility of hiding sins from God, Prov. 15:3.
5. Psa. 139:23, 24.



## FOLLOW CHRIST IN HIS PRAYER LIFE

PURPOSE: To encourage the privilege of prayer, giving it a prominent place in our lives as Christ did.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. "Prayer is the offering up of our desires to God for things agreeable to His will, in the Name of Christ, with confession of our sins, and thankful acknowledgment of His mercies." -- Pulpit
2. "Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance but using His willingness and readiness." -- Bro. R. C. Bell
3. "God has had only one Son who lived without sin, but He has had no son who lived without prayer." -- Author Unknown.

### I. Prayer in Christ's Life

- A. Prominent place in His life, Jno. 5:30a; 8:28; 14:10. Notice Matt. 14:22; Mk. 1:35; Luke 5:16.
- B. Some observations:
  1. For the most part, Christ prayed in solitude, e.g. Lk. 5:16; 9:18, etc.
  2. He prayed before, and often after, every event in His life. Notice Luke 3:21; 6:12, 13; Jno. 11:41b, 42; Matt. 26:36-46; Luke 23rd Chapt. Jno. 17th Chapter; Rom. 8:34.  
His prayers were habitual, sincere, spiritual, directed to the Father, accompanied with thanksgiving, petitions for self and intercession for others, but no confession of sin.

### II. Encouragements:

- A. Matt. 7:7-11, "ask...receive; seek...find; knock...it shall be opened."
- B. Luke 18:1-8, example of "A."
- C. Jno. 14:13, 14; 16:23, 24, "whatsoever" and "anything." Notice Phil. 4:19; Eph. 3:20, 21; II Cor. 9:8, 10.

### III. Hindrances to Prayer:

- A. Prov. 28:9; I Pet. 3:12, deliberate disobedience.
- B. Psa. 66:18, sinful lives. Notice the word "if" throughout Old and New Covenants.
- C. Jas. 1:6-8, lack of faith.
- D. Jas. 4:2, 3, selfishly sinful.
- E. Col. 3:17, failure to obediently follow instructions.

### IV. Elements of Acceptable Prayer:

- A. Jno. 17th Chapter. Notice the definiteness, sincerity, simplicity, etc. of Christ's prayer.
- B. Eph. 6:18-20:
  1. "All prayer", earnestness about all things, Phil. 4:6.
  2. Attended with supplication, thanksgiving and adoration, Psa. 115:12; Eph. 5:20; I Thess. 5:17, 18; I Tim. 2:1; I Pet. 2:9; Heb. 13:15.
  3. "At all seasons", habitual, Col. 4:2; Phil. 4:6; Matt. 14:23.
  4. "In the spirit", I Cor. 14:15.
  5. "Watching thereunto", Col. 4:2.
  6. "Perseverance", Matt. 7:7; Luke 18:1-8.
  7. "Supplications for all saints and on my behalf", intercession on behalf of others, unselfish.

CONCLUSION: "Proof" by Edith Romig Fuller.

If radio's slim fingers  
Can pluck a melody  
From night, and toss it over  
A continent or sea;

If the petaled white notes  
Of a violin  
Are blown across a mountain  
Or a city's din;

If songs like crimson roses  
Are culled from the thin blue air;;  
Why should mortals wonder

## LEARN CHRIST -- VICARIOUS SUFFERING

PURPOSE OF THIS AND FOLLOWING LESSONS: To learn the characteristics of Christ and to encourage all to be more like Him.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Defined: "substitute; filling the place of another, performed or suffered for, or instead of another." -- Webster
2. Vicarious suffering runs through the whole of the human and Divine realm.  
Examples: Rom. 5:12; Lev. 16:7-10; Matt. 2:16-18; Eph. 3:1, 13; II Cor. 11:23-27; I Cor. 15:3; I Pet. 3:13-18, etc.

### I. Two Basic Truths

- A. Sins of men cause others to suffer. Examples: Jonah 1:12; II Sam. 18:33; Joshua 7, etc.
- B. Vicarious suffering, willingly accepted, brings blessings to others.  
Examples: Jonah 1:12; Lk. 18:14; etc.

### II. Christ, An Example of The Two Basic Truths

- A. The sins of men caused Christ to go to the Cross, II Cor. 5:21; Heb. 9:28; I Pet. 3:18.
- B. "...by whose stripes ye are healed." I Pet. 2:24.

### III. The Application, I Pet. 2:20, 21.

- A. React to situations as Christ did, I Pet. 2:23.
- B. Cease from Sin, I Pet. 4:1, 2.
- C. "Take wrong....be defrauded," I Cor. 6:1-7. Notice 3:16, 17.
- D. "Lay down our lives for the brethren," I Jno. 3:16. Notice Paul's attitude, II Cor. 12:15.
- E. "Overcome evil with good," Rom. 12:21. (Good is better and stronger than evil because it is on God's side, Rom. 8:31. In time evil will be destroyed, Psa. 37:1-5; Rev. 20:14). Notice Jas. 4:7; Matt. 5:10-12.

### CONCLUSION:

1. Remember Rom. 14:7.
2. "Blessed are ye," I Pet. 3:14, 17.
3. "What can (really) harm you?" I Pet. 3:13.

## LEARN OF ME -- PRIDE

### INTRODUCTION:

1. James 4:6; James 1:14.
2. Col. 2:18, 19, reward of a voluntary humility.

### I. God's Attitude Toward Pride

- A. Proverbs 6:16-19, hateth a proud look.
- B. Proverbs 8:13, God hates pride and arrogance.
- C. Proverbs 16:5, abomination.
- D. I Peter 5:5, resisteth the proud.

### II. Damage Pride Does To The Individual

- A. Proverbs 11:2, brings shame.
- B. Proverbs 13:10, produces strife.
- C. Proverbs 16:18, brings destruction.
- D. Proverbs 29:23, brings one low.
- E. Mark 7:21-23, defiles.
- F. I John 2:15, 16, of the world.
- G. Romans 1:28-30, makes one worthy of death.
- H. II Tim. 3:2, sign of apostasy.
- I. Matt. 23:12, causes one to be abased.
- J. Romans 12:6, wise in own conceits.

### III. The Tremendous Power of Pride

- A. Gen. 3:1-9, influenced Eve to sin.
- B. Matt. 4:5-9, appealed to Jesus in the temptations.
- C. Acts 12:21-23, brought the death of Herod.

### IV. Suggestions For Overcoming Pride

- A. I Peter 5:5-7, gird self with humility; serve one another.
- B. Phil. 2:5-8, earnestly strive to become more like Christ.
- C. Matt. 18:4, be more like children.

### CONCLUSION:

"The seat of pride is in the heart, and only there; and if it be not there, it is neither in the look, nor in the clothes." -- Lord Clarendon

"If a proud man makes me keep my distance, the comfort is that he keeps his at the same time." -- Jonathan Swift

"As thou desirest the love of God and man, beware of pride. It is a tumor of the mind, that eats and ruins thine estate. It loves no man, and is beloved of none; it disparages another's virtues by detraction, and thine own by vain glory. It is the friend of the flatterer, the mother of envy, the nurse of fury, the sin of devils, the devil of mankind. It hates superiors, scorns inferiors, and owns no equal. In short, till thou hates it, God hates thee." -- Bolinbroke.

"God crowns with mercy; but a swollen head is not fit to have that crown put upon it." -- Jenkyn

"Satan is subtle: he will make a man proud that he is not proud."  
-- Brooks

## LEARN OF ME -- ANGER

PURPOSE: To encourage the putting away of sinful anger and to follow Christ in holy indignation.

INTRODUCTION: "Anger is only one letter away from danger." The Speaker's Sourcebook

- I. Examples of Christ's Anger
  - A. Matt. 23:13-32; Luke 13:34
  - B. Mark 14:4
  - C. John 2:14-16
- II. Characteristics of Christ's Anger
  - A. It resulted from a love of righteousness. He abhorred evil things done by people, but not the people. Notice II Cor. 10:5, 6.
  - B. There was no personal retaliation -- avenge, not revenge.
  - C. It was based upon a righteous cause and courageously exercised in justice, pity and love.
  - D. He did keep His indignation under control.
  - E. It was expressed in rebuke or restraint and that in an effort to reform.
- III. Unlawful Anger
  - A. When its source is in selfishness and pride.
  - B. When it is accompanied with malice or revenge. Notice I Jno. 3:15.
  - C. When it ceases to be under control.
  - D. When it lasts too long. Notice Psa. 103:8, 9; Ecc. 7:9.
  - E. When we cannot bring ourselves to pray for the person; cease to pity or to love the person. Notice Rom. 13:10.
  - F. When it hinders or destroys our "obedience unto righteousness". Rom. 6:16
- IV. Admonitions and Commands
  - A. Eph. 4:26, 27, 31; Col. 3:8
  - B. Jas. 1:19, 20
  - C. Psa. 37:8
  - D. Prov. 14:17, 29
  - E. Prov. 25:28
  - F. Prov. 22:24, 25
  - G. Prov. 16:32
  - H. Rom. 12:19
- V. To Help Us
  - A. "Learn of Me", I and II above.
  - B. Prov. 15:1
  - C. Notice Neh. 5:6, 7
  - D. Phil. 4:13; Heb. 4:15, 16

### CONCLUSION:

1. Rom. 6:12, 13
2. "The lawfulness of anger is determined by its direction, its degree, its motive."
3. "Sinful anger destroys our own peace of mind, hurts the unity of spirit among brethren, blocks up the way to the Divine throne, exposes us to danger, makes work for bitter repentance, fires the mind of others, makes us unlike the meek and lowly Jesus, causes us to resemble madmen and devils and is cruel and murderous." Essay on Anger, Fawcett

## LEARN OF ME -- I HAVE COMPASSION

PURPOSE: To follow Christ in His compassionate spirit.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. Compassion -- sorrow or pity for another; sympathy; mercy; feeling with others.
2. The most pathetic word is lost; next in line are such words as hungry, naked, sick, destitute.

### I. The Compassion of Christ Answers All Needs of His Creatures:

#### A. Body:

1. Cared for in creation, Gen. 2:25; 3:24.
2. Remembered in redemption. Rom. 8:23.
3. Providential care, Matt. 6:25-33; 5:44,45. Notice Rom. 8:32; Psa. 145: 8, 9.

#### B. Soul:

1. Primary purpose, Luke 19:10
2. Compassion for starving souls. Matt. 23:37. Notice Jno. 3:16; 10:17, 18; Eph. 5:2.
3. Compassion for scattered sheep, Matt. 9:36-38. Notice Jer. 23:1.
4. Christ's humanity was more than to be our Savior, Heb. 2:17, 18; 4:15, 16.

- C. "Went about doing good," Matt. 15:32-39; 14:13, 14; Mk. 1:41; Matt. 20:34; Mk. 5:1-19; Lk. 7:11-15; Acts 10:38.

### II. Compassion of Christ To Be Copied:

- A. "The love of Christ constraineth us," II Cor. 5:14.  
"It is not enough to admire; we are called to copy. Compassion is a note of the Christ life, a feeling to be cherished, a habit to be formed." -- Pulpit
- B. As Christ was tenderhearted, we are to be tenderhearted, Eph. 4:32.
- C. As Christ was compassionate, we are to be compassionate, I Pet. 3:8. Notice Jas. 1:27; 2:14-16; Matt. 25:34-46; I Jno. 3:17, 18.
- D. As Christ met each need as it arose, so should His imitators, Gal. 6:9, 10. Notice Rom. 12:4-8.
- E. Apply a lesson from Matt. 14:13-36; Jno. 6:1-59.

### CONCLUSION:

1. "Learn of Me."
2. Matt. 7:21, 24.

## LEARN OF ME -- OBEDIENCE

PURPOSE: To encourage self-examination in the light of obedience.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. There is no real purpose in life except as the life follows God's law:
  - A. God's kingdom is the rule of God in the hearts of individuals.
  - B. God's kingdom has laws.
  - C. God's kingdom has subjects.
  - D. Obedient subjects enjoy the privileges of the kingdom.
  - E. To stop short of God's law, to go beyond it, or to alter it is an offense which carries the penalty of death, if unforgiven.
2. The sacredness of God's law: It is perfect (Psa. 19:7), pure (Psa. 119:140), truth (Psa. 119:142), enduring (Matt. 24:35), etc.
3. God's law asserts its authority over the whole of man -- both the outward life with word and deed, and the inward life of thought and motive.

### I. Necessity of Obedience:

- A. Only those who "doeth...." enter heaven, Matt. 7:21ff.
- B. We are servants, not masters, Rom. 6:16ff.
  1. "Sin unto death" or "obedience unto righteousness."
  2. Freedom of choice: "yield," "Present yourselves."

### II. Characteristics of Acceptable Obedience:

#### A. Negative: It does not consist

1. Merely in observances, although Heb. 10:24 is of great value and must be observed.
2. Merely in church membership, although this, too, is essential, for Christ will save His body, the church, Eph. 1:22, 23; 5:23.
3. In being able to quote or explain the scriptures, although the study necessary to be able to do this is commanded, II Tim. 2:15.
4. In any action that originates in self-will.

#### B. Positive: It must be

1. Implicit, trusting completely in God's word and authority.
2. Exact, entire, absolute, respecting all that God requires.
3. Voluntarily submissive.
4. Diligent, taking pains to be and to do in the right manner God's will. Willingly and lovingly given, Psa. 119:15, 16, 127, 128; II Cor. 8:5; Rom. 12:1.

CONCLUSION: We cannot be saved through obedience, but by grace in obedience, I Cor. 15:57, 58; Eph. 2:8, 9.

## EXAMPLE OF OBEDIENCE -- SARAH

PURPOSE: To encourage each to be Sarah's child, I Pet. 3:6b

INTRODUCTION: With Abram, Sarai went away from her idolatrous kindred and with him was willing to lead the life of a stranger and a pilgrim as his faithful companion, Gen. 11:29-31.

I. Sarai, Fair and True, Gen. 12:10-20; 20:1-18.

- A. Obedient - for Abram's sake.
- B. Self-sacrificing - for Abram's sake.
- C. Steadfast - for Abram's sake.

"From morn to eve, in storm and in calm, in shadow and in sunshine, in the flush of youth and amid the falling leaves of autumn, she is ever by her husband Abraham's side. Prosperity does not divorce them; adversity does not divide them; time only deepens the intensity of their union."  
-- Hastings

II. Sarai With Right Motive But Wrong Acts. Notice Gen. 12:2,3; 15:18; 16:1-16

- A. Abraham to be father of nations; no mention of Sarai, yet she is humble, devoted, unselfish, practicing self-denial.
- B. The flesh was weak, but Sarai overcame and received again the handmaid.

III. Sarah, The Mother of Abraham's Seed, Gen. 17:15,16; 18:1-15; 21:1-14.

- A. Significant name change.
- B. Separation of "Promised Seed" from seed of bondwoman.

IV. Death of Sarah, Gen. 23:1-20, old respected, loved, faithful, obedient -- "a princess." Psa. 116:15.

CONCLUSION: Let us learn:

- 1. God cares for His own, but His own should never be pre-emptuous and try to tamper with God's plan.
- 2. The proper function of faith is to hear and obey. God's grace is sufficient for the repentant soul.
- 3. Read I Pet. 3:1-6; Heb. 11:1-16; Gal. 4:21-31; I Cor. 10:12; Psa. 34:18, 19.

## TWO BASIC HINDRANCES TO OBEDIENCE

PURPOSE: To know ourselves and, whenever necessary, to put away these hindrances.

INTRODUCTION: Pride and selfishness may be thought of as twin basic evils. They are the prolific parents of many, many sins. All pride is a glorification of self.

### I. Pride and Selfishness Manifest Themselves in Outward Actions Which Express Inward Thoughts and Expose Character.

- A. High look, Prov. 21:4.
- B. Haughty eyes, Prov. 6:16, 17. Notice Psa. 18:27; 101:5; Prov. 21:2; 23:7a.

### II. Sources of Pride and Selfishness

- A. "We are Abraham's seed," Jno. 8:33. Notice Phil. 3:4-11.
- B. Superior gifts (Corinthians and Romans) Notice I Cor. 4:7; Jas. 1:16, 17; Rom. 12:4-8; Matt. 24:14-30.
- C. Lovers of self, II Tim. 3:2; Phil. 2:21.

### III. The Evils of These Sins

- A. Engenders contention, Prov. 13:10.
- q B. Dishonors Christ and His Cause, Contrast Gal. 2:20
- C. It leads to forgetting God. Notice Dan. 4:30; Acts 12:20-23.
- D. Begets false confidence and security, Prov. 16:18, 19; Rev. 3:17; Luke 18:10-14.
- E. Destroys one's relationship with God, I Pet. 5:5b; Psa. 101:5; 138:6; 40:4; Prov. 6:16-19; 8:13; Isa. 2:12; Mk. 7:22; II Tim. 3:1-7; Prov. 16:4, 5. Notice Rom. 1:26; 2:11; Matt. 18:23-30; 23:12; Rev. 21:8; Isa. 59:2.

### IV. Prevented or Conquered By:

- A. "Learn of me," Matt. 11:29.
  - 1. Humble, obedient, Phil. 2:3-13.
  - 2. Serving others, Acts 10:38; Matt. 20:26-28; 25:40, 45.
- B. The sacrificial life, Rom. 12:1-3.
- C. Love, I Cor. 13:1-13.
- D. Chastening, Matt. 23:12.

CONCLUSION: Rom. 11:20-22; I Cor. 10:12; Jas. 4:10.



## REWARDS IN OBEDIENCE

PURPOSE: To encourage all "to press on" in obedience.

INTRODUCTION: The gospel is a law to be obeyed, but it supplies adequate motives and spiritual power for its fulfillment. Notice Jas. 4:8; Eph. 3:20; Psa. 34:18, 19 (II Tim. 3:11, 12); II Chron. 32:7, 8 (Heb. 4:16; Phil. 4:13); Prov. 28:20a.

I. Rewards in the Life That Now Is and Is to Come, II Pet. 1:3; Rom. 2:6-11; I Tim. 4:8.

II. Blessings or Rewards in Obedience.

A. To a nation, Prov. 14:34; Psa. 33:12a.

B. To a family, Prov. 3:33.

C. To an individual:

1. Length of days, Eph. 6:3; Psa. 91:16; Prov. 3:1, 2.

2. Sufficient needs, Matt. 6:33; Phil 4:19. Notice II Cor. 9:10; Rom. 8:31, 32.

3. Divine Providence:

(a) Security, Heb. 13:5, 6, 8; I Pet. 5:6, 7; Psa. 48:14.

(b) All things work for good, Rom. 8:28; Prov. 3:5, 6; Psa. 1:1-6; Psa. 34:10.

(c) Way of escape, I Cor. 10:13.

4. Peace, Rom. 5:1; Phil. 4:6, 7; Matt. 11:29; Prov. 16:7.

5. Justification, Rom. 8:1; I Jno. 1:9; 2:1-3.

6. Petitions heard, Psa. 37:3-5 (Psa. 62:7, 8); Phil. 4:4-6; I Jno. 5:14, 15; I Jno. 3:22.

7. Privilege of suffering for God's ways, II Tim. 3:12; Psa. 34:18, 19.

(a) People of old suffered and thereby became witnesses of God's way and rendered a service for fellowmen, Heb. 11:32-39.

(b) Afflictions purify character, strengthen principles and mature virtues, I Pet. 1:6, 7.

(c) Through subjugation of self in favor of a higher purpose, we, too, look unto recompense of reward, Heb. 11:26. Notice Heb. 6:11, 12.

8. Privilege of expressing love, Jno. 14:15, 21, 23; 15:10; I Jno. 5:3.

9. Eternal life, Rom 5:17-21; 8:37-39; Rev. 2:10.

CONCLUSION: Psa. 31:19, 20, 23, 24; Psa. 25:4, 5; Jude: 24, 25.